November 2008 Windham **FSA** ords of

A Newsletter For People Who Care About Agriculture

## **CT WAgN**

CT WAgN is an agricultural networking, education, and support group for the women who are farming, or planning to start a farm. While its focus is on women, all are welcome to join. WAgN or a variation of this organization can be found in many states.

Here in CT, WAgN is 200 members strong and growing! Key to CT-WAgN is a moderated email list serv, maintained by Trish Manfredi, which delivers announcements of upcoming events and programs. Elaine Frost of Goshen, founded WAgN in 2006 with support from UConn Cooperative Extension and the CT Dept. of Agriculture. She chairs the Steering Committee which plans programs and events based on the members' needs and interests. Candace Bartolomew and Trish Manfredi, UConn Cooperative Extension, along with Jaime Smith, CT Dept of Agriculture, work with the Steering Committee to secure funding. CT WAgN is funded by UConn Cooperative Extension, the sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the CT Dept. of Agriculture, USDA'S Risk Management Agency and the Northeast Center for the Risk Management Education, University of Delaware.

CT WAgN has Twilight Meetings, Farm Tours, •Be a citizen of the United States which includes; Workshops and Conferences throughout the year where people from all stages of agriculture can come to learn and network. If interested please check out, www.ctwagn.com. CT WAgN is free to join.

#### **November Calendar**

- 11/1 Goat Symposium-Granville MA. Contact (860)-649-4523 x 326
- 11/7 CT Sheep Breeders Potluck at Middlesex County Extension. Denny Burak 860-526-3883
- 11/20 County Farm Tour (see article pg. 2)
- 12/1 Deep Zone-Tillage & Soil Health Conference-Sturbridge MA from 9AM-3:30PM. Contact Jude Boucher (860)-875-3331
- 12/1 LAA-3 Ballots Due to Brooklyn FSA Office

## **Committee Elections**

Just a reminder if you are in LAA-3 be watching your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot. If you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify us at 860-774-8397 x 1. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on December 1, 2008. LAA 3 towns are; Putnam, Brooklyn, Sterling, Plainfield and Killingly.

#### **DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!!**

## **Youth Loans**

The Farm Service Agency makes loans available to rural youth to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce vouth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000. To be Eligible:

Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or a legal resident alien.

•Be 10 to 20 years of age.

•Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements. •Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,00 or fewer people.

•Be unable to get a loan from other sources.

For more information or to apply call Ron Clark at (860)-887-3604 or ronald.clark@ct.usda.gov

## **Celebrating Agriculture**

Celebrating Agriculture was held on September 20th 2008 at the Woodstock Fairgrounds. Over 4,000 people attended to enjoy the many activities that ranged from the Hearty Farm Breakfast to fun projects for the children. It was an amazing day to be enjoyed by all. Many thanks to all the volunteers and vendors. To participate next year please contact Dawn Pindell at 860-774-8397 x 109.

DEKMIT NO. 25 MAILED FROM ZIP CODE 06234 U.S. POSTAGE PAID D.S. POSTAGE PAID

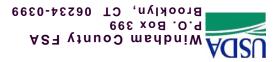
#### Grants

Northeast SARE has three grant programs meant for one to two year projects that explore new ideas in sustainable agriculture. Information from www.uvm.edu~nesare; or call (802)-656-0471.

**Farmer Grants-** The goal of the Farmer Grant program is to develop, refine, and demonstrate new sustainable techniques and to explore innovative ideas developed by farmers across the region.

**Partnership Grants-**The Partnership Grant is for agricultural professionals who work directly with farmers--specifically Cooperative Extension, NRCS personnel, non-governmental organizations, and others operating in the farm community--who are interested in developing on-farm demonstration, research, or marketing projects related to sustainable agriculture. Sustainable agriculture is understood to be agriculture that is profitable, environmentally sound, and beneficial to the community.

**Sustainable Community Grants-**Northeast SARE and the Northeast Center for Rural Development offer Sustainable Community grants to organizations such as community nonprofits, Cooperative Extension, local governments, educational institutions, planning boards, farming cooperatives, and incorporated citizens' groups.



# Windham County Food & Agriculture Council 2008 Farm Tour

November 20, 2008 90 Mantup Rd., Putnam 9:30 AM till 2 PM <u>rain</u> or <u>shine.</u>

Owners Paul, Diane and David Miller will give a tour that will highlight; a field equipment demo, new heifer & dry cow free stall barn, slurry store tank and manure separation.

A lunchtime discussion will cover energy saving equipment and Dr. Sheila Andrews, UConn Dairy Specialist, will cover Manure Solids for Bedding. Sandwiches and drinks will be available for purchase at \$6.00 per person.

To RSVP and get directions call (860)-774-9600 or email joyce.meader.uconn.edu by Monday, November 17th.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



P.O. Box 399, Brooklyn, CT 06234 PH: 860-774-8397 x 1, http://www.fsa.usda.gov

#### OFFICE \$TAFF:

Dawn \$. Pindell, County Executive Director x 109
Diane C. Holowaty, Program Technician x 111
\$arah M. Phaiah, Program Technician x110
Office Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Ron Clark, Farm Loan Manager 860-887-3604 x 105 COUNTY COMMITTEE: Harold Bishop, Chairman Betsy Molodich, Vice-Chairman Charles Tyler, Regular Member