



November 2008

Words of Windham **FSA**

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 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, 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 sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

To be Eligible:

- Be a citizen of the United States which includes; 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.

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Windham County FSA
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Brooklyn, CT 06234-0399



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.

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

OFFICE STAFF:

Dawn S. Pindell, County Executive Director x 109
Diane C. Holowaty, Program Technician x 111
Sarah 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

Windham County Food & Agriculture Council 2008 Farm Tour

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

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.