



January 2011

Orleans County News

Farm Service Agency

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Newport, VT 05855-4877

334-6090-Phone
1-866-241-2190 Toll Free Phone
334-1365-Fax

Hours

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

County Committee

Doug Lawson
Donna Hammond
Andrew DelaBruere

COC meets 2nd Wednesday of each month.

NRCS District

Dayna Cole, Dist Mgr X18
Sarah Damsell, ARS X20
Dee Nault
Paul Daniels, Chair
Bill Lawson, Vice Chair
Richard Delfavero, Treasurer
William Ryan
Darryl Mongeon

NRCS Staff

David Blodgett, DC X25
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Brenda MacDonald-Kuper, SC X21
Marybeth Whitten, SC X22
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Loan Staff

Brian Kuper, FLM X14
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Dorcas McAllister, FLO X15
Meghan DuBois, FLO X17
Angela Goodridge, FLOT X12
Ryan Howrigan, FLOT X19
Cheryl Smith, PT X13
Stephanie Ostiguy, PT X11

Program Staff

William Putnam, CED X28
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Laurie Locke, PT X16
Brock Columbia, PT X26



Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office directly or by phone.

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Andrew DelaBruere. Andrew was elected to represent farmers from LAA #3, which represents the towns of Derby, Holland, Morgan, Charleston, Brownington and Westmore on the county committee. There were a total of 67 votes received from eligible voters in LAA #3. Andrew was elected to his first term on the County Committee. Eric Daggett and Lori Before were elected 1st and 2nd alternates, respectively.

The County Committee thanks voters for their participation in the election. The County Committee system works only because of your voter participation. In addition, please join the Committee in our thanks to Scott Birch for nine years of dedication as a Committee member. By statute, members can serve a maximum of nine consecutive years.

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information.

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.

Civil Rights Complaint Process

Any person, class or group of persons may file a discrimination complaint within 180 days of an alleged discriminatory action. Complaints may be filed in writing or orally. To file a complaint of Discrimination, write to 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. Assistance in filing a complaint can be obtained by calling or visiting any FSA office.

Year End Reviews

Producers that have a farm loan with FSA are reminded they must provide data for their Year End Analysis (YEA) to their loan officer each year. Borrowers are urged to provide this information timely so their files can be maintained.

Youth Loans

Remember FSA makes operating loans to individual rural youths age 10 through 20 to establish and operate income producing projects. These projects must be of modest size and be initiated, developed and carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H Clubs, FFA, or a similar organization or with a vocational teacher or county extension agent. The project must be an organized and supervised program of work. It must be planned and operated with the assistance of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

Producers who carried NAP insurance in 2010 for Hay, Maple or other non-insurable crops are **required to provide production records**. The deadline for this crop production reporting requirement is the final crop reporting date for the crop for the following year; hay is July 15, 2011; maple sap is February 15, 2011. Timely reporting of production records during the winter months to FSA would be greatly appreciated as this would allow sufficient time to update individual yield records. FSA requires that any production reported in a loss year be verifiable according to Agency specifications. NAP Losses must be reported within 15 days of loss.

The noninsured crop disaster assistance program (NAP) is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop's application closing date. For hay crops, this date is Nov 20th of the preceding crop year. For maple sap, this date is Jan 3, 2011 for the upcoming maple season.

In addition to providing insurance coverage on non-insurable crops, an important value of NAP coverage is that it is required to be eligible to participate in disaster programs such as SURE and ELAP.

Applications for FSA Loans

Farmers and ranchers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Filing early will help ensure that your loan is processed and approved as early as possible so that planting decisions can be made.

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their 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.

Selling Land

If you are planning to sell farmland, there may be some program consequences you should be aware of. For example, if you are planning to sell land that is enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment or you may be obligated to refund all payments you have received to date. Reviewing program rules with your local FSA staff before completing a sale is always prudent.

Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program 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 program. (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 to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

2011 DCP and ACRE Program - Enrollment for farms with bases continues through June 1, 2011. Eligible producers may request an advance DCP direct payment of 22 percent of the total payment for each commodity associated with the farm.

2010 NAP Production Reports Due - If you purchased a \$250 per crop NAP policy for the 2010 crop year, you are required to submit a harvested 2010 production report as soon as possible. Deadlines are: Hay crop by 7/15/11 and maple sap by 2/15/11.

Maple Sap Acreage Reporting Due - Acreage reporting (number of taps) for 2011 is due by February 15, 2011

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance - Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan. Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments

Bank Account Changes - Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers. ***It's very important that you realize you have the responsibility to notify FSA of any change to your direct deposit account!***

Customer Statement - January signals the beginning of a new year, and a time to starting thinking about filing taxes. Producers who have signed up for a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account will be able to access their farm data via their Customer Statement. The Customer Statement puts a range of USDA services and programs into a single report that's at your fingertips and available online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

It allows USDA customers to view their participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation programs; information on farm loans; and conservation plan and land unit information.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program - Farmers are able to take advantage of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) by signing up under continuous sign up provisions. CREP will reimburse farmers for retiring cropland or pastureland adjacent to streams, ponds and rivers by establishing buffers and similar conservation practices. Program participants will receive annual rental payments, cost-share assistance, and other financial incentives for 10, 15 or 30 year contracts for installing and maintaining forested riparian buffers or grass filter strips. The buffers and filter strips are narrow in width so contract acreage is minimal, BUT, payments are substantial to provide an attractive incentive. CRP annual rental payments vary from \$60/ac to \$130/ac and are doubled with the CREP program. In addition, sign up bonuses vary from \$100/ac to \$2055/ac. For more information about CREP call 334-6090 or stop by the FSA office.

Farming Operation Changes

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have added or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

IRS Form 1099-G

Producers annually receive CCC-1099-Gs detailing payments producers have received from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The annual report of program payments on CCC-1099-Gs is a service intended to help our customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the producers' responsibilities to report income to IRS.

FSA staff cannot interpret IRS regulations or advise producers about which payments to report on their income tax returns. However, county office staff can review payments for accuracy.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure 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 percent 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.