

November 2013



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## Merrimack-Belknap-Hillsborough County FSA Updates County FSA Updates

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### Merrimack-Belknap- Hillsborough County FSA Office

The Concord Center  
10 Ferry Street, Box/Suite 212  
Concord, NH 03301

Phone: 603-223-6003

Fax: 603-223-6030

[www.fsa.usda.gov/NH](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/NH)

Hours:

Monday-Friday

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

#### County Executive Director:

Donna Juneau

[donna.juneau@nh.usda.gov](mailto:donna.juneau@nh.usda.gov)

603-223-6003

#### Program Technicians:

Melinda Marston

### FSA MAKES PAYMENTS

FSA has been issuing 2013 Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) annual rental payments, 2013 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payments, and 2012 Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program payments to participants across the country. These payments were delayed by several weeks due to the lapse in Federal funding.

ACRE payments for 2012-crop barley, corn, grain sorghum, lentils, oats, peanuts, dry peas, soybeans, and/or wheat were released beginning Oct. 24. ACRE payments are contingent upon national average market prices and yields in each State. Only those farms that participated in the 2012 ACRE program and met both the state and farm trigger are eligible for payment. ACRE payments for upland cotton are scheduled to be made in early November, after the 2012/13 average market year price is published in the Agricultural Prices publication scheduled to be released on October 31.

ACRE payments for 2012 large chickpeas, small chickpeas, canola, crambe, flaxseed, mustard seed, rapeseed, safflower, sesame, and sunflowers are scheduled to be made in early December and for long grain rice and medium and short grain rice in early February 2014 when the final 2012/13 market year average price data becomes available. ACRE payments are contingent upon national average market prices and yields in each State. Only those

[melinda.marston@nh.usda.gov](mailto:melinda.marston@nh.usda.gov) farms that participated in the 2012 ACRE program and met both the state and farm trigger will be eligible for ACRE payment.

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**NH Acting Farm Loan Manager:**

Brian Kuper  
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603-223-6003

**NH Farm Loan Officers:**

Lorna Wakefield  
Rebecca Davis  
William Wilson

**NH Farm Loan Program Technician:**

Sandra Carter

**County Committee Members:**

Martha Crete, Chair  
Eric Tenney, Vice-Chair  
William Hall Jr., Member  
Robert Potter Jr., Member  
Jane Presby, Member

**Next County Committee Meeting:** To Be Determined

The 2008 Farm Bill, extended by the American Tax Payer Relief Act of 2012, provided authority to enroll land in DCP, ACRE and CRP through Sept. 30, 2013; however, no legislation has been enacted to reauthorize or extend this authority. Effective Oct. 1, 2013, FSA does not have legislative authority to approve or process applications for these programs.

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## Crop Acreage Reporting

The deadline for reporting 2014 perennial forage, fall forage seeding and fall-seeded small grains is today - **November 15, 2013**. If you have not reported yet, please contact the office to report crop acreage for these 2014 crops as soon as possible.

You can contact the Merrimack-Belknap-Hillsborough County FSA Office 24 hours a day by sending us a fax, an e-mail, or leaving a voice mail message. Our office phone number is 223-6003; our fax number is 223-6030; and our office e-mail is [MBHCOUNTYFSA@nh.usda.gov](mailto:MBHCOUNTYFSA@nh.usda.gov)

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, Fall Forage Seeding, Fall-Seeded Small Grains**

January 2, 2014 – Honey  
January 15, 2014 - Apples, Peaches, Nectarines  
February 15, 2014 - Maple Sap  
May 31, 2014 – Ornamental Nursery  
July 15, 2014 – Corn, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Spring Forage Seeding, All Other Crops

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## Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Deadlines

The Non-Insured 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

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## 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 Non-insured 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.

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## FSA Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.

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## Changing Banks

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using direct deposit. To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

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## Selling Land

If you plan on selling farmland, you should be aware of several consequences associated with FSA programs. For example, if you're planning to sell land that's enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer doesn't want to continue the CRP contract, you might have to refund all of the payments you've received to date.

Reviewing program implications with your local Farm Service Agency staff before completing a sale of farmland is always a prudent precaution.

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## Farm Reconstitutions

When changes in farm ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1 for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program.

Estate Method — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

Designation of Landowner Method — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

DCP Cropland Method — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

Default Method — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

If DCP direct payments have already been issued on a particular farm, the reconstitution will be effective for the next year, unless the payments are refunded.

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## Selected Interest Rates for November 2013

Farm Operating Loans (including microloans)-Direct 2.125%

Farm Ownership Loans- Direct 4.25%

Farm Ownership – Direct, Joint Financing – 5.00%

Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher 1.50 %

Emergency Loans- 3.125%

Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years) - 2.000%

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## **Dates to Remember:**

November 15, 2013 - Crop Acreage Reporting Deadline for 2014 perennial forage, fall forage seeding,

fall-seeded small grains

November 20, 2013 - NAP Sign Up Deadline for Perennial Crops

November 28, 2013 – Thanksgiving Holiday (Office Closed)

December 1, 2013 - NAP Sign Up Deadline for Honey and Maple Sap

December 25, 2013 – Christmas Holiday (Office Closed)

January 2, 2014 – Crop Acreage Reporting Deadline for 2014 Honey

January 15, 2014 - Crop Acreage Reporting Deadline for 2014 Apples, Peaches, Nectarines

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