Cold Bees and Five P’s for Selling to Chefs

The New Hampshire representatives are 4-H members Jacob Blake from Cheshire County, Erik Fredrickson from Carroll County, both new college students, and NH FFA State Vice President Erica Comeau, a graduate of Pinkerton Academy in Derry who will start college this fall. This is the 4th year of the organic farm safety net, which coordinates the Department’s work on local and regional foods. The grant program was initiated by the Heritage Agriculture and Food Act of 2008 to assist USDA to support service grants and technical assistance, in implementing farm to schools programs that improve access to local foods in eligible schools. The Act provides $5 million annually to support service grants, technical assistance, and the federal administrative costs related to the USDA’s Farm to School Program. USDA anticipates awarding up to $5 million in HHFKA grant funding and an additional $500,000 in program funds to support training and events.

RMA Reminds Producers of the Recent Changes to the Organic Farm Safety Net

The USDA’s Risk Management Agency (RMA) reminds producers of the expanded crop insurance options for insurable organic crops.

In its support for the continued growth of organic agriculture, RMA expanded the coverage options for producers through Federal crop insurance. Through efforts to better collect and evaluate price and yield data, RMA has worked with other USDA agencies over the past several years to enhance the coverage options for organic producers.

Starting with the 2014 crop year, the 5 percent premium surcharge for acreage insured under organic farming practices has been removed; a new contract price option will be available to organic producers who grow crops under guaranteed contracts; and changes to organic transitional yields (t-yields) will be phased in so they will be more reflective of actual organic farming experience. RMA continues to add organic price election for certain crops based on availability of data. Additional information on risk management tools available for organic farmers can be found on the RMA Organic Crops website at: www.rma.usda.gov/current/rental/organic.html.

RMA Regional Office also reminds all producers, including organic producers of the March 17, 2014 spring sales closing date for multiple peril crop insurance programs. This is the last day to buy 2014 AGR-Lite insurance for specific crops under the traditional multiple peril crop insurance program, producers may ask a crop insurance agent whether they would be eligible for coverage under a written agreement.

Producers are encouraged to visit their crop insurance agent soon to learn specific details for the 2014 crop year. Federal crop insurance policies are sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance companies and agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers or on the USDA website: www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents/agents/.

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Concord, NH, Wednesday, March 5, 2014
No. 54

Weekly Market Bulletin
State of New Hampshire
Maggie Hassan
Governor
Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food
Lorraine S. Merrill
Commissioner

From Your Commissioner . . .

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USDA RMA

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OUR OFFICE HOURS ARE 8AM TO 4PM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Custom lumber sawing w/ Wood-mizer portable sawmill, $.25/bf for softwood & $.35/bf for hardwood, will travel, planning up to 20”. – CHICHEST, 848-7299.

Carpenter for hire, 35yrs exp; bulldozer & backhoe operator. – HANCOX, 525-4454.

Kuhn FC3 power-engaged 280; Greenleaf sled, $6500; Gehl 250 tandem manure spreader, $2200; JD 1470 disk mower, 11 1/2" rolls, $5800; NH 408 disk, 4 7' rolls, $7500; Surge double 8 milking parlor w/16 65bs weigh jars, $1500; 16 mini orbit machines, $7500/gal tank w/compressors, $3000 – COOTOOK, 484-1781.

3 Farmall Cub tractor headamps, $100/ail; Cub sickle mower parts, $1. – LCL WVT, 357-4989.

Rural School suit, $45. – CLARE-MONT, 543-3616.

WANTED

Kuhn 440 tow behind tender for parts. – CLARE-MONT, 543-3616.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mobile farmstand, custom built raw pineboard, 14'LxWXH11', displays on both sides & rear, door in front for easy stocking, HD trailer road ready, $3700 – BEDFORD, 448-1545.

Blue Ox log trailer w/36 degree beam, 250. – CHARLESTOWN, 448-2011.

22' mohican hay jack, low & high speed, $400. – CLARE-MONT, 543-3616.

