

February 2014



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## Grafton County, NH FSA Updates

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### Topics for February

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#### Grafton County FSA Office

19 Archertown Rd Suite 1  
Orford, NH 03777  
Phone: 603-353-4650  
Fax: 603-353-4647

**Office Hours:**  
Monday-Friday 8:00-4:30

**County Executive Director:**  
Steven Schmidt  
[steven.schmidt@nh.usda.gov](mailto:steven.schmidt@nh.usda.gov)

**Program Technicians:**  
Tara Hamlett  
[tara.hamlett@nh.usda.gov](mailto:tara.hamlett@nh.usda.gov)  
Joanne Fullerton  
[joanne.fullerton@nh.usda.gov](mailto:joanne.fullerton@nh.usda.gov)

**County Committee:**  
David Clement  
Russell Keniston  
Shirley Tullar

**Next County Committee Meeting:** February 20, 2014

**NH Acting Farm Loan Manager:**  
Brian Kuper  
[brian.kuper@vt.usda.gov](mailto:brian.kuper@vt.usda.gov)

**Farm Loans:**

#### County Committee Election Results

County committee elections are over, the ballots are counted and the results are in...

Russell Keniston of North Haverhill was elected to represent LAA 2. Thomas Keith of North Haverhill will serve as the first alternate, and Justin Smith will serve as second alternate.

Elected county committee members serve a three-year term and are responsible for making decisions on FSA disaster, conservation, commodity, and price support programs, as well as other important federal farm program issues.

County committee members are a valuable asset because they are comprised of local producers who participate in FSA programs themselves and have a direct connection to farmers and woodland owners in the community. All recently elected county committee members and alternates will take office on February 20, 2014, and join the existing committee.

For more information about county committees and the election process, please contact the Grafton County FSA Office or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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#### 2014 Acreage Reporting Dates

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit the Grafton County FSA Office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Grafton County:

The Concord Center  
10 Ferry St Suite 212  
Concord, NH 03301  
Phone: 603-223-6003  
Fax: 603-223-6030

May 31, 2014: Ornamental Nursery  
July 15, 2014 Corn, Fall Market Sweet Corn, Spring Forage Seeding, All  
Other Crops  
November 15, 2014: Perennial Forage, Fall Forage Seeding, Fall Seeded  
Small Grains

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact the Grafton County FSA office at 603-353-4650 (ext 2).

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## Microloan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan (ML) program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and small family farm operations.

FSA offers applicants a Microloan designed to help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application process built to fit the needs of new and smaller producers. This loan program will also be useful to specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program.

Individuals who are interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available should contact the Grafton County FSA Office or the Farm Loan Team (by phone: 603-223-6003) to set up an appointment with a loan official.

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## Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFLP) allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now 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. Additional security is required for poured-cement open-bunker silos, renewable biomass facilities, cold storage facilities, hay barns and for all loans exceeding \$50,000. New 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.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas, dry beans and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities
- Honey

For more information about FSFL please visit the Grafton County FSA Office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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## Selected Interest Rates

Farm Operating Loans (including Microloans) - 2.0%  
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct - 4.25%  
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct, Joint Financing - 5.00%  
Emergency Loans - 2.0%  
Farm Storage Facility Loans - (7 years) - 2.375%.

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## Dates to Remember

February 20, 2014 COC Meeting 11:30 am - Teleconference  
May 31, 2014 Acreage Reporting Deadline for Ornamental Nursery

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