



# Franklin/Grand Isle County News

## January 2010

### County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Maurice Fortin, Darlene Reynolds, and Heather Darby. Maurice Fortin of Alburgh was reelected to represent Local Administrative Area (LAA) #5 for the towns of Alburgh, Isle La Motte and North Hero on the Franklin/Grand Isle County Committee. Darlene Reynolds also from Alburgh was elected as the first alternate for the same LAA, and Heather Darby, of Alburgh was elected as the second alternative.

The Committee members held their organizational meeting on January 21 and elected Maurice Fortin to continue to serve as County Committee Chairperson and Madonne Rainville to continue as Vice-Chairperson.

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The County Committee system works only because of your participation. Thanks go out to the voters and the County Committee members.

### ACRE

The Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity. For 2010, the 2-year price average will be based on the 2008 and 2009 crop years.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. The payment is based on 83.3 percent (85 percent in 2012) of the farm's planted acres times the difference between the State ACRE guarantee and the state revenue times the ratio of the farm's yield divided by the state expected yield. The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may not exceed the total base on the farm. In exchange for participating in ACRE, in addition to not receiving counter-cyclical payments, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20 percent, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30 percent.

The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.

The **June 1, 2010**, deadline is mandatory for all participants. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.

### SURE

The 2008 Farm Bill amended the Trade Act of 1974 to create the **Supplemental Revenue assistance program (SURE)**.

The SURE program provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster 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 percent of the value of the coverage.

Applicants for NAP who meet and certify yearly that they meet the definition of Limited Resource, Socially Disadvantaged, or Beginning Farmer, do not have to pay the administrative service fee to receive coverage. More information may be found at <http://lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/tool.asp>, or by calling the FSA office.

The following are the conditions that trigger SURE payments:

- at least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition
- a 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.

More details on the SURE Program are available at county FSA offices or on line at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

### Farm Financing - The Carrot Project

This is a program for farmers with 250 acres or less in **active** production. For more information contact Dorothy Suput at 617-666-9637 or at [dsuput@thecarrotproject.org](mailto:dsuput@thecarrotproject.org). **The deadline to apply is February 26, 2010**, and the maximum loan amount is \$15,000. Their website also has information about other farm financing options, [www.thecarrotproject.org/farm](http://www.thecarrotproject.org/farm).

### e-NEK Project

The internet can be a great tool to help small farms increase revenue or decrease costs. It is an inexpensive way to attract argo-tourists or sell durable products to out of state customers, as well as to keep in touch with local suppliers and customers. Some farms even use the Internet to remotely monitor water levels and soil temperature.

The USDA-funded e-NEK Project and the Vermont Small Business Development Center have a program underway to help small businesses in the NEK take advantage of the Internet to grow their business. The program includes education about small business uses of the Internet, assistance in developing a plan to use the Internet in your business, and a chance to win cash and services prizes to help implement your plan. All the details are available at [www.InternetBiz2010.com](http://www.InternetBiz2010.com).

**Franklin-Grand Isle County FSA**  
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St. Albans, VT 05478

Phone: (802) 527-1296  
(800) 717-8637  
Fax: (802) 524-4575  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://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 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month at 11:00 A.M.**

**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)  
Marguerite Quintela, PA (101)

**Natural Resources Conservation District**  
Renaee Masse, Manager (ext. 119)  
Agricultural Land Treatment & Conservation Planners:  
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)

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



September 2009

Presorted Standard  
U S Postage  
USDFA-FSA  
Permit # 5100

## Change Service Requested

### Dates to Remember

**Feb. 1, 2010 LDP on Unshorn Lamb Pelts closes.**  
**Feb 15 Presidents Day Office Closed**

**Ongoing: Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)  
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)  
Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) sign up**

### IRS Form 1099-G

Producers annually receive CCC-1099Gs detailing payments producers have received from FSA. This year, the 2009 Advance payments producers received from the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment (DCP) Program were processed as overpayments and offset from the 2009 Final payments. The 2009 Advance payments will not be reflected on the CCC-1099Gs producers receive. The CCC-1099G's will reflect only the 2009 DCP direct entitlement.

Producers who have repaid a market gain on a Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loan with cash or commodity certificates in exchange for outstanding loan collateral will have their market gains reported to the IRS on Form 1099-G.

FSA is required to report to the IRS all market gains associated with repayment of a CCC loan.

A market gain is the difference between the repayment rate, determined by the CCC, and the original loan rate. If the repayment rate drops below the original loan rate then the difference is considered a market gain. Producers will receive, by mail, the amount reported by FSA to the IRS on form 1099-G.

### 2010 DCP Signup Continues

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through **June 1, 2010**. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2010 DCP contract.

USDA computes DCP Program 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 2010, eligible producers may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment. USDA will issue advance direct payments beginning Dec. 1, 2009. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price. The effective price is the higher of the national average market price received during the 12-month marketing year for each covered commodity and the national average loan rate for a marketing assistance loan for the covered commodity.

### Continuous CRP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program is an environmental improvement program that allows participants the opportunity to enroll acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and

provide wildlife habitat and food sources.

Continuous CRP program participation is voluntary. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment.

To be eligible for enrollment in the Continuous CRP, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. Provided the eligibility requirements are met, FSA will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year. For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments or local Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) availability, please contact your local FSA office or visit

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/crpcont03.htm>

### Wool/Mohair/Unshorn Pelt LDPs

**For crop year 2009—Feb 1, 2010** is the final deadline to apply for a 2009 crop wool/ mohair/unshorn pelt Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP). **You must apply and provide documentation by this date!**

LDP rates are announced every Wednesday. The current ungraded wool LDP price is 29 cents per pound and the mohair LDP price is 10 cents per pound. The payment for unshorn pelts is calculated as follows 6.865 lbs. X ungraded wool rate = price paid per pelt.

**For crop year 2010—** There is a form that producers need to sign once per crop year, indicating their intention to apply for a Loan Deficiency Payment. This form must be signed and submitted prior to losing beneficial interest in the crop. Please contact the office for more details.

Eligible producers must have beneficial interest in the pelts, owned the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter. Producers must also comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands they operate or have interest in.

To qualify for payment, pelts must have been produced by an eligible producer from live unshorn lambs of domestic origin in the United States.



