



NEWSLETTER



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

Hours

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

County Committee

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

Upcoming County Committee Meeting Dates

October 13, 2010
November 10, 2010

FSA Staff

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

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Caroline Alves x203
Heather Dorsey x115
Tate Jeffrey x119
Michael Lapointe x118
Danny Peet x202
Norman Smith x117
John Thurgood x204

Natural Resources Conservation District

Justin Kenny x104

VT Association of Conservation Districts

Mark Marsh x206

Reporting Your Crop Production

If you are a participant in the NAP or ACRE programs, you must report your harvest numbers. For ACRE, the production records you submit must come from a 3rd party such as a feed consultant or insurance adjuster. For NAP and ACRE, we must have enough information from you or a 3rd party to calculate your tonnage. For hay, that could mean number and weight of bales, bunker or silo dimensions, wagon loads and tons/wagon. Your report should be submitted in writing. In your report, please include any other information that may affect your average tons per acre such as properties that you reported during acreage reporting but ended up not getting to this year.

2011 ACRE Signup

The enrollment period for the 2011 Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) runs from Oct. 1, 2010 – June 11, 2011. The ACRE program provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price. ACRE payments are made when both state and farm-level triggers are met. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments, receive a 20-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates. The decision to elect ACRE binds the farm to the program through the 2012 crop year.

Planted crops considered eligible for ACRE payments include: wheat, barley, oats, grain sorghum, corn, upland cotton, peanuts, pulse crops (dry peas, lentils, chickpeas or garbanzo beans), rice, soybeans, and other oilseeds (canola, crambe, flaxseed, mustard seed, rapeseed, safflower, sesame seed).

FSA Conservation Loan Program

The Farm Service Agency makes and guarantees conservation loans on farms and ranches to help conserve our natural resources. The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with the credit necessary to implement conservation measures on their land.

The direct CLs loan limit is up to \$300,000 and guaranteed CLs up to \$1,119,000 (amount adjusted for inflation), may be available by applying with lenders working with FSA to obtain a guarantee.

Applicants will work with Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) Staff to develop a conservation plan. Conservation practices must be approved by NRCS before FSA can provide financing. Examples of conservation practices include installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; transitioning to organic production; manure management, including manure digestion systems; etc.

County Committee Elections

Be watching your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters starting on November 5, 2010. If, for some reason, you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office.

This year's election is LAA-1 which includes the towns of Burlington, Colchester, Essex, Milton, S. Burlington, Westford and Winooski.

Completed and signed ballots will be due back in the county office by the close of business on December 6, 2010.

Paper Check Conversion – Over the Counter (PCC – OTC)

Over the next year, FSA/CCC is moving toward an electronic method for processing producers' checks. This will allow FSA/CCC to process collections faster. When producers present checks, either in person or through the mail, the checks will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The funds will be debited from the producer's account, usually within 24 hours of receipt. Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the Service Center or visit the following U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site for detailed information:



<https://www.pccotc.gov/pccotc/pcc/usingpcc/Legal%20Notices/legalnotices.htm> **Note:** FSA/CCC will begin this process in the coming months.

What is PCC – OTC?

PCC – OTC is a process for converting paper checks presented to FSA into electronic debits to the producer's bank account. It presents many benefits, such as reducing lost/misplaced checks and paper handling. This improves customer relations, speeds the check clearing process, and reduces the potential for human error.

How will my checks be handled?

If the check is presented in person, the check will be scanned into the system, voided, and stamped with the words, "Electronically Processed" or "Electronically Presented" and the voided check will be returned to the customer.

If the check is mailed to FSA, the check will be scanned into the system and voided. The customer will not receive the check back from FSA. FSA will hold checks for up to 14 calendar days to ensure that the item was successfully processed, and then FSA will shred the check.

How quickly will funds be transferred from my account?

The transfer of funds from your account could occur within 24 hours. Therefore, you **should** be sure that you have sufficient funds in your account to process the transaction. If you do **not** have sufficient funds, we may initiate the transaction again.

How will this transaction appear on my account statement?

