



July 2007

Orleans County News

Farm Service Agency

59 Waterfront Plaza, Ste 11
Newport, VT 05855-4877

334-6090-Phone
1-866-241-2190 Toll Free Phone
334-1365-Fax

Hours

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

County Committee

Scott Birch, Chair
Brad Maxwell, Vice-Chair
Doug Lawson, Voting Member
Donna Hammond, Minority Advisor

COC meets 2nd Wednesday of
each month.

NRCS District

Karen O'Donnell, Clerk X18
Marybeth Whitten, ARS X22
Dee Nault
Paul Daniels, Chair
Betsy Inkel, Vice Chair
Richard Delfavero, Treasurer
Burton Strong
William Ryan
Darryl Mongeon

NRCS Staff

David Blodgett, DC X25
David.blodgett@vt.usda.gov
David Gauvin, CET X23
Brenda MacDonald-Kuper, SC X21
Lance Gorham, SC X24
Robert Long, SS X20
Jessica Philippe, SS X19
Charlotte Miller, PA X18

Loan Staff

Brian Kuper, FLM X14
Brian.kuper@vt.usda.gov
Diane Gilman, FLO X11
Dorcas McAllister, FLO X15
Cheryl Smith, PT X13
Angela Goodridge, PT X12
Meghan DuBois, FLOT X17

Program Staff

William Putnam, CED X28
William.putnam@vt.usda.gov
Laurie Locke, PT X16
Brock Columbia, PT X26

COC Candidates Sought

It will soon be county committee election time, and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) is actively looking for producers to be a candidate for the local FSA county committee. Your county committee members perform an important function. They represent you and your agricultural interests. They help shape how federal farm programs from Washington are implemented on the ground in local communities.

Who do you know that would make a good county committee member? Who do you know that would be able to represent you and your farming interests, as well as your neighbor's interests?

Why not talk to that person and ask if he or she would be willing to serve on the county committee? If he or she says yes, then fill out a nomination form (FSA-669), have the person sign it and then return it to the county office.

If you can't think of another producer to nominate or your prospective nominee turns you down, why not nominate yourself? Serving on the committee will take, on average, one day a month, and you will be providing your agricultural community a vital service. Committee members are reimbursed for travel expenses and are paid at the rate of a GS-6, step 1, currently \$14.72 per hour.

The election this year is in LAA #3. The towns included in the area are: **Derby, Holland, Morgan, Charleston, Brownington and Westmore.**

Producers who are residents in LAA#3, who are eligible to participate or cooperate in an FSA program, and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee.

Visit with the Farm Service Agency county office staff for more information about this year's county committee election.

Preventing Fraud, Waste

The Farm Service Agency has joined with the Risk Management Agency to prevent fraud, waste and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. In addition, FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse to RMA. Producers can report suspected cases to the county office staff, RMA office, or the Office of the Inspector General.

Direct and Counter Cyclical (DCP) Enrollment Dates

The DCP Enrollment deadline is August 3rd. The deadline for late file enrollment remains September 30th. This year September 30th falls on a Sunday making the deadline September 28th. Please make a note of this change and be sure to visit your local county office to enroll. Those producers failing to sign up by August 3rd but who do sign up before September 30th will be required to pay a late-file fee of \$100 per FSA farm number.

Foreign Landowner Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

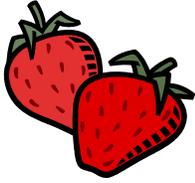
Farm Storage Facility Loans

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, rice, soybeans and corn.

The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. Eligible facilities include new conventional-type cribs or bins and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures as well as bunker style silos.

All Farm Storage Facility Loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment is also required.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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.

Electronic Information Sharing E-Mail

A lot of information circulates by email today. If you would be willing to share your email address with us, we will add you to our producer circulation list and will forward on important information we receive on a regular basis from such valuable sources as the Vermont Agency of Agriculture and UVM Extension. Some messages are informational, some are notices of hearings or meetings and some could be critically important to your farming operation. At any rate, receiving available information is the best way to stay current with governmental and operational issues that affect your farming operation. Being informed is the best route to success.

All emails circulated to this list do not share recipients email addresses. Any address you provide is treated as confidential and not shared outside this office. An additional option is to receive this newsletter by email rather than receiving it by postal mail delivery. This saves not only time but paper and postage costs as well.

Please give our office a call at 802-334-6090 to talk with us about electronic sharing of information and be added to our growing list of recipients for email circulation for valuable information sharing.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Is CREP right for You?

CREP is an incentive-based voluntary program that aims to improve water quality in streams and lakes. This is accomplished by helping agricultural landowners to install vegetative and riparian buffers along streams which filter runoff by trapping sediment, fertilizers and pesticides, help to stabilize streambanks, and improve in-stream and terrestrial wildlife habitat. Since this riparian land is often very productive and vital to an agricultural operation, landowners are compensated for the loss of productive agricultural land through upfront incentive payments and annual rental payments based on the total acreage dedicated to forested buffer or vegetated filter strips. Contracts can either be 15 or 30 years, during which time the buffers must be maintained by the contracted individual.

Federal cost-share and incentive payments are available to cover 90% of the implementation costs associated with permanent fencing, alternative water systems, stream crossings and vegetative buffer establishment. In some instances the costs may be covered 100%.

Riparian buffers are a low cost and effective method to significantly improve water quality. Benefits include:

- Filter field runoff of sediment, pesticides and fertilizers.
- Keep livestock out of streams, which reduces the energy livestock use getting water, reduces their risk of contact with harmful bacteria and pathogens and minimizes their risk of leg injuries and foot problems.
- Moderate stream temperatures by providing a forested canopy, which improves habitat for fish and other aquatic species. By improving habitat, the ecosystem is better equipped to filter and/or process excessive nutrients.
- Serve as travel corridors, feeding areas and nesting habitats for wildlife.
- Increase "roughness" alongside the watercourse, slowing flow and increasing streambank stability while reducing streambank erosion rates. Since phosphorus is attached to sediment, reducing erosion significantly helps water quality.
- Reduce nutrient and other chemical concentrations in shallow groundwater.
- Provide wind shelter for crop fields and improve the aesthetic appearance of the river banks, along with many other benefits.

For more information call the FSA office at (802) 334-6090.