



June 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

**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**

June 10, 2009  
July 8, 2009

**Staff**

Lawrence Parker x102  
Eileen Powers x106  
Pearl Wells x100  
Bradford Parker x103  
Alexandra Brady x204

**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



**County Committee Elections  
"FSA Counts on You"**

Since COC elections happen only once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into *local administrative areas*, or LAAs. Each LAA selects one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency county committee.

Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. In counties with three LAAs, one seat is up for election. In combined counties in some years, two seats may be up for election.

**Nominations**

Candidate nominations for the FSA *county committee election* will be accepted **June 15 through Aug. 3, 2009.**

Producers who are residents in the LAA holding the election and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates.

The nomination form, FSA-669A, is available at the county office or may be downloaded from

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>.

To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected. The completed nomination form must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Aug. 3, or postmarked by midnight Aug. 3, 2009.

**Voting**

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning Nov. 6, and must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Dec. 7, or postmarked by midnight Dec. 7, 2009.

Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm can also vote.

No one can 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.

**Candidate Eligibility**

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate
- Not have been:
  - Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
  - Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any felony
  - Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

For additional clarification about county committee elections, contact your local county office staff.



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## Crop Reporting

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 for small grains is June 30<sup>th</sup> and July 15<sup>th</sup> for all other crops .

### ***CRP & NAP Certification***

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

### ***Prevented Planting:***

Prevented planting is to 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.

## Changes in Payment Limitations

The payment limitation provisions over the last 39 years have been expanded to more programs. Some of the changes in this area are listed below.

### ***New forms for 2009 and subsequent years***

Anyone that plans to participate in 2009 programs is required to submit a completed CCC-902, CCC-926, and CCC-901, if applicable, for payment eligibility and payment limitation purposes. The form used prior to 2009 was named CCC-502.

### ***Another change for 2009, all must make a contribution in an entity***

All partners, stockholders, or members with an ownership interest in the legal entity must make a contribution, whether compensated or **not** compensated, for active--\*

- personal labor,
- active personal management,
- or a combination of active personal labor and active personal management to the farming operation;

*\*Note: there are exceptions for spouses.*

## New Face in the office....

Those of you stopping into the office this summer will see a new face; Alexandra “Rosie” Brady has joined the staff as a student summer intern. Rosie grew up in Charlotte and is currently studying Environmental Economics at St. Lawrence University. Rosie brings enthusiasm and energy to the office, as well as a supply of Bliss chocolates! Rosie will be working extensively with Eileen on acreage reports before branching out for some experience with the farm loan staff. With luck, she’ll be able to get out of the office and visit some of your farms; make sure she gets her feet dirty!

## Notification delay...

Each month our office takes many calls from producers asking if their MILC payment or some other program payment has been issued. Often the answer is yes, which prompts the question “why wasn’t I notified?” Over the past few years more and more of the payments from the local FSA offices have actually been issued from the National Finance Center (NFC) in Kansas City. In fact, FSA offices have just recently lost their ability to issue any payments locally. What we now do is to approve and certify that payments are due, send the information to NFC, where payments are issued. That process is completed in as little as one day, but more often within a five day span. Though the money is sitting in your bank account, the transaction statements notifying you of the payment don’t arrive until later. Producers report that the statements may arrive in one week or two; there doesn’t seem to be a consistent pattern. Again, that process is no longer controlled by the local office. Our best advice to you is that if you’re expecting a payment, call your bank and ask if the payment has arrived. We can not answer that question; all we can tell you is that we authorized the payment to be made.

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
Continuous	MILC signup
June 15, 2009	COC nominations period opens
April 27 to August 14, 2009	ACRE program signup runs
June 30, 2009	Small Grain Acreage Reports Due
July 3, 2009	Independence Day - Office Closed
July 15, 2009	Acreage Reports Due
Aug. 3, 2009	Last day to file COC election nomination forms
Aug. 14, 2009	DCP Signup Deadline

Selected Interest Rates for June 2009	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.250%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.25%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.25%
Farm Ownership Loans — Down Payment	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	2.375%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.500 %

## 2009 Compliance

Compliance and spot checks will once again be utilized during the 2009 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for spot check and review, a nationwide selection of producers is used to achieve a statistical sampling of participating producers. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program, etc.

State and county offices shall view and print their producer spot check lists as posted on the designated web site. If an entity is selected from the national database that is no longer farming or participating in the 2009 crop year, a notation shall be made on the spot check list. For more information about the new spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact your local office.

## Special Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

Find us on the web: [www.fsa.usda.gov/VT](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/VT)

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