



January 2010

Chittenden/Washington County FSA News

Chittenden/Washington County USDA Service Center

Chittenden/Washington County FSA

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

Hours

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

County Committee

Richard Parizo LAA-1
Daniel Pillsbury LAA-2
Sumner Farr, Jr LAA-3
Catherine Scribner LAA-4
Morgan Churchill LAA-5

Upcoming County Committee Meeting

Dates

February 10, 2010

Staff

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

Natural Resources Conservation Services

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

Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District

Ashley Lidman x104



SURE Signup

Signup for the 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program (SURE) began on January 4, 2010. SURE 2008 is for those who suffered crop production losses during crop year 2008.

SURE provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred crop production or crop quality losses. The program takes into consideration crop losses on all crops grown by a producer nationwide. SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE farm guarantee and total farm revenue. The farm guarantee is based on the amount of crop insurance and Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on the farm. Total farm revenue takes into account the actual value of production on the farm as well as insurance indemnities and certain farm program payments.

Producers with a farming interest physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Agriculture Secretary must have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance. Producers must meet the risk management purchase requirement by either obtaining a policy or plan of insurance, under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or NAP coverage, for all economically significant crops. For 2008 crops, producers had the opportunity to obtain a waiver of the risk management purchase requirement through a buy-in provision. Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage.

If there is no Secretarial Disaster Designation, individual producers may also be eligible for SURE if the actual production

on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster.

For SURE, a farm is defined as all crops in which a producer had an interest nationwide.

For more information on the new SURE program, please visit the county office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

Appeal Process

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree.

Generally, program participants have three choices — an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign 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.

All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25% of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

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**

Selected Interest Rates for January 2010	
Farm Operating - Direct	2.875%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.75%
Limited Resource	5.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility-7 year	2.875%
Farm Storage Facility-10 year	3.375%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.375%

Dates to Remember	
Jan 1, 2010	New Committee members take office
Jan. 4, 2010	SURE Signup opens
Jan 18, 2010	MLK Day – Office Closed
Jan. 19, 2010	Deadline for DELAP applications
Jan 29, 2010	LDP on Unshorn Lamb Pelts Closes
Feb10, 2010	COC meeting – 10am
Feb. 15, 2010	Washington’s Birthday - Office Closed

At the first COC meeting of the new year, Richard Parizo was elected COC Chair and Daniel Pillsbury was elected COC Vice-Chair.

Your Chittenden/Washington County COC generally meets on the second Wednesday of each month.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual’s income is derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA’s TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”