



NEWSLETTER



February/March 2013
Rhode Island County FSA
60 Quaker Lane Suite 49
Warwick, RI 02886

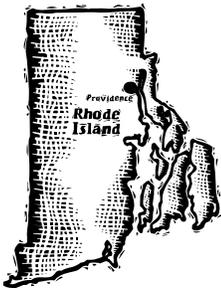
Hours
Monday-Friday
8:00 am-4:30 pm

Phone
401-828-3120 Option 2
Or 1-800-551-5144
Farm Loan: Option 3
Fax: 401-821-0780

County Committee
Doreen Pezza-Chairperson
Gilbert W Rathbun Jr.-Vice
Chairperson
Victor Hoogendoorn-Member
Joseph Silveira-Member
Lauri Roberts-Member

County Office Staff
Ingrid Fratantuono, CED
Anne Belleville, PT
Leila Naylor, PT
Sheryl Michener, PT

Farm Loan Staff
Roxanne Boisse, FLM
Sandy Ford, FLA



March 15, 2013 Signup deadline for Annual Crops

March 15th is the deadline for producers to apply for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to a natural disaster.

The service fee is **\$250** per crop per county or **\$750** per producer per county. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of service fees.

RI FSA is accepting Applications under the 2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program

Farms that had crop losses of more than 10% in 2011 may apply for SURE through June 7, 2013. The SURE Program payment is equal to 60 percent of the difference between the crop guarantee and revenue.

To be eligible for the 2011 SURE Program, producers must have crop insurance on all insurable crops. For crops that are not covered by crop insurance producers must have purchased coverage under the Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) through FSA. The Crop Insurance and NAP purchase requirement is waived for crops that are not economically significant to the farming operation.

Please Contact the Rhode Island FSA County Office for more information on NAP and SURE!

Don't forget to file your yearly Acreage Report!

Just a reminder to contact the Rhode Island County office once you have completed your planting. **The deadline to initially file your acreage report is July 15th**, but if you continue to plant after that date please let us know so we can adjust your acreage report accordingly.

Filing a yearly acreage report is required in order to participate in FSA programs and are highly recommended for everyone who harvests a crop to maintain their eligibility for current and future programs.



New Microloan Program Now Available!

Farmers in Rhode Island now have an agricultural Microloan credit option to consider. The Microloan is designed to help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. This loan features a streamlined application and a more simplified qualification process built to fit the needs of new and smaller producers. The term of the Microloan can be as long as 7 years. Producers in Rhode Island can begin to contact the Rhode Island Farm Loan Team for more information at 401-828-3120 option 3.



Other Farm Loan Programs Available!

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is committed to providing clear and concise explanation of its farm loan process, and is pleased to announce the online publication titled "Your guide to FSA Farm Loans." The guide, written in "plain language", provides information about FSA's farm loans and loan servicing options. A list of additional resources is also included. The guide is available online at www.fsa.usda.gov/dafi

Guaranteed Loan Limit

In addition to direct farm loans, FSA will work with farmers to obtain loans through a local farm lender or bank. These loans can now be guaranteed up to \$1,602,000.00. The one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans is 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan.

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Operating type loans and loans to purchase or improve farms are available to all eligible producers; socially disadvantaged groups may obtain priority funding. A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

Youth Loans

Rural youth with agricultural projects or planned projects can borrow up to \$5,000.00 through the FSA Youth Loan Program. Eligible ages are 10 to 20 years old. The project must be modest in size, educational and initiated, developed and carried out by the youth who is participating in 4-H, FFA or a similar organization. The project should produce enough income to repay the loan. This program is offered to help teach youth about practical business skills while developing agriculture projects.

For more information contact the Rhode Island Farm Loan Team at 401-828-3120 option 3.

Farm Service Agency Announces Important Program Updates!

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers that the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 extended the authorization of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (the 2008 Farm Bill) for many Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) commodity, disaster, and conservation programs through 2013. FSA administers these programs.

