

November 12, 2008



# Windham County News

## Windham County USDA Service Center

28 Vernon St.  
Suite 331  
Brattleboro Vt. 05301  
802 245-9766 phone  
802 254 3307 fax  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

### Hours

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

### County Committee

Jill Adams Mancivalano-  
Chairperson  
Charles Robb Jr. -Vice  
Arnold Fisher-Member

County Committee meets  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month

### Staff

County Executive Director  
Julie Jacque (x107)  
[Julie.Jacque@vt.usda.gov](mailto:Julie.Jacque@vt.usda.gov)

Program Technician  
Valerie Brassor (x100)  
[Valerie.brassor@usda.gov](mailto:Valerie.brassor@usda.gov)

### Farm Loan Staff

George Button, Jr. FLM  
802-295-7942 x15  
800-789-6713  
[George.button@vt.usda.gov](mailto:George.button@vt.usda.gov)

George is in Windham Co.  
Every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of  
the month or by appoint-  
ment

### NRCS Staff

Lance Gorham x101  
[Lance.gorham@vt.usda.gov](mailto:Lance.gorham@vt.usda.gov)

### NRC District Staff

Jolene Hamilton, Mgr.x104  
Sylvia Harris x105

## Julie's Notes

Well, we know one thing for sure, if you don't like the answer~wait a minute and you'll get a different one! The wheels are turning as Washington is transitioning to a new administration and trying to get the farm bill programs out the door at the same time. It's extremely challenging to get a final answer. If this were the show "Who wants to be a Millionaire" the same contestant would be on the show for a whole season deliberating an answer!

Here is a little about what we do know or our "Final Answer":

1. MILC has been reinstated in the bill. Sign-up will begin "soon" for 2009. Reports are there was no month in 2008 that qualified for a payment.
2. If you want insurance on your crops~come see us~BY Dec. 1 for hay & other perennial crops, Jan. 1 for maple and Mar. 15 for spring seeded annuals.
3. If you want to qualify for disaster programs~which is still directly linked to #2~come see us.
4. A NAP policy for pasture is NOT required for the new CDP now known as SURE program.
5. A NAP policy linking you to SURE, is not required for any crop that is less than 10% economically significant to your farming operation.
6. DCP is scheduled to continue as is. There will be some bells and whistles coming under the context of a program called ACRE, which is pretty limited in details.
7. We are still taking applications for 2005, 2006, 2007 quantity and QUALITY losses under crop disaster program. If you have some feed samples bring them in and make an application.
8. We can take applications for conservation reserve buffering program and grassland reserve program.
9. We have farm-storage feed facility loans available. Hay crop IS included in the new farm bill as an eligible commodity to build a storage facility for.
- 10.

## 2009 NAP Coverage

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. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

The application deadline date for the 2009 coverage on perennial and fall seeded crops has been extended to **December 1, 2008**.

In order to be eligible for disaster assistance programs, like 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 2009 costs \$250 per crop, but not more than \$750 per producer per county, or not more than \$1875 total per producer for all counties.

Producers who already have coverage on 2008 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2009, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.



## **SURE Online Calculator**

The 2008 Farm Bill includes a new disaster program known as the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program. For your convenience, FSA has placed a SURE calculator on its Web site at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/fbapp?area=home&subject=landing&topic=landing>.

The calculator and instructions can be easily downloaded. Once the download is made, you will be able to calculate your estimated SURE Guarantee, estimated Expected Revenue, estimated Farm Revenue and estimated SURE payment.

**The calculator is a tool to help with calculations for SURE, it is not the approved software to compute and provide actual payment information.**

By using the calculator, producers and others may begin familiarizing themselves with SURE calculations which allows them to run various scenarios based on basic levels of insurance coverage versus buy up levels of insurance coverage. It is important to note that this calculator only addresses yield based crops and does not address value loss crops or those plans of insurance that are revenue based. It does not include calculations for situations such as prevented planting, first crop-second crop, or other scenarios.

*Note: FSA reminds users that the calculator and instructions are for informational purposes only. This calculator in no way provides exact FSA payments under SURE.*



## **Voting for Co. Committee Begins**

Ballots for this year's county committee election will be mailed to eligible voters on Nov. 3, 2008. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business **on December 1, 2008**. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight Dec. 1, 2008.

The candidate(s) in this year's election is: Charles Robb, Jr. -nominated in LAA 2, Windham County, to serve as a committee member. Robb, up for re-election, resides on Ames Hill Rd., Brattleboro, as a partner in the Robb Family Farm. The dairy farm is known for producing maple products and grows hay and corn.

