



Windham County News

Julie's Notes

Windham County USDA Service Center

28 Vernon St.
Suite 331
Brattleboro Vt. 05301
802 254-9766 phone
802 254-3307 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov

Hours

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

County Committee

Jill Adams Mancivalano, Chair
Charles Robb Jr., Vice Chair
Arnold Fisher, Member

*County Committee meets
2nd Tuesday of the Month*

Staff

County Executive Director
Julie Jacque (x107)
Julie.Jacque@vt.usda.gov

Program Technician
Dana Ruppert (x100)
Dana.Ruppert@usda.gov

Farm Loan Staff

George Button, Jr. FLM
802-295-7942 x15
800-789-6713
George.button@vt.usda.gov

*George is in Windham Co.
Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the
month or by appointment*

NRCS Staff

Lance Gorham x101
Lance.gorham@vt.usda.gov

NRC District Staff

Jolene Hamilton, Mgr.x104
Sylvia Harris x105

The FSA office continues to be having a busy summer. We have just made MILC payments for June production, and are quickly approaching the end of our fiscal year in September.

All producers involved in the MILC program should note that they have until September 14th to change their start month for the 2010 MILC program year, which begins Oct. 1, 2009. With milk prices at their current low level and a similar forecast for the next few months, you may want to revise your program participation start date! A modification form is required, so call and stop by the office if you wish to modify your MILC start month.

This is also the last week for crop reporting. Remember, you can use this crop reporting process for your other certifications like NOFA and crop insurance.

Please read below for more information, and give us a call to report if you haven't already done so.



Crop Reporting Reminder

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of FSA programs. All cropland used in your farming operation must be reported to receive most USDA benefits.

The certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The producer certification deadline is **August 14, 2009**.

Planting Dates – Please keep track of your planting dates as these are needed when you certify your crop acreage. Those dates are helpful to you in the event of a disaster program. Planting dates are required for farmers enrolled in NAP and crop insurance.

CRP & NAP Certification - Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Prevented Planting - Prevented planting is to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

Failed Acreage - Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.



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.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The form and other valuable information about FSA county committee elections are available 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. Nationwide, there are more than 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees. Committees consist of three to five members who are elected by eligible local producers.

FSA will mail ballots to producers beginning November 6, 2009. The voted ballots are due back at the local county office either via mail or in person by December 7, 2009



**Important
DATE!**

2010 Nursery Crop Year and Application Closing Date

FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) application closing date for 2010 nursery is **September 1, 2009**. When low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occurs due to natural disaster, NAP can provide financial assistance.

The NAP coverage period and NAP year for 2010 nursery crops has been changed to June 1, 2009, through May 31, 2010. However, the 2010 NAP coverage will be retroactive to June 1, 2009. For those producers who obtained 2009 NAP coverage for nursery, and choose not to obtain 2010 continuous coverage, the 2009 NAP coverage for nursery will continue until September 30, 2009.

NAP coverage may be continued for each subsequent year for the same crop or crops, if the producer pays the applicable service fee by the next year's application closing date. To apply for continuous coverage, producers must pay the applicable service fee before the application closing date.

Producers considered as limited resource are not subject to annual fees. Eligible producers must apply for coverage of non-insurable crops and pay the applicable service fees at their local FSA office. The service fee is the lesser of \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,875 per producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

Contact your local office for more information or at www.fsa.usda.gov.

participate in the ACRE Program. Farms that are already enrolled in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) may elect to switch to ACRE before the end of signup.

Commodities eligible for ACRE payments include wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, soybeans, sunflower seed, canola, flaxseed, safflower, mustard seed, rapeseed, sesame seed, cranberries, dry peas, lentils, small and large chickpeas.

More information and an ACRE calculator spreadsheet is located on the FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> under the heading titled Direct and Counter Cyclical Program/ACRE.

Compliance Spot Checks

Compliance spot checks will be conducted on 2009 crops. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for review, a nationwide selection of producers is employed. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program, etc.

State and County Offices shall view and print their producer spot check lists according to posted instructions. If an entity is selected from the national database that is no longer farming or participating in the 2009 crop year, a notation shall be made on the spot check list.

For more information about the spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact your local Farm Service Agency office for additional clarification.