Steel pump jacks w/braços, $40/set; panel self feed, Reddy heater #115, kerogas, $50; Pro Reddy heater #200, kerogas, $100; orange plastic safety fence, $100; 2 steel ladder jacks, $26/ea; 2 Vanguard roof staging brackets for 3x6 or 4x6 staging, $280/ea; 3 Thomson 25ton building jacks crank, $3500/ea; Brosco 12 light double hood wood window 32 ½ x 6", $55; 6 panel 30" bolted door, $24; Marvin 2 light double hung window, alum clad, 3/8 x 5 ½ x 450, 10: Makita chop saw on rolling table, $100; industrial generator $6000 with 5000W Honda eng, v.g. to $1000; 38gal elec water heater, $80. – HANCOX, 525-4454.

Register on or before March 27

Registration is required for all and space is limited.

Pesticide Certification Training – Private, Commercial and General Use Permits

This educational program is designed to provide introductory training to new farmers and growers who wish to use pesticide products in commercial or private use. The program provides training in the safe handling and use of pesticides and the regulatory framework for pesticide use in New Hampshire. The program is designed to help farmers and growers understand the legal requirements for using pesticides and to provide them with the knowledge and skills necessary to safely and effectively use pesticides on their farms.

For Private Applicators:

Testing/application fee is $20.00 plus an additional $5.00 fee for the category. If you are interested in testing, check should be payable to The Treasurer, State of NH and mailed with the application and category application to:

NH Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food
25 Capitol Street, 2nd Floor
Concord, NH 03302-3032

Att: Darlene Lawrence before the start of class.

Register and order study materials online at http://extension.unh.edu/Agriculture/look under What’s New for Initial Pesticide Certification Training.

For any special arrangements please contact Rachel Maccini at (603)351-3831. Ten working days are needed to facilitate special needs requests.

Initial Pesticide Certification Training

LOCATION 1
Date: Monday, March 17th and 24th
*Testing Date: Mon. July 14th
+Temporay 2014

Where: Hillsborough County Extension Office
329 Mast Road, Goffstown, NH 03304
Fee: $50.00
Credits: 6
Register on or before March 10

LOCATION 2
Date: Thursday, April 3rd and April 10th
*Testing Date: Thursday, April 17th
+ Temporay 2014

Where: Claremont Savings Bank
135 Main Street, Charlestown, NH 03603
Fee: $50.00
Credits: 6
Register on or before March 27

LOCATION 3
Date: Thursday, April 24 and May 1st
*Testing Date: Thursday, May 8
+ Temporay 2014

Where: Coos County Extension Office
629A Main Street, Lancaster, NH
Fee: $50.00
Credits: 6
Register on or before April 17

County Testing session is for Private Applicators only. Commercial Applicators should contact Darlene Lawrence with the Division of Pesticide Control for testing information.

Participants will need to provide current study materials and prepare for the state exam. Participants are required to have the manuals prior to the first training session.

Training combined with individual study has the best track record in preparing someone to take the state pesticide license exam.
Corn Insurance Policy - News for 2014

In 2013 the 92 producer policyholders in New Hampshire received over $6.7 million of payment on over 9,000 acres of corn and $127,000 of indemnity payments to date. The total premium for these producer policy holders was $572,500. Three Corn insurance policyholders, including CAP policy holder was $0.72, which was down by $3.09 from 2012. The highest cost to benefit ratio for the Northeast states was for Vermont ($4.92) followed by New York ($1.64).

As for numbers of insured acres in NH, corn crops are leading crops – almost 88 percent of total acreage insured, followed by apples with 8.5% of total acreage insured.

A corn policy insures the producer’s corn crop or corn revenue against adverse weather conditions (hail, frost, freeze, wind, or heavy snow). Coverage is based on a produced yield minus 5% accepted yield. The coverage levels start with 50% (Catastrophic Risk Protection, CAP) at 55% price elections and goes up, in 5% increments, to 85% coverage level with 100% price election. An enterprise unit is a single county, single product policy and all entities units. Insuring all acres as basic units entities producers up to a 10 percent discount on their premiums. Basic units may often be divided into optional units when a crop is being grown under distinctly different production practices. Optional units may also be established by FSA farm serial number (FSN). Separate average production history (APH) records must be maintained for each optional unit, and production records must be maintained. Using enterprise units is another way to receive additional premium discounts – increased premium subsidy up to 80%. Enterprise units combine all of the acres of a single county into a single unit, regardless of whether they are owned or rented. Enterprise units are larger than basic or optional units, yields tend to be less variable and it is less likely that average yield would be low enough to trigger a loss payment in a given year.