The transfer of funds will be reflected on your account statement. The transaction may be recorded in a different place on your statement than where your checks normally appear, such as under "other withdrawals" or "other transactions".

What are my rights if there is a problem with the transaction?

You have protections under Federal law for an unauthorized electronic fund transfer from your account. You should contact your financial institution immediately if you believe that the transaction reported on your account statement was not properly authorized or is otherwise incorrect.

Welcome Mark Marsh

A Nebraska native, Mark completed undergraduate and graduate degrees in agriculture, economics and natural resource conservation at the University in Lincoln where he researched climate change impacts to agricultural production as well as the adaptive use of agroforestry technologies. He served on the board of the local Natural Resource District and has long been active in rural advocacy through local and national organizations. A Conservation Planner with the Vermont Association of Conservation Districts, he worked for the past two years in the Northwest Zone and has been reassigned to the Central zone to continue his work with farmers to improve water quality and better manage nutrients.

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more that 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov

Acreage Spot Check Determinations and Notification

Each year the Farm Service Agency completes spot checks of acreage reports. Acreage reports are an integral part of farm program participation. Acreage spot checks are completed to ensure accurate acreage reports are used in farm program computations.

FSA will conduct spot checks on a selected number of farms in each state. All acreage determinations will be completed using the FSA Geographic Information System official acreages.

After farms are spot checked, a Notice of Determined Acreage will be sent to the farm operator. Producer notifications will be issued by FSA as spot checks are completed. Questions concerning determined acres should be directed to your local FSA office for further explanation.

Farm Storage Facility Loan

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial payment will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final payment will be made when construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the approved total loan amount.

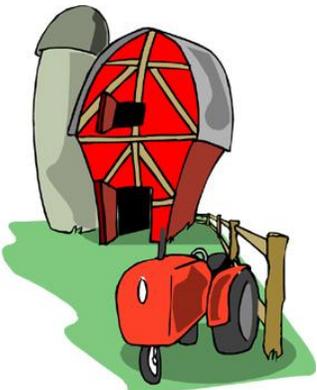
Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

Eligible commodities for the FSFL program include: corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley, minor oilseeds, pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas, hay, renewable biomass, fruits (including nuts) and vegetables.

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov

Welcome Justin Kenney

Justin began as District Manager for the Winooski NRCD during the summer of 2010. He graduated from the University of Vermont in 2003 and has worked in the conservation field for the past four years. He has a strong background in project management and systems design and is hoping to lead the District into new territory with some creative projects and outreach efforts. Originally from Somerset, Massachusetts, Justin now resides in Worcester, Vermont, where he enjoys running on country roads, working in the woods, and spending time with his fiancée Lauren and cat Muffin.



Chittenden/Washington County FSA Office
 1193 S Brownell Rd. STE 35
 Williston, VT 05495-7416
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- **Farm Safety Tips**

- Don't wear loose clothing around moving machine parts like PTOs, or while entering confined spaces such as grain bins, silos and hoppers.
- Use seat belts while operating farm machinery.

- Do not allow additional passengers on the tractor with you.
- Noise is a common factor in farm-related injuries and can lead to hearing loss. Wear ear protection while working around loud noise.
- Be a role model for your children by practicing safety and obeying laws.

Selected Interest Rates for October 2010	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating – Direct	2.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.375%
Limited Resource	5.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility – 7 year	2.125%
Farm Storage Facility – 10 year	2.625%
Farm Storage Facility – 12 year	2.825%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	2.50%

Dates to Remember	
Oct. 11	Columbus Day – Office Closed
Oct 30	Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Deadline
Nov. 5	County Committee Election Ballots mailed to voters
Nov. 11	Veterans Day –Office Closed
Nov. 20	NAP Fees Due – 2011 Mixed Forage & Perennials, Fruit trees, bushes & grains
Nov. 25	Thanksgiving Day – Office Closed
Ongoing	MILC, FSFL & CREP
Dec 1	NAP Fees Due - Honey
Jan 1, 2011	NAP Fees Due – Maple Sap

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