



Caledonia/Essex County Updates

November 2009

Farm Service Agency

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

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(802) 748-3885
(802) 748-8746
1-800-862-1121
Fax (802) 748-1621
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 2nd Thursday
of each month at 10:30 am

County Executive Director

Patricia Passut, ext 104
patricia.passut@vt.usda.gov

Program Staff

Patty Matte, ext 100

Farm Loan Staff

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

NRCS Staff

www.nrcs.usda.gov
Tim McKay, ext 109
Nick Comerci, ext 101
Jacob Clough, ext 117

NRCD Staff

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

Rural Development

www.rd.usda.gov
Steve Campbell, ext 102
Mark Koprowski, ext 120
Suzanne Smith, ext 112



Important Reminder – NAP Coverage – Deadline November 20th!

The 2008 Farm Bill amended the Trade Act of 1974 to create five new disaster programs, collectively referred to as Supplemental Agriculture Disaster Assistance programs. These programs include:

- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

To be eligible for these programs, producers must purchase at least catastrophic risk protection (CAT) level of crop insurance for all insurable crops and/or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for all non-insurable crops.

In the 2008 Farm Bill; in general, the term "farm" means the sum of all crop acreage in all counties/states that is planted or intended to be planted for harvest by the eligible producer. In the case of honey, the term "farm" means all bees and beehives in all counties that are intended to be harvested for a honey crop by the eligible producer.

◆ **The deadline to purchase 2010 NAP coverage for perennial and forage crops is Nov 20, 2009.** ◆
The service fee is the lesser of \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county.

Voting for County Committee Begins

Ballots for this year's county committee election are being mailed to eligible voters on November 6, 2009. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on **December 7, 2009**. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 7, 2009.



The election this year is for Local Administrative Area (LAA) #1 and LAA #5.

LAA#1 includes the towns of Hardwick, Sheffield, Stannard, Sutton, Walden, and Wheelock. Nominees in LAA#1 are Heather Trudeau (Hardwick) and Timothy Simpson (Sutton).

LAA#5 includes the towns of Brunswick, Concord, East Haven, Guildhall, Granby, Lunenburg, Maidstone, and Victory. Nominees in LAA#5 are Stephen Russo (Brunswick), Darcy Smart (Brunswick), and Michael Tanguay (Brunswick).

Eligible voters in a local administrative areas indicated above who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

Voter Requirements Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, is eligible to vote:

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either of the following:
an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper, *or*
a partner in a general partnership or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper; *or*
2. Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; *and*
3. Eligible to participate in any FSA program that is provided by law, regardless of the status of funding.

Discrimination Prohibited No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

Dates to Remember

Nov 11

Veterans Day – Office closed

Nov 20

Deadline to purchase NAP coverage for 2010 perennial and forage crops

Nov 26

Thanksgiving Day – Office closed

Dec 7

COC ballots returned to county office or postmarked by this date

Ongoing

Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
Milk Income Loss Contract sign-up

Emergency Livestock Assistance Program Sign-up

Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP) provides compensation to eligible producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other loss conditions.

To be eligible you must have had insurance on ALL your crops (except pasture) for the year of the disaster!

Calendar year 2008 – Producers who suffered losses must provide a notice of loss and application for payment in their county office no later than **December 10, 2009**.

Calendar year 2009 – Producers who suffered losses by September 10th must file a notice of loss no later than December 10th. Producers who suffered losses after that date must file a notice of loss within 30 days of when the loss is apparent. An application for payment must be filed no later than **January 30, 2010**.

There are no late filed provisions for ELAP. Call the county office for more details.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

Applications for FSA Farm Loan Assistance

Farmers and ranchers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Filing early will help ensure that your loan is processed and approved as early as possible so that planting decisions can be made. Failure to apply early can result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications that must be processed in date order. Contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager or Officer for more details and assistance in applying.

Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor.

For additional program information, loan applications, and/or other loan material contact the FSA loan staff in Newport at 334-6090 or toll free in VT at 866-241-2190.

Now that the season is upon us (colds, viruses, flu, H1N1), it would be beneficial if you call the office before coming to be sure we are open (we get sick sometimes, too).

If you are sick, please stay home. We can work with you on the phone and through the mail to get things done.

Thank you!



Empowering Beginning Women Farmers

Holistic Management International has been funded through the USDA's Beginning Farmer Grant to teach beginning women farmers the tools of whole farm planning. Groups are forming in New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, and New York.

Classes will begin in January 2010. Participants must agree to attend the 6 sessions that will take place over the winter of 2010 and 4 farm tours that will take place during the spring and fall of 2010. Sessions will be scheduled when the participants are selected but will likely be held on Saturday. There will be farm mentors also available.



If you are a woman farmer who has been farming less than 10 years, contact the coordinator for your state for an application. If you would like to participate as a farmer mentor, please also contact your state coordinator.

Applications must be submitted by November 25, 2009. Class is limited to 15 participants. Contact: Mary Peabody, UVM Extension/VT WAgN, 802-223-2389

Farming for Modern Markets

The VT Grass Farmers Association, the VT Beef Producers Association, VT Sheep & Goat Association and UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture will host the 14th Annual VT Grazing & Livestock Conference at a new location –The Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee, VT – on January 22 & 23, 2010. The conference will offer a wide variety of educational opportunities for livestock producers and agricultural service providers seeking to more successfully and sustainably manage animals, land and farm business.

Keynote speaker Brian Moyer will highlight the conference theme of *Farming for the Modern Market*, speaking to the changing economic times and how we are positioned locally to address these challenges.

Registration discounts will apply for partnering organization members. Overnight lodging is available. For more information, visit www.uvm.edu/pasture or contact Jennifer Colby, Conference Coordinator, at (802) 656-0858 or jcolby@uvm.edu

The conference is coordinated by the UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture's Pasture Program.