



October 2009

Rhode Island Farm Service Agency

Rhode Island County FSA

60 Quaker Lane Suite 49
Warwick, RI 02886

Hours

Monday-Friday
8:00 am-4:30 pm

Phone

401-828-3120 Option 1
Or 1-800-551-5144
Farm Loan: Option 2
Fax: 401-821-0780

COC Members

The next COC meeting will be held on November 4, 2009

County Committee

Ruth James-Chairperson
Vincent Confreda-Vice-Chair
Victor Hoogendoorn-Member
George Goulart Jr.-Member
James Steere-Member

County Office Staff

Melissa Turrisi, CED
Anne Belleville, PT
Devon Marsden, PT
Leila Naylor, PT

Farm Loan Staff

Roxanne Boisse, FLM
Sandy Ford, FLA
Katie Ryan, FLOT

New RI State Executive Director!

The Obama administration announced on September 4th Paul Brule as the new State Executive Director for Rhode Island. Brule previously served as the State Executive Director for FSA from 1993-2001, as well as 1979-1981. Please join us in welcoming Paul into this position.

County Committee Elections

This year's County Committee election is being held in LAA 1 (Providence County) the nominees are: Robin Meek, Doreen Pezza and Clayton Wright.

Watch your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters starting on November 6, 2009. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on December 7, 2009.

October is Energy Month!

Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP)

Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) provides financial assistance to producers or entities that deliver eligible biomass material to designated biomass conversion facilities for use as heat, power, biobased products or biofuels. Initial assistance will be for the Collection, Harvest, Storage and Transportation (CHST) costs associated with the delivery of eligible materials.

These payments will be available to eligible material owners at the rate of \$1 for each \$1 per dry ton paid by the CHST-qualified BCF to the eligible material owners, limited to a maximum of \$45 per dry ton and limited to a 2-year payment duration.

BCAP supports the production of bioenergy on the nation's farms and ranches, provides matching payments for biomass from farms, ranches, and forest land delivered to a CHST-qualified biomass conversion facility, and protects the environmental health of land enrolled in BCAP.

NAP Application Deadlines for 2010 Crops Approaching!

FSA's NAP program provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters.

Eligible producers can apply for coverage of non-insurable crops using form CCC-471, "Application for Coverage," and pay the applicable service fees at their local FSA office.

The service fee is **\$250** per crop per county or **\$750** per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of **\$1875** per producer with farming interest in multiple counties. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of service fees.

NAP Covers the amount of loss greater than 50 percent of the expected production based on the approved yield and reported acreage.

Application Closing Dates are:

November 20, 2009— Forage crops and Perennial crops such as: Hay, Asparagus, Blueberries, Peaches, Raspberries, Strawberries

December 1, 2009—Specialty crops (honey, maple sap).

March 15, 2010—Annual Crops

Production records for all crops covered by (NAP) are required to establish yield. If you are a current NAP participant or past participant, you must report your production and acreage annually to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable and show crop disposition.

It is recommended producers submit 2009 production records soon after harvest. Some examples of acceptable records are: commercial receipts, settlement sheets, warehouse ledger sheets, load summaries, pick records, contemporaneous measurements, contemporaneous diaries, and truck scale tickets. Records must be signed and dated and show the disposition of the crop.

2009 Final Payments for DCP! (Direct Counter-Cyclical Program)

Enrolled producers can expect their final direct payment to be deposited directly into personal bank accounts sometime during the first few weeks of October.

Producers who did not elect to receive an advance direct payment will receive their entire direct payment for the year in one lump sum after the end of the fiscal year (Sept. 30).

The direct payment for a crop equals 85 percent of the farm's base acreage times (x) the farm's direct payment yield times (x) the direct payment rate.

Example:

Producer has a 100 acre Base and a direct payment yield of 120. The calculated ADVANCE Direct Payment is:

85% of 100	=	85
Direct Payment Yield	x	120
Direct Payment Rate	x	<u>0.28/bu</u>
Total Direct Payment		\$2,856

If there are any unearned advance counter-cyclical payments, Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically subtract those amounts from the final Direct and Counter Cyclical Program payments you are to receive.

2010 DCP and ACRE Signup is Underway!

Sign-up has started for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program and the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program and will continue through June 1, 2010.

Producers who are eligible for the DCP program will also be eligible to enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program. The optional ACRE Program provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP.

