



FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Chittenden/Washington
County
USDA Service Center

Chittenden/Washington
County FSA

802 865-7895 x4
802 910-2035 x4 (VT only)
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
Daniel Pillsbury LAA-2
Sumner Farr, Jr LAA-3
Catherine Scribner LAA-4
Morgan Churchill LAA-5

Upcoming County
Committee Meeting

Dates

July 14, 2010
Aug 11, 2010

Staff

Rosie Brady
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
John Thurgood x 204

Winooski Natural
Resources Conservation
District

Ashley Lidman x104



June 2010

State/county FSA News

Nominations for County Committee Election

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established, with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

Nominations for candidates to run for the Farm Service Agency County Committee election will be accepted from June 15 through August 2, 2010.

Producers who are residents in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) holding the election and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee.

To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected, and returned to the FSA county office by the close of business on Aug. 2nd, or post-marked by midnight Aug. 2nd.

The election this year is for LAA #1. The towns included in this area are: **Burlington, Colchester, Essex, Milton, S. Burlington, Westford and Winooski**. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates.

A nomination form, FSA-669A, is included in this newsletter. Additional forms and details may be picked up at your local FSA county office or downloaded from

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under News & Events/County Committee Elections.

Farm Loan Programs

The FSA offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans up to a maximum of \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum of \$1,094,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For details contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

Compliance

Compliance and spot checks will once again be utilized during the 2010 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for spot check and review, a nationwide selection of producers is used to achieve a statistical sampling of participating producers. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program, etc.



New Faces

Act One:

There is a new staff member at the Williston Service Center, District Conservationist John Thurgood, with NRCS. John has filled the position formerly held by Bruce Chapell. John's background includes time as a 4-H Agent, working as a farm business management specialist with the Extension Service, and most recently with the New York City Watershed Agricultural Program. Next time you're in the office, take a moment to introduce yourself.

Act two:

Rosie is back for the summer!

Many of you will recognize our 2010 student intern, Alexandra Brady. Rosie worked with us last year, and was instrumental in helping us through the busy acreage reporting season. After spending a semester studying in Denmark, then a whirlwind month in Europe, Rosie has recharged her batteries and come to us for a return engagement. Rosie brings a bunch of energy to the office, and her cheery personality will make any visit to the office much more enjoyable.



SURE Program

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that occurred in the crop years 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage. However, crop insurance or NAP coverage is no longer required for crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10% of the value of the coverage.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

The following conditions trigger SURE payments:

- At least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition
- Crop of economic significance is a crop that has contributed or would have contributed at least 5% or more of the total expected revenue from all crops on the farm
- Producers in counties declared disaster counties by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties, or those who show proof of an individual loss of at least 50% are eligible to receive SURE payments for crop production or crop quality losses. Losses are measured with consideration to the whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.

A SURE calculator is available at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=diap&topic=sure>. The calculator is not official, but is intended for educational use. A fact sheet and backgrounder are also available online.

This is your last newsletter before July 15th, a MAJOR deadline for FSA customers!!!!

July 15th marks the final date for submission of a variety of information by you to your local FSA office, the ***Williston Service Center***. In basic terms, **JULY 15, 2010**, marks the final date that you may:

- Report 2010 crop acreage
- Report 2008 & 2009 crop production
- Report 2004 thru 2008 commodity crop production

Crop reporting is nothing new or unusual, it happens every year, and every year it is a struggle to get farmers in to file their reports. These reports are required for participation in many of our programs, most importantly the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program, DCP (that corn program), Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, NAP (is that my hay and/or vegetable “insurance”?), Average Crop Revenue Election Program, ACRE (with election replaces DCP participation), Grassland Reserve Program, GRP (pasture program), Conservation Reserve Program, CRP (buffer program), and Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program, SURE (the new disaster program). You must report your crops by July 15th in order to remain eligible for these programs. Reporting after this date may be done with a significant ***LATE FILING FEE!***

2008 & 2009 crop production reporting for NAP. All holders of 2008 NAP policies received a one-time chance to report their 2008 production by July 15, 2010, and have it considered timely. This is critical not only for your NAP policy, but for receiving benefits thru the SURE program as well. July 15, 2010 also happens to be the deadline for your 2009 crop production reporting.

All producers with **ACRE** contracts received a letter from this office back in October of 2009, explaining the requirement that you report your 2004 thru 2008 production on form ***FSA-658***, or accept the county plug yields on the same form. This form was provided for each of the ACRE enrolled farms. Few have made it back to this office. If they are not returned by July 15, 2010, the farm will be ineligible for ACRE benefits. There is no provision to accept late filed ***FSA-658s***, so if they are not submitted you will not receive \$\$\$\$. 2009 production reported on ***FSA-658*** is also due July 15, 2010. We have extra ***FSA-658*** forms in the office, and will be happy to assist you in filling them out.

Chittenden/Washington] County FSA Office
 1193 S Brownell Rd STE 35
 Williston, VT 05495
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Selected Interest Rates for June 2010		Dates to Remember	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%	Ongoing	Tree Assistance Signup
Farm Operating - Direct	3.125%	Ongoing	Transition Incentive Program Signup
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.125%		Opened
Limited Resource	5.00%	June 30	Crop Reports for Small Grains Due
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%	July 5	Independence Day - Office Closed
		July 15	Crop Acreage Reports Due
Emergency	3.75%	July 15	2009 Production Reports due for NAP
Farm Storage Facility – 7 year	3.00%	Sep 6	Labor Day – Office Closed
Farm Storage Facility – 10 year	3.625%		
Farm Storage Facility – 12 year	3.875%		
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.375%		

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