

April 2013



## Cheshire-Sullivan County FSA Updates

DEAR PRODUCERS: Welcome to the new GovDelivery bulletins and updates service from your Name County FSA office. Note that you are welcome to request to receive bulletins from more than one state and/or county and can add or remove individual subscriptions at any time.

### Cheshire-Sullivan County FSA Office

11 Industrial Park Drive  
Walpole, NH 03608

Phone: (603) 756-2970 ext 2  
Fax: (603) 756-2978  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/NH](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/NH)

#### Hours

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

**County Executive Director:**  
Kelly Greenbacker

#### County Committee:

Timothy Gowen, Chair  
Leo Hunter, Vice-Chair  
Chris Bartlett, Member  
Hank Kenney, Member  
Linda Rice, Member

### Reminder of New Acreage Reporting Deadlines for New Hampshire Producers

The New Hampshire Farm Service Agency would like to remind producers of the new acreage reporting deadlines. New deadlines became effective on July 1, 2012 and are as follows:

**January 2**  
Honey

**January 15**  
Apples  
Peaches  
Nectarines

**February 15**  
Maple Sap

**July 15**  
Corn  
Fresh Market Sweet Corn  
Spring Forage Seeding  
All other crops

**November 15**  
Perennial Forage  
Fall Forage Seeding  
Fall-Seeded Small Grains

Late-filed reports will be accepted. From July 1, 2012, through September 15, 2013, late-filed fees will not be assessed for crops with final reporting dates that fall within that time frame.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the

loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

For more information on acreage reporting and acreage reporting deadlines, contact the county FSA office and/or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/NH](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/NH).

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## Microloans Are Cultivating Big Dreams on a Small Scale

Microloans are helping small, niche and beginning farmers and ranchers meet their goals. The less burdensome and more simplified loan process allows producers to apply for a maximum of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses, essential tools, irrigation, delivery vehicles and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing and distribution expenses. Producers interested in applying for a microloan should contact the FSA county office.

Read how microloans are helping producers across the U.S. expand their operations. [Small Farmer Finds Success with FSA Microloan Program](#)

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## CRP Sign-Up Starts Soon

USDA will conduct a four-week general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), **beginning May 20 and ending on June 14**. CRP protects the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities across the United States.

Currently, about 27 million acres are enrolled in CRP. Producers that are accepted in the program can receive cost-share assistance to plant long-term, resource-conserving covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the contract which is 10-15 years.

Contracts on 3.3 million acres of CRP are set to expire on Sept. 30, 2013. Producers with expiring contracts or producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP.

For more information on CRP and other FSA programs, visit the local FSA service center or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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## DCP/ACRE Sign-Up Continues

The signup period for Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program is still open. Producers are encouraged to sign up for DCP before the **August 2, 2013** deadline. The deadline for ACRE is earlier, 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. Likewise producers who were enrolled in DCP may opt for ACRE enrollment.

[Read more about DCP and ACRE](#) or contact the FSA county office for more information, or an appointment to enroll.

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## 2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program Applications

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will continue to accept Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) applications for 2011 crop losses through **June 7, 2013**. The SURE program provides payments to producers when crop revenues are less than the crop guarantee. The SURE program payment is equal to 60 percent of the difference between the crop guarantee and revenue.

To determine the guarantee and revenue for the SURE program, all crops on all farms for a producer are included in the calculation. Payments under the SURE program are limited to \$100,000.

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 such as pumpkins and cucumbers, producers must have purchased Non insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage from FSA. The Crop Insurance and NAP purchase requirement is waived for crops that are not economically significant to the farming operation. To be eligible, the producer must have at least one crop with a 10 percent production loss during the 2011 crop year.

For more information concerning the 2011 SURE program or other FSA programs, contact the local FSA office or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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## Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Claims Process Extended

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced the extension of the voluntary claims process for Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades. All claims must now be filed by **May 1, 2013**.

USDA urges potential claimants to contact the Claims Administrator for information and mail their claims packages on or before May 1, 2013.