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

8/3/09 Last day to file COC election nomination forms

8/14/09 Acreage reporting deadline for all crops

8/14/09 Enrollment deadline for DCP / ACRE programs

9/1/09 2010 Nursery crop year application closing date

11/6/09 County Committee ballots mailed to eligible voters

11/20/09 2010 Perennial crop Sales Closing date For NAP

Ongoing

Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) sign-up

Loans for Beginning Farmers

Loan Assistance for annual operating costs, equipment, livestock, bridge loans for projects, etc.

Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP)



DCP and ACRE Sign UP

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been **extended until August 14, 2009**. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications. Signup in the ACRE option is also available through **August 14, 2009**.

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is a new program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill. Under the ACRE Program, eligible producers may receive revenue-based payments as an alternative to receiving price-based counter-cyclical payments.

Producers who elect the ACRE program for a farm agree to:

- forgo counter-cyclical payments;
- accept a 20-percent reduction of the direct payments; and
- accept a 30-percent reduction in loan rates for all commodities produced on the farm

Only farms with commodity base acres may par-



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.

UPCOMING EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

9/4/09 – 9/13/09
Vermont State Fair
175 S. Main St.
Rutland, VT 05701

Concerts, exhibits, 4H shows, harness racing, demolition derbies, ox, horse, and pony pulling contests, helicopter rides, monster truck rides, karaoke contests, bingo and much more!

For more information visit:
<http://www.vermontstatefair.net/>

9/14/09
A Walk Through Pastured-Farm Leasing
Host: Maple Wind Farm
Huntington, VT

Look at the opportunities and challenges of using leased land for pasture-based farming, with Bruce Hennessey of Maple Wind Farm. Bruce and his crew operate a diversified livestock farm at three locations, one owned and two leased.

Contact: Jenn Colby
UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture
(802)656-0858
jcolby@uvm.edu

Loans for 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.



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 confiden-

tial. 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.

New Payment Limitations

Over time the payment limitation provisions have been expanded to more programs. Some of the changes in this area are listed below.

New forms for 2009 and subsequent years

Anyone that plans to participate in 2009 programs is required to submit a completed CCC-902, CCC-926, and CCC-901, if applicable, for payment eligibility and payment limitation purposes. The form used prior to 2009 was named CCC-502.

Another change for 2009, all must make a contribution in an entity

All partners, stockholders, or members with an ownership interest in the legal entity must make a contribution, whether compensated or **not** compensated, for active--*

- personal labor,
- active personal management,
- or a combination of active personal labor and active personal management to the farming operation;

*Note: there are exceptions for spouses. For more detailed information on this and other programs please contact your local FSA office.

Wetland Compliance

Producers renting or purchasing land that may have a converted wetland status need to check with the county office to learn if there are restrictions. The last thing FSA wants to do is to deny a producer benefits due to wetland noncompliance. The Farm Bill provides that, **unless exempt**, persons **are ineligible** for benefits under certain programs administered by USDA if they:

- plant an agricultural commodity on wetland that was converted after December 23, 1985
- convert a wetland after November 28, 1990

FSA may not approve any loan or loan guarantee to drain, dredge, fill, level or otherwise manipulate a wetland, or to engage in any activity that results in impairing or reducing the flow, circulation or reach of water except in the case of activity related to the maintenance of previously converted wetlands.

There are some permitted uses for wetlands. Contact your local office to learn what permitted uses and restrictions and Wetland compliance provisions impact your land.

Windham County FSA Office
28 Vernon St., STE 331
Brattleboro, VT 05301



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Return Service Requested



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

Vermont AgrAbility Project No Cost Services

Services include: **Information and Referral,
On-Site Technical Assistance, Secondary Injury Prevention,
Peer Support, Training and Education**

671 Comstock Rd. #5 Berlin, VT 05602

Speak with Bill Snow

(802)223-2389

William.snow@uvm.edu



Rural & Agricultural VocRehab

University of Vermont is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Celebrating 40 years of service

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

Howe Center Business Park

1 Scale Avenue #55 Rutland, VT 05701

Speak with Margaret Gilman

(802) 773-3349

Margaret.Gilman@uvm.edu



August Interest Rates



Farm Operating – Direct	3.125%
Farm Ownership – Direct	5.00 %
Farm Ownership – Direct, Joint Financing	5.00 %
Farm Ownership – Down Payment	1.50%
Emergency Loan – Amount of Actual Loss	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loan CCC-185.....	%

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