



Words of Windham

A Newsletter For People Who Care About Agriculture

BUY-IN WAIVER

Producers can establish 2008 eligibility for the new disaster assistance programs by paying a fee.

Ordinarily producers who wish to participate in the new disaster programs would need crop insurance or non-insured crop disaster assistance (NAP) coverage on all farms in all counties in which they have an interest. Since the 2008 Farm Bill was enacted after the application periods had closed for those programs, producers who did not have insurance coverage could not comply with this requirement in order to be eligible. However, the Farm Bill authorizes a waiver that allows producers to pay a fee, called a "buy-in" fee, to be eligible for the new disaster assistance programs.

The buy-in fee is due no later than Sept. 16, 2008, 90 days after the date of enactment, as required by the 2008 Act. Payment of the applicable fees will allow the producer to be eligible for financial assistance under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), and other disaster assistance programs. Those who miss this opportunity will **not** be eligible for 2008 disaster assistance. Producers are also reminded that the payment of the applicable buy-in fee does **not** provide the producer crop insurance or NAP coverage; it only affords eligibility for the disaster programs.

CONGRATULATIONS!



To the Sandness Family of Buell's Orchard in Eastford, Winner of the 2008 Century Farm Award presented at Plant Science Day on August 6, 2008.

2008 DCP

Producers have until September 30, 2008 to sign up in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) for this fiscal year. Participants can expect their final direct payment to be directly deposited into bank accounts sometime during the first few weeks of October.

Producers who did not elect to receive an advance direct payment will receive their entire direct payment for the year in one lump sum after the end of the fiscal year (September 30).

NAP COVERAGE

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, 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.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

A slate of nominees for your county committee election has been established. The next step in the election process is the mailing of the ballots, which will begin on November 3, 2008. Voters have until December 1, 2008, to return their properly completed ballots to the county office. Elected committee members and alternates take office on Jan. 1, 2008.



Windham County FSA
PO Box 399, 139 Wolf Den Rd.
Brooklyn, CT 06234
860-774-8397 x1
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

COUNTY COMMITTEE:
Harold Bishop, Chairman
Betsy Molodich, Vice Chairman
Charles Tyler, Regular Member

OFFICE STAFF:
Dawn S. Pindell, County Executive Director x109
Diane C. Holowaty, Program Technician x111

Ron Clark, Farm Loan Manager
860-887-3604 x105

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PO Box 399
Brooklyn, CT 06234-0399

SUCCESSION IN INTEREST

If you have made any changes that affect your interest in base acres since you signed your last Direct and Counter-cyclical Program contract, you must report these **successions-in-interest** to the county committee by Sept. 30, so that a final determination can be made on who is program eligible on the property.

Changes that qualify as a succession-in-interest include:

- A sale of land
- A change of operator or producer, including an increase or decrease in the number of partners
- A change in producer shares to reflect changes in the producer's share of the crop(s) that were originally approved on the contract.



WEATHER ISSUES

Be sure to call our office if you have crop problems due to weather or natural disaster issues. We file a STORM report that is used to show crop losses of 30% or greater. This information supports natural disaster designations for potential loans and crop loss funding.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Sunday, September 7, 2008 – Celebration of Connecticut Farms, Food, Wine, and Art @ Toplands Farm in Roxbury. <http://www.ctfarmland.org/>

September 12 thru 28th - BigE in West Springfield, MA. <http://www.thebige.com/>

Saturday, September 20 – Celebrating Agriculture @ the Woodstock Fairgrounds from 9am to 3pm. FREE admission & parking. Hearty Farm Breakfast from 9am to 11am. <http://www.celebratingagriculture.org/>

Now thru November 11, 2008 – Corn Maze Adventure @ Fort Hill Farms in Thompson. <http://www.quintessentialgardens.com>

Now thru October – Farmer's Markets

Ashford – Pompey Hollow Pk, Sunday-10am to 1pm

Canterbury – 189 Butts Bridge Rd. – Last Saturday of each month – 9am to 2pm

Danielson – 25 Westcott Rd. – Wednesday 4pm to 6pm & Saturday 9am to 12pm

Plainfield – 482 Norwich Rd – Tuesday 4pm to 6pm

Putnam – 325 Woodstock Ave – Monday & Thursday 4pm to 6pm

Scotland – Junct. Rt. 97 & 14 – Wednesday 3pm to 6pm

Willimantic – corner Jackson & Union St – Saturday 8am to 1pm

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