Corn producers are recommended to use the 60% T-yield option (County Transition yield) when APH is calculated. The T-yield for corn silage in NH is 16 tons per acre and it can be used to replace the actual yield if it falls below this level. This option is available for all coverage levels including the CAT level. Yield below T-yield in one year could result in lower APH yields in future years which then lowers insurance guarantees in future years. The possibility of low yields could be a reason that favors taking a prevented planting payment. It would also be a factor in deciding to not plant a crop after the late planting period.

Producers are encouraged to talk to their insurance agents to run different scenarios on using T-yield for a particular year to see how it affects indemnity for the current year and guarantees in future. Some important dates for 2014: last date to purchase or change coverage - 3/15/14; production report due - 9/14; early planting - 4/14; final planting - 6/14; acreage report date - 7/15; premium billing date - 8/15/14.

The 2014 Farm bill does not change insurance programs for the 2014 year and thus will not impact any decisions. It may be altered in the next farm bill in 2015. There is one large change between the 2013 and 2014 crop insurance decision environments with immediate impact. The 2014 projected prices will be much lower than 2013 projected prices. The projected price for corn was $5.65 in 2013 and is estimated to be about $2.75 in 2014. The catastrophic level corn silage price for 2014 is $22.69. This decrease in prices could lower guarantees but should not influence coverage level choices.

All multi-year crop insurance, including CAIP Policies, are available from private insurance agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA service centers and on the RMA website at: https://www.rma.usda.gov/agents/aip/agents.

Friends and Foes - An Ecological Approach to Pest Management will be held at the Urban Forestry Center, 27 Elwyn Road, in Portsmouth on Wednesday, March 12, 9:30am-3pm. This program is intended to be of interest to organic and conventional growers, and has been approved for three pesticide recertification credits. Speakers include Alan Eaton, UNH Cooperative Extension, on Beneficial Insects; Ruth Hazard, University of Massachusetts, on Management of Top 5 Pests on Organic Farms; and Becky Sideman, UNH Cooperative Extension, on Controlling Insects, on Managing Mitigating Crop Losses; Cheryl Smith, UNH Cooperative Extension, on Integrated Pest Management for 2013; and finally, Pauline Bagg, NH Agriculture Commissioner, on the pesticide registration process for either job, contact Gail M. McWilliam Jellie at 603-862-3788 or gail.mcmwilliam.jellie@agr.nh.gov.

Crop Insurance Deadline Approaching for Spring Crop Sales Closing

The deadline to insure spring crops in the northeast for the 2014 crop year is March 17, 2014. Insurable spring crops include field and vegetable crops such as corn, soybeans, barley, oats, fresh market sweet corn, cabbage, potatoes, beans, peppers, tomatoes, onions, cabbage, broccoli, lettuce, spinach, and cabbages. The current catastrophic level for spring corn silage is $22.69. The current coverage level is 50% with an associated 55% price election.

The crop insurance program has become the backbone of many northeast farms’ risk management plans. After further fluctuations in market conditions, major risks for crop producers. Crop insurance helps to mitigate this risk by providing protection against damage caused by weather, disease, insects or wildlife. Protection is also available if weather prevents the planting of crops or causes the need to replant crops. In addition, multi-year crop insurance can be protected against changing market prices.

Crop insurance paid a significant role in 2012 when crops were damaged by drought conditions. In 2013 the drop in the price of corn over the growing season, combined with wet conditions throughout the planting and growing season, resulted in losses protected by crop insurance.

To protect against possible crop failures in the 2014 crop, spring crop producers should contact their Crop Growers agent well in advance of the March 17 deadline to sign a contract with a Crop Insurance agent. This makes it possible for the producer to make changes to their insured coverage after March 17. Additionally, producers who are renewing coverage should report any changes in their business to their Crop Insurance agent by March 17. This will make sure that a new member into the business entity or forming a LLC or corporation.

Crop Insurance Deadline

Farm Credit East Scholarship Program

Farm Credit East is now accepting applications for the 2014 Scholarship Program. 31 scholarships of $1,500 each will be awarded. Eligible candidates for the scholarship must have a permanent home address in the area served by Farm Credit East, and plan to attend post high school education full-time in the fall of 2014. New Hampshire counties served by Farm Credit East include Carroll, Belknap, Merrimack, Strafford, Rockingham and Hillsborough. Associates, bachelors or graduate degree programs, as well as technical school attendance, all qualify as post high school education.