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied his or her application for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000. As announced in February 2011, the voluntary claims process will make available at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

Claimants may register for a claims package by calling the telephone number below Monday through Friday, 9 am to 8 pm Eastern Time or by downloading the forms from the website

Website: [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov)

Phone: 1-888-508-4429

Fax: (855) 626-8343

Email: [claims@hwfr.org](mailto:claims@hwfr.org)

Claims Period: September 24, 2012 - May 1, 2013

Claim packages and other documentation may be mailed to Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Claims Administrator, PO Box 4540, Portland, OR 97208-4540. Claim packages and other documentation may also be emailed to [claims@hwfr.org](mailto:claims@hwfr.org). Claimants may also fax claims packages and other documentation to (855) 626-

8343. Completed forms and documentation must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. PDT on May 1, 2013.

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## Farm Record Changes

June 1, 2013 is the deadline to provide changes to your farm records at the local FSA office for the current crop year. If you are changing your operation entity type, adding or dropping cropland or farms, or adding entities to your operation, contact the FSA county office by June 1.

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## Over the Counter Channel (OTCnet)

FSA/CCC is moving toward OTCnet, an electronic method for processing customer check payments. When a check is submitted for payment either in person or through the mail, the check will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The funds will be debited from the producer's account, usually within 24 hours of receipt. Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the Service Center or visit the following U.S. Department of Treasury internet site for detailed information.

<http://fms.treas.gov/otcnet/legal.html>

### **What is OTCnet?**

OTCnet is a Web-based online application process for converting paper checks presented to FSA into electronic debits to the producer's bank account. It presents many benefits, such as reducing lost/misplaced checks and paper handling. This improves customer relations, speeds the check clearing process, and reduces the potential for human error.

### **How will my check be handled?**

The check will be scanned into the system and voided. The customer will not receive the check back from FSA. FSA will hold checks for up to 14 calendar days to ensure that the item was successfully processed, and then FSA will shred the check.

### **How quickly will funds be transferred from my account?**

The transfer of funds from your account could occur within 24 hours. Therefore, you should be sure that you have sufficient funds in your account to process the transaction. If you do not have sufficient funds, we may initiate the transaction again.

### **How will this transaction appear on my account statement?**

The transfer of funds will be reflected on your account statement. The transaction may be recorded in a different place on your statement than where your checks normally appear, such as under "other withdrawals" or "other transactions".

### **What are my rights if there is a problem with the transaction?**

You have protections under Federal law for an unauthorized electronic fund transfer from your account. You should contact your financial institution immediately if you believe that the transaction reported on your account statement was not properly authorized or is otherwise

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## Land Contract (LC) Guarantees

The Land Contract (LC) Guarantee Program is a valuable tool to transfer farm real estate to the next generation of farmers and ranchers. Guarantees will be offered to the owner of a farm who wishes to sell real estate through a land contract to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher. The guarantee reduces the financial risk to the seller.

FSA offers two types of guarantees:

- Prompt Payment Guarantee: A guarantee up to the amount of three amortized annual installments plus the cost of any related real estate taxes and insurance.
- Standard Guarantee: guarantee of 90 percent of the outstanding principal balance under the land contract.

The guarantee period is 10 years and the contract payments must be amortized for a minimum of 20 years. The purchase price of the farm cannot exceed the lesser of \$500,000 or the market value of the property.

For additional information you can read the [Land Contract Guarantee Program Fact Sheet](#).

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## Dates to Remember

**Apr 16** - Cheshire-Sullivan County Committee Meeting

**May 1** - Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers claims deadline

**May 20 to Jun 14** - CRP 45 Signup

**May 27** - Memorial Day Holiday: Office Closed

**Jun 3** - ACRE signup ends

**Jun 7** - Signup Deadline for 2011 SURE program

**Jul 15** - Acreage Reporting deadline for Corn, Spring Forage Seeding, and all other crops

## Interest Rates

### Selected Interest Rates for April 2013

Farm Operating Loans (including Microloans) - Direct 1.375%

Farm Ownership Loans - Direct 3.50%

Farm Ownership Loans - Direct, Joint Financing 5.00%

Emergency Loans - 2.375%

Farm Storage Facility Loans - (7 years) 1.375%

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USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9450, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).