

MAY/JUNE 2008



NEWSLETTER

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

LITCHFIELD/FAIRFIELD

COUNTY FSA OFFICE

1185 New Litchfield Street
Torrington, CT 06790-6098
Tel. 860-626-8852
Fax. 860-626-8850

HOURS

Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

COUNTY COMMITTEE

Rick Plumb-Chairman
Don Taylor-Vice Chairman
Dan Logue - Regular Member
Charles Ferris IV-Reg Memb
Luke Tanner-Reg. Member
Dorothy Jacquier-Advisor

COUNTY OFFICE STAFF

Howard E. Rood Jr., x101
County Executive Director
Ellen Losee, x104
Farm Loan Manager
Karen Tomlinson, x103
Farm Loan Officer
Barbara Hawley, x102
Program Technician
Carolyn A. Tomczyk, x100
Program Technician

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REPORTING CROP ACREAGE

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA county office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from most USDA programs.

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. Producers need to file their acreage reports by JULY 15, 2008 for most crops.

PREVENTED PLANTING:

Prevented planting needs to be reported no later than 15 calendar days After the final planting date.

FAILED ACREAGE:

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and Producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

It is also very important that producers report crop losses, including those insured under Federal Crop Insurance (FCIC) and Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) within 15 days of the date damage occurred or 15 days from the data damage is apparent. Losses and or damages to crops must be reported after each disaster occurrence and in a timely manner to insure continued eligibility for benefits.

Producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA county office to file the required FSA-578 certification report before the deadline dates expire.

DIGITAL TELEVISION TRANSITION

At midnight on February 17, 2009, ALL full-power television stations in the United States will stop broadcasting in analog and switch to 100% digital broadcasting. Digital broadcasting promises to provide a clearer picture and more programming options and will free up airwaves for use by emergency responders. Please go to www.dtv2009.gov, or call 1-888-DTV-2009 for more details.

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2008 COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION INFORMATION

One of FSA's responsibilities is to conduct County Committee elections in an open manner that ensures accountability. County FSA Offices will provide local organizations representing socially disadvantaged groups with detailed information about the COC election process. FSA is reaching out to agricultural communities to get equitable representation on their county committees.

Groups representing socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, will be actively solicited for COC election candidates, and encouraged to fill out a nomination form (FSA-669A). Under represented farmers and ranchers are encouraged to step up and participate in their county's COC election process.

In Litchfield County, this year elections will be held in LAA 1 in the town of: Barkhamsted, Colebrook, Goshen, Harwinton, Litchfield, New Hartford, Norfolk, Torrington, and Winchester.

In Fairfield County, this year elections will be held in LAA 4 in the towns of: Bethel, Brookfield, Danbury, Darien, Easton, Greenwich, New Canaan, New Fairfield, Norwalk, Redding, Ridgefield, Sherman, Stamford, Weston, and Wilton.

COC election fact sheets can be found online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under the News & events tab on the FSA homepage, or stop by the county office and pick up a nomination form.

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applications are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$200,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$949,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered a physical of production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. For detail information loan eligibility or the different available loan programs, just contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.