



NEWSLETTER



Rutland Sevice Center

170 S Main St STE 4
Rutland, VT 05701-4559
802-775-8034
800-300-6927 (VT)
802-773-4177 (FAX)

Hours

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

County Committee

David Seward, Chair
Richard Sheldon, Vice Chair
Richard P Browe
Karl Strohmaier
Clifton Cressy Sr.

Minority Advisor

Cristine Carabeau

Upcoming COC Meeting Dates

November 17, 2010
December 9, 2010

Staff

Diane Heleba, PT X 10
Marge Christy, PT X 12
Michelle Smith, SCEP X 13

Co. Executive Director

Phyllis L Torrey X 11

Farm Loan Staff

1-888-408-3783

Gary Braman
David Girard
Jill Cioffi-Thomas

NRCS Staff

Jennifer Varin, DC X 14
Steve Pytlík X 18
Sally Eugair X 16
Les Wright X 23
Corinne Matarese X 21
Carla Fenner X 26

Rutland NRCD

Nanci McGuire X 17

Poultney-Mettowee NRCD

Marli Rupe 287-8339

Bennington NRCD

Shelly Stiles 442-2275

Changing Banks

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit.

To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

NAP Deadline

The final date to purchase Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for native and improved grass for hay, grazing or seed use is **Friday, November 19, 2010**.

Limited resource producers may request a waiver for service fees.

In order to be eligible for the permanent disaster programs producers must purchase NAP coverage.

2011 ACRE Signup

The Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. In exchange for participating in ACRE, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20 percent, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30 percent.

The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.

The June 1, 2011, deadline is mandatory for all participants. FSA will not accept late-filed applications.

Farm Loan Year End Reviews

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

Applications for FSA Farm Loan Assistance 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. Failure to apply early may result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications. Contact your local FSA Farm Loan representative for more details and assistance in applying.

Operating Loan Applications

Farmers that plan to apply for annual operating loan assistance are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. Farmers should contact their local FSA office for information.

Selling Land

If you're planning to sell farmland, there may be some program consequences you should be aware of. For example, if you're planning to sell land that's enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer doesn't want to continue the CRP contract, you may be obligated to refund all of the payments you've received to date. Reviewing program rules with your local FSA staff **before** completing a sale of farmland is always prudent.

Voting for County Committee Begins

Ballots for this year's county committee election will be mailed to eligible voters on **November 5, 2010**. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the FSA county office by the close of business on **December 6, 2010**. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 6, 2010. **Be sure to sign your ballot.**

The candidates in this year's election are:

LAA 2:

- * Laurie Bertrand, Sudbury
- * Kevin Kingsley, Florence
- * David Parker, Chittenden

LAA 4:

- * Richard Browe, Rupert
- * Scott Cleveland, Wells
- * Suzanne Depeyster, Sandgate
- * Phyllis Mason, Pawlet

Towns holding elections are:

LAA 2: Brandon, Chittenden, Killington, Mendon, Pittsfield, Pittsford, Proctor, Rutland, Sudbury and West Rutland

LAA 4: Danby, Dorset, Landgrove, Manchester, Mount Tabor, Pawlet, Peru, Rupert, Sandgate, and Winhall

Eligible voters in these areas, who have **not** received a ballot should contact the FSA county office at 802 775-8034 or 1-800-300-6927.

Voter Requirements Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, are eligible to vote:

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either of the following an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper, *or* a partner in a general partnership or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper; *or*
2. Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; *and*
3. Eligible to participate in any FSA program that is provided by law, regardless of the status of funding.

Discrimination Prohibited No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

Dates to Remember	
Nov. 5	County committee ballots mailed to LAA's 2 & 4 voters
Nov. 11	Veterans Day – Office Closed
Nov. 20	NAP Fees Due - 2011 Mixed forage, Perennials & Fruit trees
Nov. 25	Thanksgiving Day – Office Closed
Dec. 6	COC Ballots to be returned or postmarked
Dec. 24	Christmas – Office Closed
Dec. 31	New Year's Day- Office Closed
Jan 1	NAP Fees due - Honey & Maple Sap
Jan 1	New COC Members Term Begins
Ongoing	Conservation Reserve Program/ CREP
	Farm Storage Facility Loan
	Milk Income Loss Contract

Visit our Web site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/VT>

Paper Check Conversion (PCC)

Over the next year, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) are 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>

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. Be a role model for your children by practicing safety and obeying laws.
- Noise is a common factor in farm-related injuries and can lead to hearing loss. Wear ear protection while working around loud noise.



Emergency Loans Available Secretarial Designation

Rutland and Bennington County farmers who suffered significant damage due to unseasonably late frost and freezing that occurred from April 28 through May 17 may be eligible for low-interest emergency loans from the Farm Service Agency if they are unable to obtain financing from any other source. These loans carry an interest rate of 3.75 percent. Producers may also qualify for Small Business Administration (SBA) loans.

Production Losses: Eligible farmers may also use emergency loan funds to recover a portion of losses on growing crops that were destroyed.

Loan applications will be accepted at the Middlebury FSA office through September 30, 2011.

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 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.

The U.S. Dept of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of 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, political beliefs, genetic information, 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, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."