



FSA UPDATES

Addison Agriculture



Addison County FSA
68 Catamount Park
Middlebury, VT 05753

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www.fsa.usda.gov

Hours

Monday - Friday

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

County Committee

Thomas Audet,

Phyllis Bowdish

Curt Estey

COC meets 2nd Tuesday
of each month

County Executive Director

Craig Miner (EXT15)

Craig.Miner@vt.usda.gov

Program Staff

Lisa Gaboriault, PT (X11)

Billie Jo Forgues, PT (X10)

Farm Loan Manager

Gary Braman, FLM (x18)

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Farm Loan Staff

David Girard, FLO (x20)

Jill Thomas, FLO (x17)

Mari Quesnel, PT (x28)

EMERGENCY LOANS

AVAILABLE

A Secretarial Disaster Designation was declared for excessive rain and hail that occurred during the period of May 1, 2009 and continuing. Farmers in Addison County may be eligible for 3.75% low-interest emergency loans from FSA for losses on growing crops and physical losses.

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.

Welcome Robert Paquin – New VT FSA State Executive Director

The Obama Administration named Robert Paquin to serve as the State Executive Director (SED) for the Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Vermont. Bob Paquin has been working in Senator Leahy's Washington and Vermont offices since 1977. He was most recently Senator Leahy's Legislative Assistant for Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment. Paquin was involved in the five Farm Bills dating back to 1985 and co-drafted legislation addressing forestry and Lake Champlain and related issues. He was born and raised in Vermont and attended the University of Vermont for both his undergraduate and graduate degrees.

NAP Fees Are Due November 20

Remember NAP + Crop Insurance = Disaster Eligibility

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.

The application deadline date for the 2010 coverage on mixed forage crops is November 20, 2009. In order to be eligible for disaster assistance programs, including Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (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 2010 costs \$250 per crop, but not more than \$750 per producer per county, or not more than \$2250 total per producer for all counties.

FSA requires a CCC-926, Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) form for 2010.

TIMELY FEED MEASUREMENT!!!!

Farmers are reminded to be sure to get their corn and hay measured before **December 31, 2009**. Otherwise, they may be penalized under future disaster programs.

TIMELY FEED ANALYSIS!!!!

Farmers are reminded to be sure to get their corn and hay sampled and tested before **December 31, 2009**. Otherwise, they may be penalized under future disaster programs.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program Changes

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Dept..

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin. The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, oats, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. Present interest rate for Operating Loans is 2.875% typically for 7 years. Farm Ownership rate is 4.75% and for maximum 40-year-term. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For details contact a Middlebury FSA loan officer at 388-6748 X 3 for an appointment.

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Biomass Crop Assistance Program

FSA is currently accepting applications from biomass facilities interested in participating in the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP). Once an agreement is signed between FSA and a facility and funding through the program is provided, the facilities can begin accepting materials. Producers who sell these materials can apply for matching payments under the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) component of BCAP.

The matching CHST payments are paid at a rate of \$1 for \$1 per dry-ton equivalent received from a qualified biomass conversion facility, not to exceed \$45 per dry-ton equivalent. A biomass owner is eligible to receive payments for two years. The purpose of the matching payments is to assist biomass producers with the CHST cost of delivering biomass to a qualified biomass conversion facility. Once a facility becomes qualified, eligible material owners or producers who deliver biomass to that facility may be eligible to receive CHST payments.

Eligible material owners or producers, who market eligible material to a qualified biomass conversion facility, may apply for the matching CHST payment at their FSA county office. An application must be submitted before the eligible material is sold and delivered to a qualified biomass conversion facility. After the product is delivered, a producer must provide FSA with documentation of product quantity, quality and payment rate. County offices will validate payment requests with information in the county office and information provided under the terms of MOUs with the qualified biomass conversion facilities. CHST payments will not be authorized until after an appropriate environmental analysis has been conducted.

Biomass conversion facilities and material owners or producers should contact their FSA state offices or visit www.fsa.usda.gov for more information.

Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP)

ELAP provides compensation to eligible producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease, adverse weather, or flooding, including bee losses due to hive collapse. ELAP is for losses that are not covered by Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), or Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE).

Eligible producers under ELAP may receive assistance for losses that occur on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011, during the calendar year in which the loss occurs. Eligible losses include feed losses, physical losses and additional costs incurred in providing feed to eligible livestock except for losses from excessive moisture now covered by SURE.

There are two parts to the ELAP application process:

1. A notice of loss
2. Application for payment

An application for payment cannot be filed without a notice of loss.

Signup, for producers with eligible losses during 2008 and 2009, began September 14, 2009. Producers who suffered losses in calendar year 2008 must provide a notice of loss and application for payment in their administrative county office no later than **December 14, 2009**.

There are no late filed provisions for ELAP. Producers with eligible losses must timely file an acreage report on grazing land acres, honey bee colonies and farm-raised fish pond acres. Additional ELAP information is available at FSA county offices or on line at www.fsa.usda.gov