



U.S. Department
of Agriculture

**Addison County
FSA**
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Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Thomas Audet, Chair
Phyllis Bowdish, V.Chair
Curt Estey, Member

Winter: COC meets 2nd
Tue. morning of each
month

**County Executive
Director**
Craig Miner (EXT15)
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Program Staff
Lisa Gaboriault, PT (x11)
Billie Jo Forgues, PT
(X10)

Farm Loan Manager
Gary Braman, FLM (x18)
gary.braman@vt.usda.gov

Farm Loan Staff
David Girard, FLO (x20)
Jill Thomas, FLO (x17)
Mari Quesnel, PT (x28)

From the staff at
the USDA Service
Center

Happy Thanksgiving



Farm Service Agency

FSA UPDATES

Addison Agriculture

November
2008

FSA County Committee Elections Begin

Ballots for this year's county committee election were mailed to eligible voters on November 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 December 1, 2008.

This year the election will be held for a County Committee representative in the Local Administrative Area 2 (LAA 2):

LAA #2 includes the townships of Addison, Cornwall, Hancock, Granville, Middlebury, Panton, Ripton, and Weybridge

Eligible voters in the above LAA 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, are 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.

Crop Disaster Program – QUALITY LOSS SIGN-UP: The Addison FSA office is now in the middle of accepting applications for quality loss in hay/haylage due to weather related disaster in 2005-2007. Quality losses in 2006 are easily documented due to a USDA secretarial disaster declaration that year, but loss claims in 2005 or 2007 may need further weather related documentation. Our office hopes to begin making payments for quality losses later in December. Please get your paperwork into the FSA office now before the rush when payments start.

There will not be a quality loss program available for farm stored corn silage due to new regulations. However, a few FSA corn production - Quantity losses may not have been previously requested and are still eligible for payment.

A minimum of 25% loss of feed quality will apply for the CDP-Quality Loss Program. Producers will need to provide verifiable measurements of ALL hay/haylage (by cutting) produced in the loss year and ALL crop tests taken for each cutting. Producers should contact their crop consultants for assistance in providing verifiable documentation or call the county office for further program details. * Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. *****





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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 bases to participate in farm programs for the 2008-crop season. The Farm Bill modification for 2008 suspends the provision that prohibits Direct & 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 November 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.

Our office has paid the majority of producers with ten base acres or less. However, you are encouraged to contact our office before the November 26, 2008 deadline to enroll in the 2008 DCP farm program if you have an eligible unpaid farm.

Disaster Designation – Emergency Loans

The entire State of Vermont has received a designation as a primary natural disaster area due to losses caused by severe weather events (including excessive rain, flooding, high winds, hail, lightening, tornadoes) occurring from June 1 through August 31, 2008.

This designation makes farm operators in all Vermont counties eligible to be considered for assistance from FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE). FSA will consider each application on its own merit by taking into account the extent of losses, security available, and repayment ability. Contact us for details.

NAP Coverage- Note Dec. 1 Deadline

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 fall seeded crops, such as Hay and Pasture 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 of "economic significance" on their entire farm. Note* Pasture coverage no longer needs to be purchased for ELAP and SURE disaster eligibility. ** Pasture coverage may be purchased to allow the added protection against losses due to extended drought. (measured as more than eight weeks of "D2 – severe" drought on US Drought Monitor map)

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.

Applications for FSA Farm Loan Assistance

Farmers and ranchers 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.

