



Franklin-Grand Isle County FSA

27 Fisher Pond Rd.,
Suite 2
St. Albans, VT 05478

Phone: (802) 527-1296
(800) 717-8637
Fax: (802) 524-4575
www.fsa.usda.gov

Hours

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

Farm Service Agency County Committee

Maurice Fortin, Chairperson
Madonne Rainville, Vice Chairperson
Dwight Bullis, Member
Andrew Brouillette, Member
Diane McGarry, Member

**NOTE: COC meets 3rd
Thursday each month at 11:00**

County Executive Director

Brenda Ladue (ext. 106)

Staff

Carolyn Church, P.T. (ext.109)
Tracy Derry, P.T. (ext. 124)
Luc Dupuis, P.T. (ext. 105)
George Godin, P.T. (ext. 107)
Marguerite Noel, P.T. (ext. 100)
Dorothy Perkins, P.T. (ext. 113)

Loan Manager

Dirk Reith (ext. 110)

Loan Officers

Brad Parker (ext. 112)
Liz Vesosky (ext. 111)

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Angela L. Biggs, D.C. (ext.118)
Joanne Yousten, S.C. (ext. 115)
Sarah Larose, S.C. (ext. 127)
Diane Ladue, C.T. (ext. 121)
Roslyn Odum, Ag. Eng. (ext.
128)
Ann Lansberry, C. E.T. (116)

Natural Resources Conservation District

Renaë Masse, Manager (ext.
119)
Agricultural Land Treatment &
Conservation Planners:
Carla Fenner (ext.117)
Trevor Lewis (ext.120)
Mark Marsh (ext. 126)

Vermont Agency of Ag. Staff

Ben Gabos, CREP Planner,
(ext. 122)
Greg Bouchard, Civil Engineer,
(ext. 114)

Obama Administration Names Robert Paquin to Serve as State Executive Director for the USDA Farm Service Agency in Vermont

Robert Paquin has been working in Senator Leahy's Washington and Vermont offices since 1977. He is currently Senator Leahy's Legislative Assistant for Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment. Paquin was involved in the five Farm Bills dating back to 1985 and co-drafted legislation addressing forestry and Lake Champlain and related issues. He was born and raised in Vermont and attended the University of Vermont for both his undergraduate and graduate degrees

DCP & ACRE Enrollment Deadline

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been extended until August 14, 2009. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications. Signup in the ACRE option is also available through August 14, 2009. County office employees cannot make recommendations on whether you should sign up for ACRE, so it is important that producers read available information to make an informed decision.

"ACRE" program information can be found on the Web by going to www.fsa.usda.gov, and type in the word **acre** under FSA Search, then click on associated articles or call our office to request a fact sheet. The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is a new program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill. The ACRE program signup began April 27, 2009 and runs through **August 14, 2009**. 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.

Producers who elect the ACRE program for a farm agree to:

- ✓ Forgo counter-cyclical payments
- ✓ Accept a 20-percent reduction of the direct payments; and
- ✓ Accept a 30-percent reduction in loan rates for all commodities produced on the farm.

Commodities eligible for ACRE payments include wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, soybeans, sunflower seed, canola, flaxseed, safflower, mustard seed, rapeseed, sesame seed, crambe, dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas and large chickpeas, and additional crops. Please call the county office for further details.

2010 Nursery Crop Year and Application Closing Date

FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) application closing date for nursery crops is **September 1, 2009**. When low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occurs due to natural disaster, NAP can provide financial assistance.

The NAP coverage period and NAP year for 2010 nursery crops has been changed to June 1, 2009, through May 31, 2010. However, the 2010 NAP coverage will be retroactive to June 1, 2009. For those producers who obtained 2009 NAP coverage for nursery, and choose not to obtain 2010 continuous coverage, the 2009 NAP coverage for nursery will continue until September 30, 2009.

NAP coverage may be continued for each subsequent year for the same crop or crops, if the producer pays the applicable service fee by the next year's application closing date. To apply for continuous coverage, producers must pay the applicable service fee before the application closing date. Producers considered as limited resource are not subject to annual fees. Eligible producers must apply for coverage of noninsurable crops and pay the applicable service fees at their local FSA office. The service fee is the lesser of \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1.875 per producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

Contact your local office for more information or at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Dates to Remember

MILC Extended Phase:

Jan. 22, 2009-Sept. 20, 2009

Acreage Reporting Deadline

Aug. 14, 2009

DCP/ACRE Sign up Deadline

August 14, 2009

NAP 2010 Deadline for

Nursery Crops Sept. 1,

Office Closed Sept.7, in

observance of Labor Day



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August 2009

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Change Service Requested

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Help available to Stressed Farmers

In the past year, the economy, inclement weather, declining milk prices and other factors have affected many farming operations around the country. These events pushed some farmers to the emotional breaking point. Watching their livelihood being threatened is difficult for farmers and for those who care about them.

The National Suicide Prevention Hotline is available to help. If you know a farmer who is under stress and is reluctant to ask for help, or if you just need to talk to someone, call **1-800-273-TALK (8255)**. Your call will be routed to the crisis center nearest you, where trained staffers are available 24/7. This nationwide service is free and confidential. Also, another local source for help, call the *Farmer's hotline*. 1-800-639-2130 (St. Albans). Help is just a phone call away. For more information go to <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>. This service is not affiliated with USDA.

Compliance Spot Checks

Compliance spot checks will be conducted on 2009 crops. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for review, a nation-wide selection of producers is employed. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, etc. State and County Offices shall view and print their producer spot check lists according to posted instructions. 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 spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact this office for additional clarification.

Changes to Description on Bank Statements of Direct Deposit Payees

Beginning August 3, 2009, FSA/CCC payments made by direct deposit will be transmitted by Kansas City to the Department of Treasury. This allows FSA to be compliant with the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (DCIA), which requires that Federal payments be processed through the Treasury Offset Program (TOP), so that any delinquent Federal debt can be offset. As a result of this processing change, direct deposit payments may be credited to the recipient's account 1 day later than under the existing payment schedule.

Currently, the description on the payee's bank statement reads "USDA-FSAKCMOCDSF". After August 3, 2009, the description on the bank statement will read, "FSA TREAS 310" for all payments that are disbursed by Treasury.

If there are questions about a TOP offset, the payee may call the TOP Call Center at 1-800-304-3107 to obtain the contact information for the offsetting agency. The TOP Call Center only has access to provide the name of the offsetting agency and their contact information. The payee will need to call the offsetting agency to determine the origination of the debt.

