



July 2009

## 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  
Doug Lawson, Vice Chair  
Donna Hammond, Voting Member  
Donna Hammond, Minority Advisor

COC meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month.

**Program Staff**  
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**NRCS Staff**  
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David Gauvin, CET X23  
Brenda MacDonald-Kuper, SC X21  
Marybeth Whitten, SC X22  
Linere Silloway, PA X24

**NRCS District**  
Dayna Cole, Dist Mgr X18  
Dee Nault  
Paul Daniels, Chair  
Bill Lawson, Vice Chair  
Richard Delfavero, Treasurer  
Karen O'Donnell  
William Ryan  
Darryl Mongeon



### Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information. If you want a crop loan, a power of attorney form will need to be completed for husband and wife, if both do not come into the office to sign the forms on the day the loan is disbursed.

### Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

#### Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms. The FSA staff can help with questions you may have about a particular program.

### Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)

The new farm bill, officially called the Food Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, provides for changes in the FSFL program. Some of the changes will be increased credit limits, lengthening of repayment terms and the ability to make the loans available for storage of hay crop forage.

However, these changes will not fall into place until a required environmental assessment on the revised FSFL regulations is completed and the new regulations have been published in the Federal Register (FR). New producer FSFL applications based on program changes mandated by the 2008 Farm Bill may **not** be submitted until the regulations have been published in the FR.

However, to expedite one of the requirements of the FSFL approval process, producers planning to submit an FSFL application may request an environmental evaluation of their proposed project at their local FSA county office. An FSA-850, our environmental evaluation form, must be completed for each FSFL application before the application can be approved by the local County Committee (COC).

**Producers requesting an environmental compliance determination are advised that an FSFL application must be submitted and approved before site preparation and construction can begin on the facility.**

Be sure to allow plenty of time for required paperwork to be completed before you actually plan to begin construction or actually need the use of your proposed facility.

### Special Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

### Crop Reporting Reminder

A reminder that filing your annual crop report is **REQUIRED** for all producers participating in DCP, LDP, NAP, CRP and CREP. Even if you don't participate in these particular programs, it's a good idea to report your acreage each year. Although the deadline for crop reporting this year has been extended to August 14<sup>th</sup> due to the wet conditions on a nationwide basis, we strongly encourage you to come in at your earliest convenience to complete your report.

### COC Nomination Deadline

County committees play a crucial role in helping the county office staff implement the Farm Bill. Due to the important services that COC members provide, producers are encouraged to participate in the FSA county committee election process by nominating an eligible candidate by the August 3, 2009 deadline.

The election this year is for LAA #2. The towns included in this area are: **Irasburg, Albany, Barton, Orleans, Glover, West Glover, Craftsbury, Craftsbury Common, Greensboro and Greensboro Bend.** Nominees must reside in these towns. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The form and other valuable information about FSA county committee elections are available at the office and online at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>; click on News & Events, then County Committee Elections. Nomination forms for the 2009 election must be postmarked or received in the local Service Center by close of business on Aug. 3, 2009.

FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms

### 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 within 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.

**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.

### Help Available to Stressed Farmers

In the past year, the economy, inclement weather, drought and other factors have hurt many farming operations around the country. These events pushed some farmers to the emotional breaking point. Watching their livelihood being threatened is difficult for farmers and ranchers and especially for those who care about them.

The National Suicide Prevention Hotline is available to help. If you know a farmer or rancher who is under stress and is reluctant to ask for help, or if you just need to talk to someone, call 1-800-273-TALK (8255). Your call will be routed to the crisis center nearest you, where trained staffers are available 24/7. This nationwide service is free and confidential. Help is just a phone call away.

For more information, go to <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>. This service is not affiliated with the US Department of Agriculture.

**Locally, services are available to help at:**

- THE NORTHEAST KINGDOM HUMAN SERVICES – MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES  
located at 154 Duchess Avenue in Newport. Telephone contact at 802-334-6744.
- And also at:

### Controlled Substances

Program participants convicted under federal or state law of any planting, cultivating, growing, producing, harvesting or storing a controlled substance are ineligible for program payments and benefits.

If convicted of one of these offenses, the program participant shall be ineligible during that crop year and the four succeeding crop years for direct and counter-cyclical payments, price support loans, loan deficiency payments, market loan gains, storage payments, farm facility loans, Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program payments or disaster payments.

Program participants convicted of any federal or state offense consisting of the distribution (trafficking) of a controlled substance shall, at the discretion of the court, be ineligible for any or all program payments and benefits:

- for up to 5 years after the first conviction
- for up to 10 years after the second conviction
- permanently for a third or subsequent conviction.

Program participants convicted of federal or state offense for the possession of a controlled substance shall be ineligible, at the discretion of the court, for any or all program benefits, as follows:

- up to 1 year upon the first conviction
- up to 5 years after second or subsequent conviction.

### Rural & Agricultural VocRehab

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Providing Services in Support of Employment to Vermonters with Health Conditions since 1968

~Personal Employment Plans ~ Counseling /Guidance~ ~Career Exploration ~ Equipment/Machine Adaptations~ ~Worksite modifications~ Information & Referral~

St. Johnsbury Office 397 Railroad St. 1-800-545-8920

Speak with Melissa or Audrey

[www.uvm.edu/agvocrehab](http://www.uvm.edu/agvocrehab)

~Dairy Crisis Hotline~

**Dairy Farmers: Take Steps Now to Deal with the Milk Price Downturn!**

In 2009, as milk prices continue to decline, and stay low while expenses do not, take steps now to adjust your business plans for this year and beyond.

Dairy farms are vital to Vermont Agriculture and with the current milk price situation, dairy farmers are struggling to keep their farm viable while supporting their families as well. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance, from financial planning, ways to cope and deal with stress, or simply need someone to talk with about your situation, call the *Farmer's Hotline*.

1-800-545-8920

Speak with Audrey or Melissa



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### Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged Applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact their local FSA office for details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.