Successful candidates will demonstrate significant progress toward a career in agriculture, forestry or commercial fishing through their career plans, experience, program of study and extracurricular activities. All applications are available to win this scholarship only once. The application deadline is 5 pm on Friday, April 11. For more information and to complete an application, go to https://www.farmcrediteast.com/industry-support/scholarship.aspx.

Janitorial Services and Year Round Building Caretaker Sought for Big E NH Building

The NH Dept. of Agriculture, Markets & Food seeks to contract with qualified individuals or business to perform the following services at the 2014 New Hampshire State Fair at the Eastern States Exposition (Big E) in W. Springfield, MA.

Janitorial Services: The contractor will provide crew to carry out janitorial services from September 10-September 29 at the New Hampshire Building and its property. The work includes assisting with setup and tear-down period and cleaning up and providing staff throughout the building’s public hours of 10 am -9 pm daily during the fair for janitorial maintenance.

Building Caretaker: The contractor will provide part time oversight of the New Hampshire Building and grounds from April 15, 2014 to March 18, 2014. The work includes assisting with setup and tear-down period and clean up and assisting with minor repairs, cleaning, painting, plumbing, electrical, cleaning and general upkeep.

To obtain a detailed job description and application process for either job, contact Gail McWilliam Jellie at gail.mcwilliam.jellie@agr.nh.gov. Application deadline is March 18, 2014.

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Question of the Week

Q. What is the proper time to start seeds indoors?
A. Since plants have such widely varying time intervals from seeding to readiness for transplant, there’s no general rule of thumb. Start with the seed packet, which often contains instructions for when to sow indoors and when to transplant into the garden. You can start seed of frost-hardy vegetables (leeks, onions, celery, and head lettuce) and slow growing flowers (petunias, impatiens, and larkspur) in February. Sow leaf lettuce, broccoli, cabbage, marigolds, tithonia sage, peppers and eggplant in March. In early to mid-April, sow tomatoes, basil, marigolds and most annual flowers. The seed packet usually tells you how deep to plant your seeds.

Bear in mind that most seedlings prefer an environment that receives 12 hours of light each day and maintains a stable room temperature (65-70 degrees F). This usually requires some sort of fluorescent lighting. Inexpensive shop lights with T-12 or T-8 fluorescent bulbs are easy and inexpensive (grow lights are fine, just more expensive). For best results use one cool-white tube and one red-light tube in a two-tube fixture. Suspend the lights above plants on chains that can be lifted as plants grow. Water often enough to keep the growing medium moist, but make sure plant containers drain well.

Start your seeds in soilless seedstarter mix. A week or 10 days before transplanting your seedlings outside, begin hardening them off by exposing them to outside conditions. Set them out in a sheltered place for short periods at first, gradually increasing the time outdoors in shade and then full sun until you finally transplant them into the garden. You’ll need to water more often while the seedlings are hardening off outside. Make sure you water the plants before planting.

Got questions? UNH Cooperative Extension Education Center’s Info Line offers practical help finding answers for your lawn and garden questions. Call toll free at 1-877-356-4769, M-F, 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., or e-mail us at answers@unh.edu

Ag Calendar

Mar 12: Spring Conference for Landscapers, 8-3 p.m., Sweeney Hall Auditorium, NHTI, CONCORD. For more info call 862-3208.

Mar 13: Tree Fruit School North Country, Grant State College, CONWAY. For more info call 724-3424.

Mar 14: Farmer Appreciation Night, 5:30-10:30 p.m., Heberton Hall, KEENE. For more info call 852-3198.

Mar 15: Old House & Barn Expo, 9-5 p.m., Center of NH Radisson, MANCHESTER. For more info call 224-2281.

Mar 17: Fruit Pruning Demonstration, 3:30-5:30 p.m., McKenzie’s Farm, MILTON. For more info call 527-5475.

Pesticide Applicator Recertification Seminars

Meetings approved by the Division of Pesticide Control for recertification credits:

March 8 NH Vegetable & Berry Growers Annual Meeting Alan’s Restaurant -- Boscawen, NH Contact: Rebecca Sideman, 603-862-3203 4.5 PC

March 12 Organic Growers Workshop Urban Forestry Center -- Portsmouth, NH Contact: Heather Bryant, 603-787-6944 3 PC

*Private=Private Credits *C=Commercial Credits