



May 1, 2009

Windham County News

Windham County USDA Service Center

28 Vernon St., Ste 331
Brattleboro Vt. 05301
802 245-9766 phone
802 254 3307 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov

Hours

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

County Committee

Jill Adams Mancivalano-
Chairperson
Charles Robb Jr. -Vice
Arnold Fisher-Member

County Committee meets
2nd Tuesday of the Month

Staff

County Executive Director
Julie Jacque (x107)
Julie.Jacque@vt.usda.gov

Farm Loan Staff

George Button, Jr. FLM
802-295-7942 x15
800-789-6713
George.button@vt.usda.gov

George is in Windham Co.
Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of
the month or by appoint-
ment

NRCS Staff

Lance Gorham x101
Lance.gorham@vt.usda.gov

NRC District Staff

Jolene Hamilton, Mgr.x104
Sylvia Harris x105



Sodbuster, Swampbuster

Most Farm Service Agency programs require compliance with sodbuster and swampbuster provisions. These provisions require producers to follow an approved conservation system on all highly erodible land planted to an annual crop as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service

Be sure to have determinations made on any new land you plan to plant to annual crops. If you plan to plant a different crop on your current cropland, check with NRCS to assure the new crop will qualify under your conservation system.

Swampbuster provisions state that converting a wetland to make possible the planting of a crop will result in the loss of all USDA benefits. To avoid this possibility it is strongly recommended that producers check with NRCS before starting to work in the fields.

Disaster Buy-In Waiver Extension

Producers who did not obtain crop insurance or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for 2008 can pay a buy-in fee through May 18, 2009, to become eligible for 2008 disaster assistance programs authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

Farmers have an additional opportunity to become eligible for several programs if they suffered 2008 agricultural losses due to natural disaster.

If you have not already taken the necessary steps to become eligible for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP), and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP), you are required to complete the following steps by May 18, 2009:

- Pay a \$100 "buy-in" fee per crop. The maximum fee is \$300 per county, per producer, not to exceed \$900 for multi-county producers.
- In the case of each insurable crop, excluding grazing land, agree to obtain a policy or plan of insurance for the next insurance year for which crop insurance is available; coverage level should equal 70 percent or more of the yield at 100 percent of the price.
- In the case of each noninsurable crop, agree to file the required paperwork and pay the applicable administrative NAP coverage fee by the applicable state application closing date for the next available year.

Those who choose to "buy in" under this provision will be considered, for insured crops, to have obtained a policy or plan of insurance for the 2008 crop year at a level of coverage not to exceed 70 percent of the yield at 100 percent of the price. For noninsurable crops, producers will be considered to have a level of coverage equal to 70 percent of the yield. These levels of coverage will be used to calculate the 2008 SURE guarantee.

Producers who meet the definition of "Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource," or "Beginning Farmer or Rancher," are not required to pay the buy-in fee.

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

The Windham County sign-up period for ECP ended April 30. This is an extension of the previous deadline due to the program division granting funds for EC7 Restoration/Replacement of Taps and Tubing. ECP was initially approved for Windham County in February for damages occurring from the December 11-12, 2008 Ice Storm. Currently, our requests for funding have exceeded the allotment. We have requested additional monies from Congress in an attempt to fill all requests. As producers your voices are heard legislatively, feel free to contact your representatives to let them know how this storm has affected you and Windham County.

Also remember to submit your final expenses as soon as possible.

DCP / ACRE

Signup has started for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program and continues until August 14, 2009. This deadline is mandatory for all participants. FSA will not accept late-filed applications.

FSA 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 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. FSA will issue advance direct payments later this month. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

Producers eligible for the DCP Program are also able to enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program. ACRE is a new program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill that begins in crop year 2009. Through ACRE, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers producers an alternative to Direct and Counter-cyclical (DCP) payments. 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.

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. ACRE sign-up dates will be announced soon so a producer can choose to participate in ACRE, or stay with DCP.

If you elect to enroll in the ACRE program, you must remain in the ACRE program until the expiration of the 2008 Farm Bill – you cannot change back to the DCP program once that change has been made.

Acresage Reporting

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

Failed acresage 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.

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

Acresage 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 acresage being reported.

CREP & Continuous CRP Available

At this time USDA is enrolling environmentally sensitive acresage qualifying for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and Continuous CRP. These targeted programs remain funded, and continue to provide a heightened environmental benefit on select areas.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Farm Storage Needed? — April interest rate is 2.5%.

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, soybeans and corn. (Storage for haylage is not eligible at this time) The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. For details, contact the county office staff.

NAP Production Reporting

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.**

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers & Ranchers

FSA has a program to assist 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 than 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.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center or you may also visit 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 available now. 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. Loan funds can be made available. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner. Most of our loan programs have special funding available for minority, female and beginning farmers. 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.

Dates to Remember

<u>May 18</u>	NAP 2008 Buy-in deadline
<u>May 25</u>	Memorial Day – Office closed
<u>June 30</u>	Acreage reporting deadline for small grains
<u>July 3</u>	Independence Day (observed) – Office closed
<u>July 15</u>	Acreage reporting deadline for all other crops
<u>Aug 14</u>	DCP enrollment deadline
<u>Ongoing</u>	Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL) Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
<u>Continues</u>	Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) sign-up

Rural Youth Loans

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (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, 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. Contact the FSA office or George Button, Farm Loan Manager, for more details.