



November 2008

# New Haven/Middlesex County News

**New Haven/Middlesex  
County USDA  
Service Center**

**New Haven/Middlesex  
County FSA**  
900 Northrop Road  
Wallingford, CT 06492  
203-269-6665(phone)  
203-294-9741(fax)  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/ct](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ct)

**Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**County Committee:**  
Bill Weed  
Chairman

Nelson Cecarelli  
Vice-Chairman

Richard Brock  
Regular Member

Joyce Werbiski  
Minority Advisor

**Next County  
Committee meeting  
will be Thursday  
December 4<sup>th</sup> at  
11:00AM**

**Staff:**  
Nancy Welsh  
County Executive  
Director

Ann Marie McCard  
Program Technician

Teresa Peavey  
Program Technician

Kathy Gostyla  
Program Technician

## **The "Ten Acre" Legislative Change**

On October 13, 2008, HR-6849 was signed into law and amended the commodity provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill to permit producers with small-acreage to participate in farm programs for the 2008-crop season. The Farm Bill modification for 2008 suspends the provision that prohibits Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) payments on eligible commodities if the sum of the base acres on the farm is 10 acres or less.

The legislation extends the 2008 crop year sign-up for producers with 10 base acres or less, until November 26, 2008. This regulation change ensures that no penalty can be assessed by USDA against participants who fell into this 10-acre prohibition, for failure to submit reports or timely comply with program requirements. The law also provides clarification on various aspects of the new standing disaster assistance program, specifically how minor acreages and grazing land are supposed to be treated under the program.

Producers with ten base acres or less are encouraged to contact their local FSA office before November 26, 2008 to schedule an appointment to enroll in the 2008 DCP farm program.

## **NAP Coverage**

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available. The application deadline date for the 2009 coverage on fall seeded crops has been extended to

December 1, 2008. In order to be eligible for disaster assistance programs, like SURE, producers are required to timely purchase, at a minimum, CAT coverage for all insurable crops and/or NAP coverage for all non-insurable crops on their entire farm. NAP coverage for 2009 costs \$250 per crop, but not more than \$750 per producer per county, or not more than \$1875 total per producer for all counties.

Producers who already have coverage on 2008 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2009, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

## **SURE Online Calculator**

The 2008 Farm Bill includes a new disaster program known as the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program. For your convenience, FSA has placed a SURE calculator on its Web site at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/fbapp?area=home&subject=landing&topic=landing>.

The calculator and instructions can be easily downloaded. Once the download is made, you will be able to calculate your estimated SURE Guarantee, estimated Expected Revenue, estimated Farm Revenue and estimated SURE payment.

The calculator is a tool to help with calculations for SURE, it is not the approved software to compute and provide actual payment information.

By using the calculator, producers and others may begin familiarizing themselves with SURE calculations which allows them to run various scenarios based on basic levels of insurance coverage versus buy up levels of insurance coverage. It is



important to note that this calculator only addresses yield based crops and does not address value loss crops or those plans of insurance that are revenue based. It does not include calculations for situations such as prevented planting, first crop-second crop, or other scenarios.

*Note, FSA reminds users that the calculator and instructions are for informational purposes only. This calculator in no way provides exact FSA payments under SURE.*

### *Voting for County Committee Begins*

Ballots for this year's county committee election will be mailed to eligible voters on November 3, 2008. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 1, 2008. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 1, 2008.

The candidate in this year's election is Richard Brock. He is nominated in LAA 3, Middlesex County, to serve as a committee member. Mr. Brock has produced a variety of crops for many years.

He is an active member of the New Haven/Middlesex County Committee and currently serves as Regular Member.

Eligible voters in a local administrative area LAA 3 who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff. Voter Requirements Persons meeting requirements in 1 or 2, plus 3, below, is eligible to vote:

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either of the following:
  - an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper, or
  - a partner in a general partnership or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper; or
2. Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; *and*
3. Eligible to participate in any FSA program that is provided by law, regardless of the status of funding.