The June 1, 2010, deadline is mandatory for all participants. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.

Payment Limitation/Eligibility

USDA payments and benefits are subject to producer eligibility and limitation provisions as defined by law. Documents and forms to determine eligibility and limitation once completed are reviewed on an annual basis. It is the producer's responsibility to report changes in the farming operation which may affect payment eligibility and payment limitation. The following payments apply to DCP for each contract year under the new Farm Bill comes through both direct and counter-cyclical payments. For all covered commodities, except peanuts: \$40,000 direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments. The Environmental Quality Incentive Program has a \$300,000 payment limitation. The Conservation Reserve Programs annual limit is \$50,000 per person.

Entities such as corporations, limited partnerships, trusts and estates are required to provide names, addresses, and ID numbers of their members.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these requirements.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

FSFL (Farm Storage Facility Loan)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL) provides low interest financing for producers to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The FSA is authorized to implement the program through USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC).

Eligible FSFL Commodities

- Feed grains harvested as whole grain or other whole grain such as corn.
- Fruits and Vegetables (including nuts)-cold storage facilities.
- Hay and Renewable biomass

The maximum principle amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. Loan terms of 7, 10, or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury department.

The cost of obtaining a loan

Each applicant will be charged a nonrefundable \$100 application fee. CCC will pay all collateral lien searches and recording fees for filing Form UCC-1 and credit reports. Applicants pay all other fees, such as severance agreements, attorney fees, real estate lien search fees, and instrument filing fees. For loans over \$50,000, applicants will be required to pay the cost of obtaining a title search/opinion or title insurance.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The maximum amount on the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA County Office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For details just contact the county office loan team for more information or to make an appointment with a farm loan officer.

Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP)

ELAP provides compensation to eligible producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other loss conditions, including losses due to blizzards and wildfires. ELAP is for losses that are not covered by Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), or Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE).



Eligible producers under ELAP may receive assistance for losses that occur on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011, during the calendar year in which the loss occurs. Eligible losses include feed losses, physical losses and additional costs incurred in providing feed to eligible livestock.

Controlled Substance

Any persons who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

Help Available to Stressed Farmers

In the past year, the economy, inclement weather, drought and other factors have hurt many farming operations around the country. The events pushed some farmers to the emotional breaking point. Watching their livelihood being threatened is difficult for farmers and ranchers and especially those who care about them.

The National Suicide Prevention Hotline is available to help. If you know a farmer or rancher who is under stress and is reluctant to ask for help, or if you just need to talk to someone, call 1-800-273-TALK (8255). Your call will be routed to the crisis center nearest you, where trained staffers are available 24/7. This nationwide service is free and confidential. Help is just a phone call away.

For more information, go to <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>. This is not affiliated with the US Department of Agriculture.

Acreage Spot Check Determinations and Notification

Each year the Farm Service Agency completes spot checks of acreage reports. Acreage reports are an integral part of farm program participation. Acreage spot checks are completed to ensure accurate acreage reports are used in farm program computations.

After farms are spot checked, a Notice of Determined Acreage will be sent to the farm operator. Producer notifications will be issued by FSA as spot checks are completed. Questions concerning determined acres should be directed to your local FSA office for further explanation.

Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to: drought conditions or fire on federally managed land.

Eligible livestock producers may receive assistance for eligible livestock grazing losses that occur due to drought or fire on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011, during the calendar year in which the loss occurs.

County committee can only accept applications after being notified by the National Office of qualifying drought, or if Federal agency prohibits producers from grazing normal permitted livestock on Federal managed lands due to qualifying fire.

For 2009 and subsequent years, signup applications must be filed no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the grazing losses occurred. Losses must occur in calendar year the application is being filed.

Additional information about all of the programs included in this newsletter is available at county FSA offices or on line at: www.fsa.usda.gov

NAIP Coverage Web Site and Web Service

GIS and non-GIS users can access the NAIP coverage web site and web service at <http://gis.apfo.usda.gov/naipcoverage>.

ArcGIS Server connection <http://gis.apfo.usda.gov/arcgis/services>

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSRRT STD
US Postage Paid
Permit #2
Mailed from Zip Code 02893

USDA - Farm Service Agency
Rhode Island County Office
60 Quaker Lane, Suite 49
Warwick, RI 02886