



# Rutland/Bennington County News

## 2010 DCP Signup

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 advance payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment.

## ACRE

The optional ACRE Program 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. **June 1, 2010**, is signup deadline. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. The payment is based on 83.3% (85% 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%.

**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.**

## **YOU Must File This New Form!**

All producers expecting to receive payment benefits from FSA are required to obtain and file Form CCC-927 (for individuals) and/or CCC-928 (for business entities) with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Service Centers are restricted from sending these forms out to you in the mail. You must visit a Service Center to pick up the forms, or obtain copies of them on the Internet. **These forms must be sent to the IRS by June 15, 2010** to avoid interruption of program benefits. Please stop by the office Monday – Friday, 8:00 – 4:30 to pick up a form, or go to <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainservlet>.

## Farmer Resource Fair

On **Tuesday, March 30**, farmers are invited to attend a Farmer Resource Fair on the campus of Green Mountain College to learn about services and programs that are available with ongoing farm management and agricultural development. The Farmer Resource Fair is co-hosted by GMC, the Poultney Mettowee Conservation District and RAFFL (Rutland Area Farm and Food Link).

Representatives from local, state and federal organizations/agencies will be presenting information about a wide range of assistance to help farmers in our area. From 1-7 pm, over 25 displays and booths will be staffed with representatives, including the VT Agency of Agriculture, Efficiency Vermont, UVM Extension and various lending agencies, among others. Information will be available on conservation programs, agricultural promotion and development, nutrient management, farm financing, home and farm stress management, energy and vocational rehabilitation.

Workshops will be held concurrently during the day on five key subjects:

- The landowner/new farmer rental relationship
- Farmland access and land purchase options
- Health care and Insurance issues
- USDA conservation cost-share incentive programs
- Efficiency and renewable energy programs

The Farmer Resource Fair is free and open to all. For further information, contact Marli Rupe, PMNRCD at 287-8339 or [pmnrcd@sover.net](mailto:pmnrcd@sover.net).

## **Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged**

FSA loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches. 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 the Middlebury FSA loan office for details at 802-388-6748 or 1-888-408-3783.

### **Rutland/Bennington County FSA**

170 S Main St STE 4  
Rutland, VT 05701-4559  
802-775-8034  
800-300-6927 (VT)  
802-773-4177 (FAX)  
802-253-0191 (TDD)

### **Hours**

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

### **County Committee**

David Seward, Chair  
Richard Sheldon, Vice Chair  
Richard P Browe  
Karl Strohmaier  
Clifton Cressy Sr.

### **Minority Advisor**

Cristine Carabeau

### **Upcoming County Committee Meeting Dates**

March 18, 2010  
April 21, 2010

### **Staff**

Diane Heleba, PT X 10  
Marge Christy, PT X 12  
Michelle Smith, SCEP X 13

### **Co. Executive Director**

Phyllis L Torrey X 11

### **Farm Loan Staff**

802-388-6748 (Middlebury)  
1-888-408-3783 (Loans)

### **Farm Loan Manager**

Gary Braman

### **Loan Officers**

David Girard  
Jill Cioffi-Thomas

*Farm Loan Staff is in the Rutland Service Center by appointment– Ext 22*

### **NRCS Staff**

George Tucker, Acting DC X 14  
Steve Pytlik X 18  
Sally Eugair X 16  
Les Wright X 23  
Corinne Matarese X 21  
Carla Fenner X 26

### **Rutland NRCD Staff**

Nanci McGuire X 17

### **Poultney-Mettowee NRCD**

Marli Rupe 287-8339

### **Bennington NRCD**

Shelly Stiles 442-2275



## **County Committee Election Results**

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. LAA #1 received 75 votes, 23%, out of 328 ballots mailed out.

**COC meets every month on the third Wednesday at 10:30 AM in the USDA Conference Room.** The public has access to regular session meetings and the minutes.

Dates to Remember	
March 15	NAP coverage - annual crops (spring-seeded)
March 15	Crop Insurance deadline for Corn & Sweet Corn
March 30	Farmer Resource Fair, Green Mountain College
March 31	BCAP Closes
April 15	Tree Order for RCNRC
June 1	2010 DCP/ACRE Enrollment ends
June 15	IRS Consent forms need to be filed
June 30	Crop Reports due for Small Grains
July 15	Crop Acreage Reports due
July 15	2009 Production Reports due for NAP
Ongoing	Conservation Reserve Program/ CREP
	Farm Storage Facility Loan
	Milk Income Loss Contract
	SURE – <b>Please call for an Appointment!</b>

### **NAP Annual Crops (Spring-Seeded)** **Deadline March 15**

Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) crop coverage for Annual Crops not insurable through typical avenues like RMA, Federal Crop Insurance, *is* available at all USDA Farm Service Agency offices for the 2010 crop year. **Deadline to sign up is March 15.**

All types of beets, lettuce, squash, pumpkins, radishes, greens, beans, tomatoes, turnip, cabbage, peppers, broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, herbs, onions, peas, potatoes, eggplant, cucumbers, bok choy, etc. can be covered under this policy.

The service fee is \$250 per crop per county or \$750 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$1875 per producer for individuals with farming interests in multiple counties. Limited resource producers may request a waiver for service fees.

FSA compensates eligible producers for losses of noninsurable crops exceeding 50 % of the expected yield based on 55% of the average market price of the commodity or prevented planting of more than 35% of the intended acreage.

### **Introducing FARM FIRST** **VT's Dairy Producer Assistance Program**

The Agency of Agriculture is happy to announce the launching of Farm First, a personal assistance program for dairy producers and their families to help with stress, mental health issues and resource matching for any concern that they have.

Farm First is a program of Invest EAP, the largest Vermont employee assistance program in existence. Invest EAP has counselors situated statewide, ready and waiting to work with dairy producers and/or their family members to help with stress, depression, family conflict, human resource problems on the farm and more.

Dairy producers may call **1-877-493-6216** and speak with a masters level (or above) clinical therapist who will assess their needs and arrange an in-person meeting. Farm First provides face-to-face counseling with Vermont counselors as well as phone support for life resource questions such as eldercare, childcare, nutrition needs, legal issues, mediation needs, financial questions and disability concerns.

Visit our Web site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/VT>

### **Supplemental Revenue Assistance** **Program (SURE) – 2008 Signup**

Producers in both Rutland and Bennington Counties who purchased crop insurance (corn, sweet corn & or apples) and NAP for crop year 2008 are eligible to apply for 2008 SURE. *SURE is for crop losses, both quantity and quality.* Documentation needed to apply are forage test results and your consultant's letter stating total measured production of hay, corn and all other harvested crops.

**Be sure to gather all documentation and call the office for an appointment soon!** Calling ahead will allow us to prepare to help you with other FSA program requirements.

### **NAP Production Reporting**

Producers enrolled in the Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) **are required to provide production records for individual crops each year to establish an approved NAP yield.** If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information for this year and from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable and verifiable, such as a feed consultant's memo. Records need to show crop disposition. All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.