

September 2013



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Coos-Carroll County FSA Updates

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Coos-Carroll County FSA Office

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Lancaster, NH 03584

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County Executive Director: Patricia Matte

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Program Technician:

Paulette Couture
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County Committee:

Julie Hussey, Chair
Bruce Savage, Vice-Chair
Richard Fortin, Member
Wayne Cheney, Member
Sarah Cordwell, Member

County Committee Meeting: December 5 - 11:00 AM

Farm Loan Office

The Concord Center
10 Ferry St. Suite 212, Box 212
Concord, NH 03301

2013 County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to all farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the producers and represent all constituents. This means that minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for underrepresented groups.

Elections will be held to fill County Committee positions in Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2 and (LAA) 5.

LAA 2 includes Pittsburg, Clarksville, Stewartstown, Colebrook, Columbia, Dixville, Odell, Dix's Grant, Atkinson & Gilmanton Academy Grant, Second College Grant, Wentworth's Location, Millsfield, Stratford, Erroll, Stark, Dummer, Erving's Location and Cambridge.

LAA 5 includes Tuftonboro, Ossipee, Freedom, Effingham, Wolfeboro, Brookfield and Wakefield.

County Committee election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters on November 4, 2013. The last day to return completed ballots to the USDA

Phone (603) 223-6003
Fax (603) 223-6030

**NH Acting Farm Loan
Manager:** Brian Kuper
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Farm Loan Officers:
Lorna Wakefield
lorna.wakefield@nh.usda.gov
Rebecca Davis
rebecca.davis@nh.usda.gov
William Wilson
william.wilson@nh.usda.gov

Website:
www.fsa.usda.gov/nh

Service Center is December 2, 2013.

Crop Acreage Reporting

Thank you to all of our producers for your cooperation during the 2013 Crop Acreage Reporting period! There were new Crop Acreage Reporting Deadlines effective July 1, 2012 for all 2013 (and subsequent year's) Crop Reporting, which was a big change for 2013. We appreciate the efforts made by all of our producers to report your crop acreage by visiting the office and/or corresponding with the office via phone, fax, and e-mail.

Moving forward – It is time to report your 2014 perennial forage (grass) crops. **The deadline for reporting 2014 perennial forage, fall forage seeding and fall-seeded small grains is November 15, 2013.** Please contact the office to report crop acreage for these 2014 crops.

If a producer files a crop report for perennial forage by November 15th and then finds they are going to plant a crop or have changes on that land, they can later file a revised crop report.

Late filed crop reports will be accepted for acreage that was not reported by the deadline, however late filed fees will apply. If a producer acquires perennial forage land after the crop reporting deadline of November 15, 2013, they can timely file a crop report within 30 days of acquiring the land. The producer must provide a copy of their written lease, dated and signed by the land owner.

Acreage reports are required for many of our 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.

The New Hampshire Farm Service Agency has established the following acreage reporting deadlines for the 2014 Crop Year:

November 15, 2013 – Perennial Forage (Grass), Fall Forage Seeding, Fall Seeded Small Grains
January 2, 2014 – Honey
January 15, 2014 - Apples, Peaches
February 15, 2014 - Maple Sap
May 31, 2014 – Ornamental Nursery
July 15, 2014 – Corn, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Spring Forage Seeding, All Other Crops

Please contact the FSA Office for more information on crop acreage reporting and acreage reporting deadlines. The Coos-Carroll County FSA Office hours are from 8:00 -4:30. Or we can be reached 24 hours a day by sending us a fax, an e-mail, or leaving a voice mail message. Our office phone number is 603-788-4602 ext 2; our fax number is 603-788-2538.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Deadlines

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. Benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. NAP is a voluntary program that reduces risk of financial loss when natural disasters cause losses or prevented planting of an eligible crop or agricultural commodity. An eligible natural disaster may include:

- Damaging weather, such as drought, freeze, hail, excessive moisture, excessive wind or hurricanes;
- An adverse natural occurrence, such as: earthquake or flood;
- A condition related to damaging weather or an adverse natural occurrence, such as: excessive heat, plant disease, insect infestation; or
- Any combination of these conditions. The natural disaster must occur during the coverage period, before or during harvest and must directly affect the eligible crop.

To participate in NAP producers pay an annual service fee of \$250 per crop per county or a maximum of \$750 per producer per county per crop year. The fee for multi-county producers cannot exceed \$1875 per crop year. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of service fees. Eligibility for NAP coverage is based on a proven history of crop production or on an expected yield for the county. Each unit has an actual production history (APH). A loss greater than 50 percent of the established APH will be covered. Payments are made at 55% of the average market price for the crop. The average market price is set by the NH State FSA Committee.

NAP application closing dates are:

September 1 – Fall Seeded Garlic, Ornamental Nursery, Christmas Trees, Floriculture

September 30 – All Forage Crops

November 20 – Perennial Crops (including blueberries, strawberries, cherries, etc.)

December 1 – Maple Sap and Honey

March 15 – Annual Spring Seeded Crops

NAP Loss Filing

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 (Notice of Loss) in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

AFIDA

Any foreign person who acquires transfers or holds any interest, other than a security interest, in agricultural land

in the United States is required by law to report the transaction no later than 90 days after the date of the transaction. They must file Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) reports with the FSA county office that maintains reports for the county where the land is located. For AFIDA purposes, agricultural land is defined as any land used for farming, ranching or timber production, if the tracts total 10 acres or more. For more information regarding AFIDA and FSA programs, contact the FSA office near you or visit the USDA Web site at <http://www.usda.gov>

Selected Interest Rates for September 2013

Guaranteed Loan Program. Farm Operating Loans (including microloans)-Direct 1.875%
Farm Ownership Loans- Direct 4.00%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher 1.50 %
Emergency Loans- 2.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years)- 2.00%

Dates to Remember

September 30, 2013 - NAP Sign Up Deadline for Forage Crops
October 14, 2013 - Columbus Day (Office Closed)
November 4, 2013 - Ballots for County Committee Election mailed to Producers
November 11, 2013 - Veterans Day (Office Closed)
November 15, 2013 - Crop Acreage Reporting Deadline for perennial forage, fall forage seeding, fall-seeded small grains
November 20, 2013 - NAP Sign Up Deadline for Perennial Crops
December 1, 2013 - NAP Sign Up Deadline for Honey and Maple Sap
December 2, 2013 - Last day to return voted ballots to the USDA Service Center
December 5, 2013 - COC Meeting - Counting ballots for Election

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).
