



Franklin/Grand Isle County News

November 2009



Election Voting Begins

Nominations are complete, and the next step in the County Committee election process for Franklin and Grand Isle County Administrative Area #5 was the mailing out of the ballots, which began Nov. 6. **Ballots must be returned to the county office or be postmarked by Dec. 7. Envelope containing the ballot must be signed to be eligible.**

Prospective Voter Requirements: If you're on the mailing list for this newsletter, the chances are you are an eligible voter. Anyone who meets the 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, or 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.

Candidates on the ballot for this year are:

Maurice Fortin, Alburgh
Darlene Reynolds, Alburgh

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.

Farm Loan Year End Reviews

Producers that have a farm loan with FSA are reminded they must provide data for their Year-End Analysis (YEA) to their loan officer each year. Borrowers are urged to provide this information timely so that their files can be maintained. The office will contact you for the data you will need to provide us.

Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP)

ELAP provides compensation to eligible producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease, adverse weather, or flooding, including bee losses due to hive collapse. ELAP is for losses that are not covered by Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), or Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE).

Eligible producers under ELAP may receive assistance for losses that occur on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011, during the calendar year in which the loss occurs. Eligible losses include feed losses, physical losses and additional costs incurred in providing feed to eligible livestock except for losses from excessive moisture now covered by SURE.

There are two parts to the ELAP application process:

1. A notice of loss
2. Application for payment

An application for payment cannot be filed without a notice of loss.

Signup, for producers with eligible losses during 2008 and 2009, began September 14, 2009. Producers who suffered losses in calendar year 2008 must provide a notice of loss and application for payment in their administrative county office no later than **December 14, 2009**. There are no late filed provisions for ELAP. Producers with eligible losses must timely file an acreage report on grazing land acres, honey bee colonies and farm-raised fish pond acres. Additional ELAP information is available at FSA county offices or on line at

www.fsa.usda.gov.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs 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 Ave. 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.

Franklin-Grand Isle County

FSA

27 Fisher Pond Rd.,
Suite 2
St. Albans, VT 05478

Phone: (802) 527-1296

(800) 717-8637

Fax: (802) 524-4575

www.fsa.usda.gov

Hours

Monday - Friday

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

Farm Service Agency County Committee

Maurice Fortin, Chairperson

Madonne Rainville, Vice

Chairperson

Dwight Bullis, Member

Andrew Brouillette, Member

Diane McGarry, Member

NOTE: COC meets 3rd

Thursday each month at 11:00

County Executive Director

Brenda Ladue (ext. 106)

Staff

Carolyn Church, P.T. (ext.109)

Tracy Derry, P.T. (ext. 124)

Luc Dupuis, P.T. (ext. 105)

George Godin, P.T. (ext. 107)

Marguerite Noel, P.T. (ext. 100)

Dorothy Perkins, P.T. (ext. 113)

Loan Manager

Dirk Reith (ext. 110)

Loan Officers

Brad Parker (ext. 112)

Liz Vesosky (ext. 111)

Natural Resources

Conservation Service

Vacant, D.C. (ext.118)

Joanne Yousten, S.C. (ext.

115)

Sarah Larose, S.C. (ext. 127

Diane Ladue, C.T. (ext. 121)

Roslyn Odum, Ag. Eng. (ext.

128)

Ann Lansberry, C. E.T. (116)

Natural Resources

Conservation District

Renaë Masse, Manager (ext.

119)

Agricultural Land Treatment &

Conservation Planners:

Carla Fenner (ext.117)

Trevor Lewis (ext.120)

Mark Marsh (ext. 126)

Vermont Agency of Ag. Staff

Ben Gabos, CREP Planner,

(ext. 122)

Greg Bouchard, Civil Engineer,

(ext. 114)

Franklin-Grand Isle County FSA
27 Fisher Pond Rd. Suite 2
St. Albans, VT 05478



November 2009

Presorted Standard
U S Postage
USDFA-FSA
Permit # 5100

Change Service Requested

Dates to Remember

Nov. 25 Deadline to Apply to VT WAgN Course
Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Day Holiday - Office Closed
Dec. 7 COC Ballots due
Dec. 14 ELAP Signup Ends

Dec. 25 Christmas Day – Office Closed
Dec. 31 Nap Fees due for Maple Sap and Honey
Ongoing: Conservation Reserve Program/CREP
Farm Storage Facility Loan, MILC Milk Income Loss
Contract

NAP Deadline For Maple Sap And Honey – Dec. 31, 2009

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance.

The application deadline date for the 2010 coverage for honey and maple sap is Dec. 31, 2009. In order to be eligible for disaster assistance programs, including Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE), producers are required to timely purchase, at a minimum, CAT coverage for all insurable crops and/or NAP coverage for all non-insurable crops on their entire farm.

Nap coverage for 2010 costs \$250 per crop, but not more than \$750 per producer per county, or not more than \$2250 total per producer for all counties.

Empowering Beginning Women Farmers Through Whole Farm Planning

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 Saturdays. There will be farm mentors also available.

If you are a woman farmer who has been farming less than 10 years, contact Mary Peabody, UVM Extension/VT WAgN, 802-223-2389 for an application. If you would like to participate as a farmer mentor, please also contact Mary Peabody. Applications must be submitted by **Nov. 25 2009.**

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency (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 for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. Present interest rate for Operating Loans is 2.875% typically for 7 years. Farm Ownership rate is 4.75% and for maximum 40-year-term. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For details contact a FSA loan officer at 527-1296 for an appointment.

Reminders

FSA requires a CCC-926, Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) form for 2010. This is required for MILC, DCP and other programs. The AGI is based on the years 2006, 2007, and 2008. Many of you have done this, but if you wonder if you still need to fill out this form, please call the office.

TIMELY FEED MEASUREMENT!!!!

Farmers are reminded to be sure to get their corn and hay measured before **December 31, 2009.** Otherwise, they may be penalized under future disaster programs.

TIMELY FEED ANALYSIS!!!!

Farmers are reminded to be sure to get their corn and hay sampled and tested before **December 31, 2009.** other-wise, they may be penalized under future disaster programs .

