



U.S. Department
of Agriculture

**Addison County
FSA**

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Middlebury, VT 05753

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Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Thomas Audet, Chair
Phyllis Bowdish, V.Chair
Curt Estey, Member

Summer: COC meets 2nd
Tue. evening of each month

**County Executive
Director**

Craig Miner (EXT15)
craig.miner@vt.usda.gov

Program Staff

Lisa Gaboriault, PT (x11)
Billie Jo Forgues, PT
(x10)

Farm Loan Manager

Gary Braman, FLM (x18)
gary.braman@vt.usda.gov

Farm Loan Staff

David Girard, FLO (x20)
Jill Thomas, FLO (x17)
Mari Quesnel, PT (x28)
Kevin Blier, FLOT (x12)

**Reasonable
Accommodations**

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the Farm Service Agency and we will be happy to make arrangements.

Farm Service Agency

FSA UPDATES

Addison Agriculture

July
2009

Crop Report Certification Deadline – “call aheads” appreciated

Please be reminded that filing your annual crop report for ALL CROPS including hay is REQUIRED for all producers participating in DCP, LDP, NAP, CRP and CREP. Even if you don't participate in these particular programs, it's a good idea to report your acreage each year. Although the deadline for crop reporting this year has been extended to August 14th due to the wet conditions on a nationwide basis, we strongly encourage you to come in at your earliest convenience to complete your report...

Note* for those of you who have crop insurance, the deadline for crop insurance reporting is unchanged and any producer with prevented planting must report timely. It is strongly recommended that you report to our office and use the detailed FSA printout to use in reporting to crop insurance.

COC Nomination Deadline

County committees play a crucial role in helping the county office staff implement the Farm Bill. Due to the important services that COC members provide, producers are encouraged to participate in the FSA county committee election process by nominating an eligible candidate by the August 3, 2009 deadline. The election this year is for LAA #1. The towns included in this area are: **Bristol, Ferrisburg, Lincoln, Monkton, New Haven, Starksboro, Vergennes, and Waltham.** Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates. Please call our office with questions or to request a nomination ballot, FSA-669A.

DCP & ACRE Signup Deadline

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been extended until August 14, 2009. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications. Signup in the ACRE option is also available through August 14, 2009. County office employees cannot make recommendations on whether you should sign up for ACRE so it is important that producers read available information to make an informed decision.

“Acre” program information can be found on the web by going to www.fsa.usda.gov, and type in the word **acre** under FSA Search, then click on associated articles or call our office to request a fact sheet. The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is a new program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill. The ACRE program signup began April 27, 2009, and runs through August 14, 2009. The ACRE alternative provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price.

Producers who elect the ACRE program for a farm agree to:

- forgo counter-cyclical payments;
- accept a 20-percent reduction of the direct payments; and
- accept a 30-percent reduction in loan rates for all commodities produced on the farm

Commodities eligible for ACRE payments include wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, soybeans, sunflower seed, canola, flaxseed, safflower, mustard seed, rapeseed, sesame seed, crambe, dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas and large chickpeas., and additional crops. (Please call the county office for further details)



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Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged Applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact their local FSA office for details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Help Available to Stressed Farmers

In the past year, the economy, inclement weather, drought and other factors have hurt many farming operations around the country. These events pushed some farmers to the emotional breaking point. Watching their livelihood being threatened is difficult for farmers and ranchers and especially for those who care about them.

The National Suicide Prevention Hotline is available to help. If you know a farmer or rancher who is under stress and is reluctant to ask for help, or if you just need to talk to someone, call 1-800-273-TALK (8255). Your call will be routed to the crisis center nearest you, where trained staffers are available 24/7. This nationwide service is free and confidential. Help is just a phone call away. For more information, go to

<http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>.

This service is not affiliated with USDA.

Livestock Indemnity Program

Agriculture Secretary Vilsack recently announced that eligible ranchers and livestock producers can begin applying for benefits under the provisions of the Livestock Indemnity Program on July 13, 2009.

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality that result from disaster after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011.