The extended programs include, among others: the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP), the Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE), and the Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC). FSA is preparing the following actions:

- FSA will begin sign-ups for DCP and ACRE for the 2013 crops on Feb. 19, 2013. The DCP sign-up period will end on Aug. 2, 2013; the ACRE sign-up period will end on June 3, 2013.
- The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013 (and vice versa).
- All dairy producers' MILC contracts are automatically extended to Sept. 30, 2013. Eligible producers therefore do not need to re-enroll in MILC. Specific details regarding certain modifications to MILC will be released soon.

FSA will provide producers with information on program requirements, updates and signups as the information becomes available. Any additional details will be posted on FSA's website.

For more information about the programs and loans administered by FSA, visit any FSA county office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

County Committee Elections!

It's that time of year again to nominate new County Committee members for Rhode Island FSA!

The following Local Administrative Area's will be conducting their 2013 County Committee Elections;

LAA-2 Kent County

LAA-4 Newport County

LAA-3 Bristol County

Contact the Rhode Island County Office for more details!

RECORD CLEAN UP!

Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into a bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, **producers need to notify the FSA county office when an account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases the bank where payments are sent.** Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to bank accounts and routing numbers.

Farming Operation Changes

Producers who have bought or sold land, or added or dropped rented land from their operation must report those changes to the FSA office as soon as possible. Failure to do so can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. While making record updates, be sure to update signature authorizations. Making record changes now will save time in the spring.

IRS 1099 Changes

Calendar year 2012 brought changes to the way FSA reports farm program payments to the producer and to the IRS. In past years, IRS Forms 1099-G would be issued to show all program payments received from the Farm Service Agency, regardless of the amount.

For calendar year 2012, producers whose total reportable payments from FSA were less than \$600 will not receive IRS Form 1099-G. Also, producers who receive payments from more than one county will only receive one Form 1099-G if the total of all payments from all counties is \$600 or more. The same changes will apply to producers and vendors who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA.

*Please contact the Rhode Island FSA County Office to update your records 401-828-3120 option 2.

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.

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions is required. Farmers with HEL determined soils must apply tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements as specified in their conservation plan.

Producers should notify FSA prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. If you intend to clear any trees to create new cropland, these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure any work will not jeopardize your eligibility benefits.

Landowners and operators can complete form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is necessary.

FSA's GovDelivery

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation. Producers are asked to enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail.

FSA, like many other organizations, is trying to work smarter and be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via email will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars.

Producers can now subscribe to receive free e-mail updates by going to

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe>.

Hispanic and Women Farmers

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation. For additional information on this and other settlement issues contact:

Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process:

www.farmerclaims.gov or call 1-888-508-4429

Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation:

www.blackfarmercase.com or call 1-866-950-5547

Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement: www.IndianFarmClass.com or call 1-888-233-5506

Pesticide Training!

The Rhode Island Farm Service Agency is having a Pesticide Training worth 3 credits on:

Worth 3 Credits!

March 5, 2013
10:00 am to 2:00 pm
At 60 Quaker Lane
Warwick, RI 02886

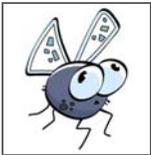


The training will cover Air Blast Sprayer Calibration and Insect management. We will be having two excellent speakers coming from the University of New Hampshire discussing these topics so please bring your questions!

FREE LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED!



In addition we will have an RMA insurance representative present to discuss insurable crops along with the FSA staff who will be available to discuss the status of the current farm bill and available programs.



RSVP by March 4th!
Rhode Island County Office
401-828-3120 Option 2

Dates to Remember!



February 19, 2013
DCP and ACRE Sign up Begins

March 5, 2013
Pesticide Training

March 15, 2013
Last Day to enroll your Annual Crops under NAP

June 3, 2013
ACRE Sign up Ends

June 15, 2013
Nomination Period Begins for COC Election

July 15, 2013
Last day to file your Acreage Report!

August 1, 2013
Last day to file nomination forms.

August 2, 2013
DCP Sign up Ends

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.

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Rhode Island County Office
60 Quaker Lane, Suite 49
Warwick, RI 02886