



U.S. Department of  
Agriculture

**Caledonia/Essex  
County FSA**

481 Summer St., Ste 201  
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

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(802) 748-8746  
1-800-862-1121  
Fax (802) 748-1621  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

**Hours**

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

**County Committee**

Burt Patenaude, Chair  
Robert Porter, Vice Chair  
William Nelson, Member  
Michael Tanguay, Member  
Darcy Smart, Advisor

**COC meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday  
of each month at 10:30 am**

**County Executive**

**Director**  
Patricia Passut, ext 104  
[patricia.passut@vt.usda.gov](mailto:patricia.passut@vt.usda.gov)

**Program Staff**

Patty Matte, PT, ext 100

**Farm Loan Staff**

**(802) 334-6090 or  
1-866-241-2190** (toll free)  
Brian Kuper, FLM  
Diane Gilman, FLO  
Dorcas McAllister, FLO

**NRCS Staff**

[www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)  
Tim McKay, ext 109  
Nick Comerci, ext 101  
Roger DeKett, ext 111  
Tom Burke, ext 118

**NRCD Staff**

Kerry O'Brien, ext 110  
Tamara Stevens, ext 114  
Brandon Carpenter, ext 106

**Rural Development**

[www.rd.usda.gov](http://www.rd.usda.gov)  
Steve Campbell, ext 102  
Mark Koprofski, ext 120  
Suzanne Smith, ext 112  
Dianne Drown, ext 119



**Farm Service Agency**

**FSA UPDATES**

May 2008

**Crop Acreage Reporting**

Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of FSA programs. **ALL** cropland, whether idle or planted, on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the following programs:

- Direct and Counter-Cyclical (DCP)
- LDP's for corn, oats, soybeans, wool, mohair, unshorn pelts & honey
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
- Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)
- Non-Insured Assistance (NAP)



**Please keep track of planting dates as we are required to enter this data into the system.**

Producers are required to file reports by **June 30<sup>th</sup>** for **small grains** and **July 15<sup>th</sup>** for **all other crops**.

**Prevented Planting:**

Prevented planting needs be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

**Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)**

**REMINDER:** Producers that had a mixed forage policy on their 2007 crop need to report their total production by July 15, 2008.

**Things to keep in mind before construction . . .**

▲ Construction of New Farm Structures - construction of new farm structures, specifically buildings and other farm related structures that disturb one or more acres of land must obtain authorization from the ANR before commencing with land disturbance or constructions activities. Approval will be issued by ANR upon receipt of Notice of Intent (NOI) which certifies that adequate measures for the control of erosion and sedimentation will be used during land disturbance and construction efforts. Persons needing additional information about the Construction General Permit/NOI concerning one or more acres of land disturbance are advised to contract the Department of Environmental Conservation at 802-241-3770 or visit the web site at [www.anr.state.us/dec/permits.htm](http://www.anr.state.us/dec/permits.htm).

▲ Land disturbance for construction less than one acre, farmers should consult their Town Zoning Board to determine if a permit is required, and what set back requirements are for the town, before starting a project.

▲ Installation, replacement or change in a water or waste system in a farm operation may require a permit from ANR Wastewater Management Division. [www.vtwaterquality.org/stormwater.htm](http://www.vtwaterquality.org/stormwater.htm). Farmers should also consult with Their Town Zoning Board to determine what is required by the Town.

**Crop Disaster Program Updates**

The signup for the *Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)* continues, with no announced ending date. This program reimburses livestock owners for pasture loss and/or increased feed expenses suffered from May 15, 2006 through May 14, 2007. Eligible livestock includes sheep, goats, beef, dairy, beefalo and others. The animals do not have to be on pasture to qualify; confinement operations are eligible to apply

The *Crop Disaster Program (CDP)* is open to all producers who carried crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage during the years 2005, 2006, or 2007. CDP benefits cover eligible quantity and quality losses to crops suffered as a result of adverse weather conditions. Benefits are currently being issued for quantity losses, while the quality loss component of the CDP will be opened at a future date. There is no announced end for signup.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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### Resource Guide for New Farmers

There is a great resource guide available on the web entitled "RESOURCE GUIDE FOR VERMONT'S NEW AND ASPIRING FARMERS". The guide contains info on FSA, NRCS, NOFA, UVM Extension, Women's Agricultural Network and many more. The guide also contains articles on Access to Capital, Production Knowledge, Skills and Technical Assistance, farm land, and markets and marketing. The web site is:  
<http://www.vermontagriculture.com/agdev/newfarm.htm>

### **WHAT IS THIS MONTH?**

**May is . . . Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month**

**June is . . . Gay Pride Month**

### **Rural & Agricultural VocRehab**

*Providing Services in Support of Employment to Rural Vermonters with disabilities since 1968*

397 Railroad Street, Suite 3, St. Johnsbury  
751-8307, X2300 or 800-545-8920  
[www.uvm.edu/agvocrehab](http://www.uvm.edu/agvocrehab)

**Call or come in for information and referral**

Individual Plans  
Counseling and Guidance,  
Worksite/Homesite Modifications  
Machinery/Equipment Adaptations  
Career Exploration



### Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA has funding to assist beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more that 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed.

For additional program information, loan applications, and other materials contact the Farm Loan staff in the Newport office at 1-866-241-2190 or 802-334-6090.

### Dates to Remember

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| May 26    | Memorial Day – Office closed   |
| June 30   | Deadline to file acreage report for small grains   |
| July 15   | Deadline to file acreage reports for all other crops<br>Deadline for producers with a 2007 NAP policy to report their 2007 mixed forage production |
| Continues | Livestock Compensation Program<br>Crop Disaster Program - quantity sign-up   |
| Ongoing   | Farm Storage Facility Loans  |
| Coming    | Crop Disaster Program - quality sign-up  |