



FSA UPDATES

**Chittenden/Washington
County
USDA Service Center**

**Chittenden/Washington
County FSA**

802 865-7895 x3
800 910-2035 x3
802 865-7947 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/VT

Hours

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

County Committee

Richard Parizo LAA-1
Claude Lapierre LAA-2
Deborah Conant LAA-3
Elwin Neill, Jr. LAA-4
Michelle Gardner LAA-5

**Upcoming County
Committee Meeting**

Dates

August 20, 2008
September 17, 2008

Staff

Caitlin Cooper x101
Lawrence Parker x102
Eileen Powers x106
Pearl Wells x100
Bradford Parker x103

**Natural Resources
Conservation Service**

Caroline Alves x203
Tate Jeffrey x119
Michel Lapointe x118
Danny Peet x202
Norman Smith x117

**Winooski Natural
Resources Conservation
District**

Ashley Lidman x104

Crop Certification Deadline

For 2008, the final crop reporting dates have been extended to August 15, 2008. Late fees will not be applied if acreage reports are filed by August 15 and all other reporting requirements are met.

Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

Report of acreage must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted.

GRP, CRP & NAP Certification

Grassland Reserve Program acreage and Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. Crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Prevented Planting and/or Failed Acreage:

For 2008, County Committee may accept requests for prevented planting and/or failed acreage, if timely filed by August 15. Farm visits will not be required if claims are verified, and all other requirements are met.

2008 DCP Signup Continues

Producers have until September 30, 2008 to sign up for the 2008 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP). Producers can fill out their 2008 DCP contract at any USDA Farm Service Agency County Office. Signup can also be completed online. You can choose payment options, assign crop shares and sign and submit contracts 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

FSA computes DCP payments using base acres and payment yields established for each

farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2008, eligible producers may request to receive an advance payment of 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. FSA will issue advance direct payments as soon as practical after enrollment. Final direct payments will be issued after Oct. 1, 2008. Counter-cyclical payments vary depending on market prices, and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price (which takes into account the direct payment rate, market price and loan rate).

For all eligibility requirements or addition information, contact your local office.

Buy-In Waiver for Supplemental Disaster Assistance

Producers can establish 2008 eligibility for the new disaster assistance programs by paying a fee as required by the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (the 2008 Act).

Ordinarily producers who wish to participate in the new disaster programs would need crop insurance or non-insured crop disaster assistance (NAP) coverage on all farms in all counties in which they have an interest. Since the 2008 Act was enacted after the application periods had closed for those programs, producers who did not have insurance coverage could not comply with this requirement in order to be eligible. However, the 2008 Act authorizes a waiver that allows producers to pay a fee, called a "buy-in" fee, to be eligible for the new disaster assistance programs.

The buy-in fee is due no later than Sept. 16, 2008, 90 days after the date of enactment, as required by the 2008 Act. Payment of the applicable fees will allow the producer to be eligible for financial assistance under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), Livestock Forage Disaster Program



(LFP), and other disaster assistance programs. Those who miss this opportunity will **not** be eligible for 2008 disaster assistance. Producers are also reminded that the payment of the applicable buy-in fee does **not** provide the producer crop insurance or NAP coverage; it only affords eligibility for the 2008 disaster programs.

The buy-in fee for 2008 eligibility is \$100 per crop, but not more than \$300 per producer per administrative county, or \$900 total per producer for all counties less any previously paid fees for CAT and/or NAP. Producers can contact their local administrative FSA County Office to get more information or pay applicable fees.

2005-2007 CDP Signup Underway

We continue to accept applications for the 2005-07 Crop Disaster Program. Applicants must have carried commercially available crop insurance or FSA’s Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage in order to qualify. Benefits are paid for losses

suffered in both quantity and quality of the eligible crop. Contact your local office for details.

Dates to Remember	
Aug 15	2008 Crop & CRP acreage reporting deadline
Aug. 20	County Committee Meeting
Sept. 1	Labor Day – Office Closed
Sept. 16	Crop insurance and NAP “Buy-in fee” for 2008 crops due
Sept. 17	County Committee Meeting
Sept. 30	2008 DCP Sign Up deadline
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program

Visit our Web site at
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/VT>

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.