



NEWSLETTER



Connecticut

Windham County FSA Office

March/April/May
2012

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860-779-0557
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Hours
Monday - Friday
7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Staff

Dawn S. Pindell
County Executive Director

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Ronald Clark,
Farm Loan Manager
860-887-3604 X 105



GovDelivery

This is Windham County's first newsletter brought to you through GovDelivery. If you are holding a paper copy you need to email diane.holowaty@ct.usda.gov to give her your email address. Cutting costs nationwide; USDA is limiting paper and postage use for newsletters and updates.

Tree Assistance Program

Funding for qualifying Orchards and Nurseries to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines that were lost by natural disasters before September 30, 2011. Losses above 15% of normal mortality that were reported within 90 calendar days of when the loss was apparent are eligible.

Conservation Reserve Program

Land enrolled in CRP is taken out of production for 10 years for an average annual payment of \$40/acre. Sign up deadline is April 6th.

New CRP grasslands and wetlands initiative will be enrolling land that benefits duck nesting habitat, upland birds, wetlands, pollinators and wildlife. Also highly erodible cropland enrolled in CRP may qualify for planting wildlife-friendly long term cover to improve habitat, reduce sediment and nutrient runoff. Farmers can enroll on a continuous basis starting this summer.

SURE

A supplemental disaster assistance program for crop losses. Producers who were covered by Crop Insurance and/or NAP for all their 2010 crops must apply by June 1, 2012.

Farm Loan Program

Loans are available for eligible applicants to operate or purchase farms. Youth Loans of up to \$5,000.00 are available for supervised 4-H or FFA projects. Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers loan funds assist persons who have farmed for less than 10 years. There is also priority funding for socially disadvantaged applicants who are members of a group who may have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice. Contact Ron Clark, Farm Loan Manager, at 860-887-3604 x 105 or ronald.clark@ct.usda.gov.



Farm Storage Loans

If you need storage for grain, hay, or apples that you grow, you can apply for a Farm Storage Facility Loan. The current interest rate for a seven year loan is 1.375%. There is a \$100 application fee to cover credit report and other fees.



MILC

Current projections of a drop in milk income may activate Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) payments over the next few months. Dairy farmers will need to complete form CCC-931 "Adjusted Gross Income"; update eligibility forms with farm changes; and provide monthly milk marketed if they have not authorized their dairy or cooperative to send this information to FSA. The start month of MILC contracts can be changed by the 14th of the month prior to the month selected. New dairy farms can file form CCC-580 "Milk Income Loss Contract" to participate and should do so soon.



Know Your Farmer Know Your Food

This USDA initiative is to promote local farmers. Our county office is involved in the AGvocate program, Celebrating Agriculture, Walktober, and a variety of meetings and events to promote local agriculture. We would like to also submit news articles to local papers to help people connect with farms in our community. Please let Dawn know if you'd like to be in an article or if you are holding a farm event that we can help publicize. USDA has a website about the program:

<http://www.usda.gov/maps/maps/kyfco/mpassmap.htm>



NAP

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) covers losses greater than 50% due to natural disasters. The deadline to sign up for annual crops is March 15, 2012. The cost is \$250.00 per crop up to \$750.00 per farm to cover all annual crops.

Throughout the crop year, in addition to good management practices, requirements to participate in NAP are:

1. Report your planted crop acreage by July 15, 2012
2. File form CCC-576 "Notice of Loss" within 15 calendar days of a natural disaster occurrence or the date the crop losses are apparent to you.
3. Keep copies of detailed annual records of crop production to establish a crop yield history and/or to show production in a loss year.

NAP and Crop Insurance are required on applicable crops for participation in SURE disaster programs.

Some NAP signup deadlines have passed. To cover these crops for the **2013 crop year** be sure to sign up by:

September 1, 2012 – Christmas Trees, Ornamental Nursery, Turfgrass/sod

November 20, 2012 – Perennial Crops – asparagus, fruits, mixed forage (hay)

December 1, 2012 – Honey, Maple Sap

Resources

Farmland Preservation Program

www.CTGrown.gov

Farming Information

www.Start2Farm.gov

Connecticut Farming Information:

www.ctfarmrisk.uconn.edu

click on

Connecticut Agricultural Business Management Guide for links to many resources.

USDA Settlement and Claims Information:

Women and Hispanic Farmer

1-888-508-4429

www.farmerclaims.gov

Native American Farmer

1-888-233-5506

www.indianfarmclass.com

African American Farmer

1-866-950-5547

www.blackfarmercase.com

The Last Green Valley Ag Information

<http://aginfo@lgv.org>



DCP

The Direct & Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) and ACRE program sign up ends June 1st. This program ends in 2012 with the current Farm Bill. Discussions are underway to determine what the next Farm Bill will look like.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to deliver timely, effective programs and services to America's farmers and ranchers to support them in sustaining our Nation's agricultural economy, as well as provide first-rate support for domestic and international food aid efforts.

Conservation Planning

Be sure to record your planting dates for acreage reporting. Also, you may want to check your Conservation Plan, developed with NRCS, to check on planting plans and updates. Following your Conservation Plan and annually reporting your crop acreage helps keep you eligible for USDA Farm programs.



Dates to Remember

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March 15 th	Farmland & Ranchland Preservation Program – contact NRCS
March 15 th	NAP Deadline for annual crops – contact FSA
March 16 th	Deadline for CT Pick Your Own Brochure – www.CTGrown.gov/Publications - \$25 fee
March 21 st	Agriculture Day at The Capitol 10 am to 1 pm
March 24 th	Growing Farms in Your Community CT Ag Commission Conference: EastConn, Hampton, \$15 – contact Jennifer 860-450-6007
March 30 th	Funds for Conservation Practices through EQIP – contact NRCS
March 31 st	CFBA Conference: Processing Farm Products for Profit; register online at www.cfba.org
April 14 th	CT Beekeepers Annual Meeting, New Haven, http://ctbees.com
June 1 st	DCP/ACRE signup deadline – contact FSA

Growing Farms In Your Community

March 24th at EastConn, Hampton from 8:30 to 3:00 \$15.00 includes lunch and materials. Register by March 15th - walk ins will pay \$25.00. All are welcome. The program will include:

- Welcome by Steve Reviczky, Commissioner of Agriculture
- 2012 Farm Bill implications for CT Farmers by US Congressman Joe Courtney
- Getting Results from your Agriculture Commission with input from Massachusetts commissions
- Farmers find the information they Need with Dawn Pindell, FSA and Considering Agriculture in Your Town with Joan Nichols, CFBA
- Helping Farmers Connect to Farmland with Jiff Martin, UConn CES Sustainable Food Systems
- Farm to Table Networking Lunch catered by Hop River Café
- Dessert and Updates from Connecticut's Agriculture Commissions
- Guest Speaker Mathew LeRoux, Agriculture Marketing Specialist, Cornell "Assessing the Market Channel Best Suited for your Farm Profitability".



Register by March 15th. Complete the information below and send with a check for \$15.00 payable to Eastern CT RC&D. Mail to AGvocate, Eastern CT RC&D, 24 Hyde Road, Vernon, CT 06066.

Name: _____

Affiliation (Agriculture Commissioner, Producer, Other) _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Please indicate how you would like your name and affiliation to appear on your nametag:

If you would like more information about this conference, please contact Jennifer Kaufman, AGvocate Program Director at 860-450-6007 or at AGvocate@yahoo.com .