



July 2007

FSA UPDATES

Chittenden/Washington
County
USDA Service Center

**Chittenden/Washington
County FSA**

802-865-7895 x4
800-910-2035 x4 (VT only)
802-865-7947 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/VT

Hours

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

County Committee

John Rowley, Jr., LAA-1
Claude Lapierre, LAA-2
Deborah Conant, LAA-3
Elwin Neill, LAA-4
Michelle Gardner, LAA-5

**Upcoming County
Committee Meeting**

Dates

July 18, 2007
August 15, 2007

FSA Staff

Lawrence Parker x12
Eileen Powers x16
Pearl Wells x10
Keith Canter – Intern
Bradford Parker x13

**Natural Resources
Conservation Service**

Caroline Alves x23
Tate Jeffrey x19
Michel Lapointe x18
Danny Peet x22
Norman Smith x17

**Winooski Natural
Resources Conservation
District**

Jessica Andreoletti x14
Anna Johnson x24

Crop Certification

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 Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

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 July 16th.

CRP, GRP & NAP Certification

Conservation Reserve Program and Grassland Reserve program acres must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported. For each unit acreage certification, the producer must also certify production of the acreage before the acreage reporting date for all crops selected on the CCC-471 (NAP Application for Coverage).

Prevented Planting:

Prevented planting needs 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 Candidates Sought

It will soon be county committee election time, and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) is actively looking for producers to be a candidate for the local FSA county committee.

Your county committee members perform an important function. *They represent you and your agricultural interests.* They help shape how federal farm programs from Washington are implemented on the ground in local communities.

Committee members are reimbursed for travel expenses and are paid at the rate of a GS-6, step 1, currently \$14.72 per hour.

Visit with the Farm Service Agency county office staff for more information about this year's county committee election.

Direct and Counter Cyclical Enrollment Dates

The DCP Enrollment *deadline has been extended* from June 1st to **August 3rd**. The deadline for late file enrollment remains September 30th. This year September 30th falls on a Sunday making the deadline September 28th. Please make a note of this change and be sure to visit your local county office to enroll.

Preventing Fraud, Waste

The Farm Service Agency has joined with the Risk Management Agency to prevent fraud, waste and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. In addition, FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse to RMA. Producers can report suspected cases to the county office staff, RMA office, or the Office of the Inspector General.



Foreign Landowner Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. ***Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.*** County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Dates to Remember	
July 4 th	Independence Day – Office Closed
July 16 th	Acreage Reporting Deadline
August 3 rd	DCP Signup Ends
Sept. 3 rd	Labor Day – Office Closed

Visit our Web site: <http://www.fsa.usda/VT>

Selected Interest Rates for July 2007	
90-Day Treasury Bill	4.875%
Farm Operating - Direct	5.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.375%
Limited Resource	5.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4.0%
Emergency	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility	5.0%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	6.0%

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