Eligible voters in a local administrative area 2 who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

**Voter Requirements** Persons meeting 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, 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.

**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.

## **The "Ten Acre" Legislative Change**

On October 13, 2008, HR-6849 was signed into law and amended the commodity provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill to permit producers with small-acreage to participate in farm programs for the 2008-crop season. The Farm Bill modification for 2008 suspends the provision that prohibits Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) payments on eligible commodities if the sum of the base acres on the farm is 10 acres or less. **The legislation extends the 2008 crop year signup for producers with 10 base acres or less, until Nov. 26, 2008.** This regulation change ensures that no penalty can be assessed by USDA against participants who fell into this 10-acre prohibition, for failure to submit reports or timely comply with program requirements. The law also provides clarification on various aspects of the new standing disaster assistance program, specifically how minor acreages and grazing land are supposed to be treated under the program. Producers with ten base acres or less are encouraged to contact their local FSA office before Nov. 26.

## FSA Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- A married woman shall sign her given name: Mrs. Mary Doe, not Mrs. John Doe
- For a minor, FSA requires the minor's signature and one from an eligible parent  
Note, by signing the applicable document, the parent is liable for actions of the minor and may be liable for refunds, liquidated damages, etc
- When signing on one's behalf the signature must agree with the name typed or printed on the form, or be a variation that does not cause the name and signature to be in disagreement. Example - John W. Smith is on the form. The signature may be John W. Smith or J.W. Smith or J. Smith. Or Mary J. Smith may be signed as Mrs. Mary Joe Smith, M.J. Smith, Mary Smith, etc
- FAXED signatures will be accepted for certain forms and other documents provided the acceptable program forms are approved for FAXED signatures. Producers are responsible for the successful transmission and receipt of FAXED information.
- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, **unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office**
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities
- All members of a general partnership must sign for the general partnership unless an individual is authorized to act on the behalf of the general partnership and bind all members
- Spouses may sign on behalf of each other's individual interest in a partnership, unless notification denying a spouse that authority is provided to the county office
- Acceptable signatures for general partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, estates, and trusts shall consist of an indicator "by" or "for" the individual's name, individual's name and capacity, or individual's name, capacity, and name of entity

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.



## 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.

### *Applications for FSA Farm Loan Assistance*

Farmers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Filing early will help ensure that your loan is processed and approved as early as possible so that planting decisions can be made. Failure to apply early can result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications that must be processed in date order. Contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager for more details and assistance in applying.

### *Operating Loan Applications Needed Now*

Farmers that plan to apply to the Farm Service Agency for annual operating loan assistance this year are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. The earlier an application for loan assistance is filed, the quicker the FSA staff can process your request. In addition, due to budget constraints, farmers that wait until later in the year to apply, often run the risk of finding out that our funding allocations have been utilized already. Farmers should also contact George Button, Farm Loan Manager at 800-789-6713 x15 for information as to what is required in order to have a complete loan application on file. Decisions on loans can not be made until a complete application is received.

## Online Services

If a producer has Internet access, program participants can access many services from home 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and receive approval and payment by direct deposit within 48 hours.

To participate in these services, you must meet all program eligibility requirements. Online services have stringent security measures to protect your private information.

To utilize electronic services a producer needs an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires an e-mail address and filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> followed by a visit to the county office for identity verification.

If you have more questions, or would like assistance establishing your account, just contact your local USDA Service Center and talk with our trained FSA personnel.

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**Reasonable 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.

| Selected Interest Rates for November 2008                           |       |
|---|-------|
| Farm Operating - Direct   | %     |
| Farm Ownership - Direct   | %     |
| Limited Resource - Farm Operating                                   | %     |
| Limited Resource - Farm Ownership                                   | %     |
| Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment<br>Beginning Farmer or Rancher | %     |
| Emergency   | 3.75% |
| Farm Storage Facility   | %     |

| Dates to Remember    |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Nov 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Election Day for Presidential Election               |
| Nov 11 <sup>th</sup> | Veterans Day – Office Closed                         |
| Nov 27 <sup>th</sup> | Office Closed for Federal Holiday – Thanksgiving Day |
| Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Deadline to return county committee election ballots |
| Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>  | NAP deadline on fall seeded crops                    |
| Dec 25 <sup>th</sup> | Christmas Day, Office closed                         |
| Continues            | Continuous Conservation Reserve program              |
|                      |  |
|                      |  |

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

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