



JUNE 2008

# FRANKLIN-GRAND ISLE CO. FARM SERVICE AGENCY NEWS/PROGRAM UPDATES

Franklin-Grand Isle County  
FSA  
27 Fisher Pond Rd.,  
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St Albans, VT 05478

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[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

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

County Committee  
Darlene Wright, Chairperson  
Maurice Fortin, Vice Chairperson  
Madonne Rainville, Member  
Dwight Bullis, Member  
Andrew Brouillette, Member  
**NOTE: COC meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday  
each month at 11:00**

Staff  
Carolyn Church (ext. 109)  
George Godin (ext. 107)  
Luc Dupuis (ext. 105)  
Tracy Derry (ext. 124)  
John Maille (ext. 104)  
Dorothy Perkins (ext. 113)  
Marguerite Noel (ext. 100)

Loan Officers  
Brad Parker (ext. 112)  
Liz Vesosky (ext. 111)

Loan Manager  
Dirk Reith (ext. 110)

County Executive Director  
Brenda Ladue (ext. 106)

Natural Resources  
Conservation District Staff  
Rénae Masse, Manager  
Christine Manuck, Land  
Treatment Planner

NRCS Staff  
George Tucker,  
Acting District  
Conservationist  
Sarah Larose,  
Soil Conservationist  
Joanne Yousten,  
Soil Conservationist  
Diane Ladue,  
Cartographic Technician  
Ann Lansberry,  
Civil Engineering Technician  
Roslyn Odum, Civil Engineer  
Diane Forey, Program Assist.

Vermont Agency of Ag.  
Staff

## Sign-up Deadline for Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has announced that livestock producers have until **July 18, 2008**, to enroll in the 2005 - 2007 Livestock Compensation Program (LCP). LCP covers pasture loss and additional feed costs for the grazing year of May 15, 2006 through May 14, 2007. Additional feed (forages, additives, concentrates, extenders) must have been purchased and PAID FOR during the same time period to be eligible.

For more information please contact the FSA office for program sign-up details

## Crop Disaster Program (CDP)

Sign-up continues for the quantity part of the Crop Disaster Program (CDP). An ending date has not yet been announced. CDP-quantity provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity losses to 2005, 2006 or 2007 crops from natural disasters and related conditions. Producers who incurred qualifying losses must choose only one year to receive benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple crops as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

**\*\*Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP.\*\***

**Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.**

Software for County Offices to process CDP-quality loss applications will be released in late June. Sign-up for the Quality portion of CDP can occur before then. As we learn more about the program parameters and what documentation is required, we will be better able to convey to you what you will need to provide.

**Now is the Time for 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 many USDA programs.

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

**Deadlines:** Producers are required to file reports by **June 30th** for small grains and **August 15<sup>th</sup>** for all other crops. We look forward to seeing you soon at the counter in the FSA office to report your crops.

## County Committee Elections (COC)

Franklin/Grand Isle county is divided into five *local administrative areas, or LAAs*. Each LAA contributes one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency county committee. Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring.

This year's election is for LAA #1 and LAA#2, which includes the following townships: LLA#1: Highgate, Swanton, Saint Albans, Georgia, Fairfax; LLA#2: Franklin, Berkshire, Richford, Montgomery, Enosburg.

Producers who are residents in the 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.

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 and details may be picked up at your local USDA Service Center, FSA county office or downloaded from:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>

Eligible voters can nominate as many candidates as they wish.

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. 1, or postmarked by midnight Aug. 1, 2008.**

**The county committee election** is held by mail. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning Nov. 3, and must be returned to the FSA county office by the close of business on **Dec. 1, or postmarked by midnight Dec. 1, 2008.**

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St. Albans, VT 05478



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### Farm Reconstitutions

In program terminology, farms are constituted to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1 for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

**Estate Method** — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

**Designation of Landowner Method** — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

**DCP Cropland Method** — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

**Default Method** — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

### Using Mediation to Help Resolve Disputes

VTAMP (Vermont Agricultural Mediation Program) is the official USDA Mediation Program for Vermont. Mediation is an alternative way to resolve disputes in a non-adversarial manner which may save the parties time and money. The parties involved meet with an impartial person to assist them with the negotiation of their differences. It leaves the decision-making power with the parties. This program is free to the agricultural community in VT. To request mediation or for more information contact the Vermont State Mediation Program at the following address:

Matt Strassberg  
VTAP, Vermont Agricultural Mediation Program  
177 Paddy Hill Road  
Moretown, VT 05660  
(802) 583-1100  
matts@emcenter.org

### Direct and Guaranteed Loans

This year's increased annual planting costs may be impacting your cash flow. Please remember that the Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. Please contact a loan officer in the St. Albans FSA office for additional information.

If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are available now. Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee