



March 2009

Chittenden/Washington County FSA News

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

Richard Parizo LAA-1
Claude Lapierre LAA-2
Sumner Farr, Jr LAA-3
Catherine Scribner LAA-4
Michelle Gardner LAA-5

Upcoming County Committee Meeting Dates

March 18, 2009
April 8, 2009

Staff

Lawrence Parker x102
Eileen Powers x106
Pearl Wells x100
Bradford Parker x103

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Caroline Alves x203
Tate Jeffrey x119
Michel Lapointe x118
Danny Peet x202
Norman Smith x117

Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District

Ashley Lidman x104



Stimulus Funding for FLP Loans

As part of the recently approved economic stimulus package, FSA's Farm Loan Programs (FLP) is scheduled to receive an extra \$173 million in funding for the direct operating loan (OL) program. Many states have a current backlog of approved OL loans waiting for funding. As of February 23, the backlog stood at 1,039 loans valued at more than \$72 million. Producers' financial needs have increased significantly with the elevated costs of production inputs and the downturn in the agricultural economy. This growing need, coupled with FLP's successful marketing efforts, has generated increased demand for FSA OL loans as well as farm ownership loans.

Dairy Prices Trigger MILC Payments

Due to low milk prices FSA will be making payments in April to producers through FSA's Milk Income Loss Contract, or MILC, program. The 2008 Farm Bill made changes to the MILC program, notably the addition of a dairy feed ration cost adjustment in addition to changes to the payment rate and modifications to the per-operation poundage limit, depending on when the milk is produced.

FSA issues payments not later than 60 calendar days *after* FSA receives production evidence for the applicable month *or* the entire month's National Average Dairy Feed Ration Cost is posted for the applicable month, *whichever is later*.

FSA makes payments on up to the maximum eligible pounds of milk produced and marketed by each operation per fiscal year. The annual maximum eligible pound limit per dairy operation is 2,985,000 pounds per fiscal year. The amount drops to 2.4 million pounds per fiscal year on September, 1, 2012.

MILC participants must select a month for which FSA will begin issuing payments for each fiscal year. Starting with the dairy opera-

tion's selected month, FSA will issue MILC payments based on that month's milk production and the milk production for each consecutive month thereafter with the effective payment rate until the operation reaches the production cap or the fiscal year ends.

The 2008 Farm Bill also excludes producers whose non-farm average adjusted gross income (AGI) exceeds \$500,000 from receiving MILC payments. Producers will have to sign an AGI statement when signing up for the program. More information about the MILC program can be found on the FSA website <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

DCP Signup Continues

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program continues until June 1, 2009. This deadline is mandatory for all participants. FSA will not accept late-filed applications.

FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. FSA will issue advance direct payments later this month. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its statutorily set target price.

The electronic DCP (eDCP) service will save you time, reduce paperwork and speed up contract processing at FSA offices. It is available to anyone eligible to participate in the DCP Program. To access this on-line service, you must have an active USDA

eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

Continue Page 2 DCP Signup

Chittenden/Washington County FSA Office
 1193 S Brownell Rd STE 35
 Williston, VT 05495
 Return Service Requested



**PRESORTED STANDARD
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 Mailed From Zip Code 05495
 PERMIT #40**

Dates to Remember	
Continuous	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
Continues	MILC
June 1, 2009	DCP Signup Deadline
Selected Interest Rates for March 2009	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.00%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	3.50%
Farm Ownership Loans — Down Payment	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	2.250%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.500 %

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

Continued from Page 1: DCP Signup

Producers eligible for the DCP Program are also able to enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program or the Counter-cyclical Program. The enrollment period for the ACRE Program will begin in the spring. You may first enroll in the DCP Program, receive advance direct payments and then later modify your enrollment to the ACRE program or you may wait and elect to enroll in DCP and ACRE at the same time in spring

Honey Loans

Marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments for 2008 crop year honey are available until March 31, 2009. The national loan rate for honey is \$0.60 per pound. Market prices currently exceed the loan rate, so LDPs are not available at this time.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audio-tape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.