



# Caledonia/Essex County Updates

## November 2008

### Farm Service Agency

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St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

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(802) 748-8746  
1-800-862-1121  
Fax (802) 748-1621  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

### Hours

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

### County Committee

Burt Patenaude, Chair  
Robert Porter, Vice Chair  
William Nelson, Member  
Michael Tanguay, Member  
Darcy Smart, Advisor

**COC meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday  
of each month at 10:30 am**

### County Executive Director

Patricia Passut, ext 104  
[patricia.passut@vt.usda.gov](mailto:patricia.passut@vt.usda.gov)

### Program Staff

Patty Matte, ext 100

### Farm Loan Staff (802) 334-6090 or 1-866-241-2190 (toll free)

Brian Kuper, FLM  
Diane Gilman, FLO  
Dorcas McAllister, FLO

### NRCS Staff

[www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)  
Tim McKay, ext 109  
Nick Comerchi, ext 101  
Jacob Clough, ext 117

### NRCD Staff

Kerry O'Brien, ext 110  
Tamara Stevens, ext 114  
Brandon Carpenter, ext 106

### Rural Development

[www.rd.usda.gov](http://www.rd.usda.gov)  
Steve Campbell, ext 102  
Mark Koprowski, ext 120  
Suzanne Smith, ext 112  
Dianne Drown, ext 119



## Voting for County Committee Begins

Ballots for this year's county committee election will be 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 COC representatives in the following Local Administrative Areas (LAA):

- LAA #3 which includes the townships of Barnet, Danville, Groton, Peacham, and Ryegate
- LAA #4 which includes the townships of Averill, Avery's Gore, Bloomfield, Brighton, Canaan, Ferdinand, Lemington, Lewis, Norton, Warner's Grant, and Warren Gore

Eligible voters in the above LAAs 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 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.

Producers with ten base acres or less are encouraged to contact their local FSA office before November 26, 2008 to enroll in the 2008 DCP farm program.

## Disaster Signup Continues

Signup for Quantity and Quality Losses under the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) continues. CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and/or quality losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007. No deadline has been set. Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under NAP for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Please call the FSA Office for more information.



Happy Thanksgiving

From the staff at the  
USDA Service Center



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### **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 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 of "economic significance" 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.

### **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.

### **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 the office for more details.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

<u>Nov 11</u>	Veterans Day – Office closed	<u>Dec 1</u>	Deadline to return COC election ballots
<u>Nov 26</u>	DCP deadline for "10 acres or less" contracts	<u>Dec 1</u>	NAP deadline on fall seeded crops
<u>Nov 27</u>	Thanksgiving Day – Office closed	<u>Dec 25</u>	Christmas Day – Office closed