**Discrimination Prohibited** No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

### *Farm Loan Year End Reviews*

Producers that have a farm loan with FSA are reminded they must provide data for their Year-End Analysis (YEA) to their loan officer each year. Borrowers are urged to provide this information timely so that their files can be maintained. The office will contact you for the data you will need to provide us.

*Applications for FSA Farm Loan Assistance* Farmers and ranchers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Filing early will help ensure that your loan is processed and approved as early as possible so that planting decisions can be made. Failure to apply early can result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications that must be processed in date order. Contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager or Officer for more details and assistance in applying.

### *Operating Loan Applications Needed Now*

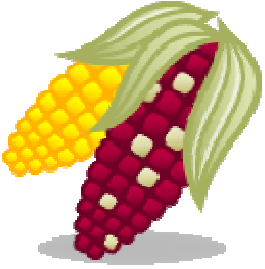
Farmers that plan to apply to the Farm Service Agency for annual operating loan assistance this year are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. The earlier an application for loan assistance is filed, the quicker the FSA staff can process your request. In addition, due to budget constraints, farmers that wait until later in the year to apply, often run the risk of finding out that our funding allocations have been utilized already. Farmers should also contact their FSA Farm Loan Manager, Ellen Losee at 860-626-8258 extension# 104 for information as to what is required in order to have a complete loan application on file. Decisions on loans can not be made until a complete application is received.

### *Online Services*

Producers, if you have Internet access you can electronically log on, fill out and print a variety of FSA paper forms in the comfort

of your home as your schedule allows. You can also register for secure electronic access that will allow you to electronically sign and transmit some forms directly to the county office staff. If you are new to the website, first you will want to obtain a Level 2 USDA Service Center Customer ID and password at:

<http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> and then click on "Create an Account Page" link.



USDA eAuthentication is the system used by USDA agencies to enable customers to obtain accounts that will allow them to access USDA Web applications and services via the Internet. This includes things such as submitting forms electronically, completing surveys online, and checking the status of your USDA accounts.

If you already have a Customer ID and password, then click on the following eForms website at:

<http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/main servlet> and then click on the "Sign In" button. A disclaimer window will open and after you read the "Warning message" click on the "Continue" button.

Then the USDA Web services page will open to the eAuthentication login page. Enter your login User ID and password and then click on the "Login" button. To sign and transmit forms electronically, you must sign-up and get a User ID and password.

Submitting an e-Form is convenient. You can access information anytime day or night seven days a week. It's faster and forms and applications can be submitted and received in the county office in a matter of minutes, not days or weeks.

### Marketing Assistance Loans

Marketing Assistance loans are commodity loans available to producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time of application. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if you regain beneficial interest.



Commodity loan eligibility also requires you comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, report how you use cropland acreage on the farm and ensure that the commodity meets CCC minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program to be eligible for commodity loans.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans.

The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

### Unauthorized Disposition of Loaned Grain

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe and a producers name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call the office before any grain under loan is fed or sold.

### Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

<b>Selected Interest Rates for November 2008</b>	
Farm Operating - Direct	**
Farm Ownership - Direct	**
Limited Resource - Farm Operating	**
Limited Resource - Farm Ownership	**
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment Beginning Farmer or Rancher	**
Emergency	**
Farm Storage Facility	**

\*\* Please contact Ellen Losee for rates at  
860-626-8258 ext#104

<b>Dates to Remember</b>	
Nov 4 <sup>th</sup>	Election Day for Presidential Election
Nov 11th	Veterans Day – Office Closed
Nov 27th	Office Closed for Federal Holiday – Thanksgiving Day
Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>	Deadline to return county committee election ballots
Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>	NAP deadline on fall seeded crops
Dec 25 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Day, Office closed
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program

Visit our Web site at  
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ct>

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