

FSA, Marilyn Ricker notes from State Technical Committee Meeting June 20th, 2012

Notes sent prior to the STC meeting, Marilyn Ricker sent:

- The **Farm Service Agency's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)** is a voluntary program that helps agricultural producers use environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits. Eligible practices are installed according to a Conservation Plan of Operation developed by NRCS. All participants are required to complete at least one management activity as part of their approved conservation plan.
- WDC has asked each state, with the help of NRCS, to develop Management Activities. Recommended activities shall be presented to the STC for review, consideration, and final determination.
- Attached please find a mid-contract activity sheet for forest management activities for your review. We will discuss this at our next STC meeting. However, if anyone has any thoughts or suggestions before hand, please feel free to email me.

Along with the attached information and summary below, at today's STC meeting I also discussed:

- The **Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)** has been implemented for Cheshire County. Rain and floods at the end of May caused damage to cropland. ECP can assist producers with the repair of the damaged land. A Press Release announcing a signup is forthcoming.
- FSA is transitioning to **GovDelivery (an on-line service)** for its mailing needs. Hard copy versions of our Newsletters will no longer be mailed. We are encouraging producers to provide us with their email so that they can be added to our distribution list for future e- mailings. Their emails are not shared with other agencies and they can manage their profiles on line to identify what type of information they would like to receive.
- Anyone can sign up for FSA email announcements by going to www.fsa.usda.gov, clicking on "Newsroom" at the top of the page, then selecting "News Releases" from the column on the right. A link will be provided at the top of the page to sign up for emails.

If anyone has follow up questions or comments regarding CRP or the Forest Management Activity, they can reach me at marilyn.ricker@nh.usda.gov.