



Words of Windham

February 2008

A Newsletter For People Who Care About Agriculture

Connecticut Producers Count

As you know, 2007 was a Census of Agriculture Year. **You have until February 4, 2008 to return forms or complete this Census online.** Through this census producers reveal the value and importance of agriculture to the nation. Your answers help influence decisions on the direction of future farm, food, energy, trade and rural development policies. The National Agricultural Statistics Service, which conducts this census, uses the information only for statistical purposes and publishes data only in tabulated totals. The report cannot be used for taxation, investigation or regulation. Even the Freedom of Information Act cannot be used to disclose an individual participant's information. This information is used by the USDA to appropriately staff their service centers and assist in targeting programs and services to the people and places that need them most. Community Planners use the information to target needed services to rural residents. Legislators use the information when shaping farm policies and programs. Farmers and ranchers can use the information to assist them in making decisions about the future of their own operations. **Your answers help to shape the future of agriculture for years to come. Make sure you are counted. If you have not mailed in your form, you may complete this census online via a secure web-site at: www.agcensus.usda.gov**

Farm Loan Program Rules have been streamlined!

January 1, 2008, Producers, Farmers and Ranchers will find it easier to apply for FSA's Farm Loan Programs. Over the past few years there has been a focus to streamline areas of the Farm Loan Programs such as the Guaranteed and Emergency Loan Programs by revising the loan making and servicing requirements and procedures. These changes are in an effort to better serve our applicants and borrowers. Some of the areas which have been streamlined are:

- Modifying requirements to more closely conform to those used by other lenders;
- Reducing federal regulations by more than 80 percent;
- Ensuring all forms are available online;
- Reducing the number of forms required by nearly 50 percent;
- Consolidating guidance into six handbooks instead of nearly 40 instruction manuals.

For more loan information you may contact Ron Clark at 860-887-3604, ext. 105 or you may visit the USDA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>; and click on "Farm Loan Programs."

Ongoing Signup



Dairy Disaster Program III
Crop Disaster Program
Livestock Compensation Program

Conservation Reserve Program
Farm Loan Program

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February Events	Controlled Substance Provisions
<p><u>Bedding Plant Meetings:</u> 1/2 day programs—Pesticide Recertification Credits Offered. February 5th: Tolland CES, Vernon, CT Contact: Leanne Pundt at (860) 626-6240 or leanne.pundt@uconn.edu</p> <p><u>Annual Community Farming Conference:</u> February 9th: Sponsored by CT NOFA, 8:30—3:00, Jones Auditorium, CT Agri. Experiment Station, New Haven, CT. Connecting towns and land trusts with community groups and farmers. Contact: email: ctnofa@ctnofa.org or call (203) 888-9280.</p> <p><u>Getting Started in Organic Farming:</u> February 16th: Sponsored by CT NOFA, 8:30 –4:00, Jones Auditorium, Ct Agri. Experiment Station, New Haven, CT. Anyone interested in starting, expanding or converting to an organic farm enterprise.</p> <p><u>Perennial Plant Conference:</u> for professional horticulturist, UConn, Storrs, CT. March 13th. Contact: Richard McAvoy 860-486-0627 or Richard.mcavoy@uconn.edu</p> <p><u>Garden Conference:</u> for garden enthusiasts. March 14th; UConn, Storrs, CT Contact: Richard McAvoy, 860-486-0627 or Richard.mcavoy@uconn.edu</p> <p><u>Ask the Experts about Farm Labor, Prop. & Sales Tax and Farmland Preservation:</u> March 18th. 8:30 a.m., Cromwell Courtyard Marriott, Contact: Norm Bender 860-885-2827 or norman.bender@uconn.edu.</p>	<p>Any person who is convicted under Federal or State law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting, or growing a prohibited plant.</p>
	<p>Payments to Deceased Producers</p> <p>FSA must be notified immediately upon the death of producers who are participating in FSA programs. Failure to notify FSA and make modification to program contracts may result in a loss of benefits for the share of the deceased producers and the other producers in the program contracts.</p>

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