



FARM SERVICE AGENCY

**Chittenden/Washington
County
USDA Service Center**

**Chittenden/Washington
County FSA**

802 865-7895 x4
802 910-2035 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
Daniel Pillsbury LAA-2
Sumner Farr, Jr LAA-3
Catherine Scribner LAA-4
Morgan Churchill LAA-5

**Upcoming County
Committee Meeting**

Dates

April 14, 2010
May 12, 2010

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



April 2010

State/county FSA News

DCP & ACRE County Recap:

Over the course of the last month, many of you have received your 2010 DCP and ACRE contracts; the return rate is around 30%, meaning most of you will find your contracts filed away on your desk somewhere, waiting for a rainy day to be taken care of. If the contracts are not returned to this office by June 1, 2010, they cannot be approved and will remain open for the year; you will not receive the benefits provided by the contracts. There isn't too much more we can do for you at this point...no we cannot just sign them for you (we have been asked!). Each year 30-40 contracts remain unsigned, with thousands of dollars in benefits remaining unpaid, money that should have a home.

Continuing the theme of unreturned paperwork, those of you with ACRE contracts are required to fill out an FSA-658, Record of Production and Yield form for each farm under an ACRE contract. Those forms were sent out to each of you back in the fall of 2009 and the return rate for them is dismal. There is a simple formula that works here; incomplete paperwork = NO MONEY!!!! In addition to the FSA-658, which records production of specific commodities for the years 2004 thru 2008, each holder of an ACRE contract must report their past year's crop production by the next year's crop reporting deadline; for you corn folks, 2009 corn production must be reported by July 15, 2010. The production report should come from a verifiable source, which for most of you is your feed consultant. For those with small grains, the deadline is sooner, June 30, 2010. So, before everyone gets even more out straight with planting of spring crops then harvesting forages, why not get these details off your list of things to do by stopping in to see us...just do it (the candy bowl is full)!

You mean me????

Yes, we mean you...if you receive any program benefits from FSA or NRCS you **must** fill out forms CCC-297 and/or CCC-928 and **submit them to the IRS**. This is part of the verification process of everyone's Average Adjusted Gross Income certification, contained on CCC-926 that is filed in this office. The CCC-927 and/or CCC-928 **must be submitted** to the IRS **no later than June 15, 2010**. So, what if you don't? You could be paying back all of your applicable 2009 program benefits **plus 2010 benefits may not find their way into your bank account!** The forms are available in our office; you can pick them up here, but don't return them to us...they must be sent to the IRS directly. No ifs ands or buts on this one, gotta comply.

Acres Reporting

Acres reporting time will soon be here. Filing an accurate acres report for all crops and land uses, including failed acres and prevented planting acres, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acres must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acres reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) crops, acres reports are to be certified by the June 30 deadline on small grains and a July 15 deadline on all other crops.

Acres reports on crops for which NAP assistance may be paid are due in the county office by the earlier of June 30 for small grains and July 15 for all other crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acres being reported.

NAP Loss Filing

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for ALL CROPS INCLUDING GRASSES. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 (notice of loss) in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

Cold Storage Facility Loans

The Farm Storage Facility Loan program has been amended to allow producers to build cold storage facilities to store their fresh fruits and vegetables. To be eligible, cold storage facilities must have a useful life of 15 years and include:

- New structures suitable for a cold storage facility;
- New walk-in prefabricated permanently installed coolers suitable for storing fresh fruits and vegetables;
- New permanently affixed cooling, circulating and monitoring equipment;
- Electrical equipment integral to the proper operation of a cold storage facility; and must be
- An addition or modification to an existing storage facility.

USDA will not make cold storage facility loans for portable structures, portable handling and cooling equipment, used, or pre-owned structures or cooling equipment or structures deemed unsuitable.

The maximum loan amount for a Farm Storage Facility loan is \$500,000 per loan, which requires a down payment of at least 15 percent. Applications must be approved before construction can begin. Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan.

Loans applications should be submitted to the administrative FSA county office that maintains the records of the farm or farms to which

the application applies. If the commodities are produced on land that does not have farm records established, the application must be submitted to the FSA county office that services the county where the facility will be located.

For more information on this program or other FSA farm programs please contact your local FSA county office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

Direct and Guaranteed Loans

FSA is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

2010 DCP Signup

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) will continue through June 1, 2010. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2010 DCP contract.

USDA 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 2010, eligible producers may request advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment.

For more information on this or other programs, simply contact the nearest FSA office.

The ACRE Program

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) began in crop year 2009. Through ACRE, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers producers an alternative to the Counter-cyclical payments in the DCP program. The ACRE alternative provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price.

The enrollment deadline for 2010 ACRE is June 1, 2010.

ACRE payments are made when both state- and farm-level triggers are met. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments. Producers also elect to receive a 20-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates.

A decision to elect ACRE binds the contracted property to the program through the 2012 crop year, the last crop year covered by the 2008 Farm Bill. For more details contact your local FSA office

Be Counted!

FSA wants to encourage all producers to complete the census. We realize as more of our population moves to urban areas, rural communities feel the impact. There are fewer people to work the farms and ranches, fewer students in our schools, and fewer customers in local businesses.

The census is used to determine the amount of funds a community receives to rebuild after a natural disaster. It is used to determine the number of seats a state has in the House of Representatives. It determines how over \$400 billion in federal funds is allocated to states and communities.

The census is important; make sure your community is counted.

SURE

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop years 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage. However, crop insurance or NAP coverage is no longer required for crops

that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10% of the value of the coverage.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

The following are the conditions that trigger SURE payments:

- at least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production or quality loss due to an eligible disaster condition
- crop of economic significance is a crop that has contributed or would have contributed at least 5% or more of the total expected revenue from all crops on the farm
- producers in counties declared disaster counties by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties, or those who show proof of an individual loss of at least 50% are eligible to receive SURE payments for crop production or crop quality losses. Losses are measured with consideration to the whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.

A SURE calculator is available at:

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/sure_calculator_2008.xls. The calculator is not

official, but is intended for educational use.

A fact sheet and backgrounder are also available online.

Forage Producers...

If your 2010 acreage report is pretty straight-forward, simply forage and the same fields as in 2009, give us a call and we may be able to complete your reports over the phone, saving you a trip to the office! There is no need to wait; give us a call now, we'll update your report and send it to you for signature. Save the hassle, avoid the traffic, we'll date ourselves by saying "let your fingers do the walking" !

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**

NAP Records

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable. Records need to show crop disposition. We recommend producers submit 2009 production records as soon as harvest is complete. **All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.**

Selected Interest Rates for April 2010		Dates to Remember	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%	On going	2011 Forage Crops
Farm Operating - Direct	2.875%	May 31	Memorial Day – Office Closed
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.00%	June 1	DCP/ACRE Sign-up Closes
Limited Resource	5.00%	June 1	Recons Should be filed
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%	June 14	Flag Day
		June 15	IRS Consent Forms need to be Filed
Emergency	2.875%	June 30	Crop Reports for Small Grains Due
Farm Storage Facility – 7 year	3.125%	July 5	Independence Day – Office Closed
Farm Storage Facility – 10 year	3.625%	July 15	Crop Acreage Reports Due
Farm Storage Facility – 12 year	4.000%	July 15	2009 Production Reports due for NAP
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.375%		

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."