



Windham County News

Windham County USDA Service Center

28 Vernon St.
Suite 331
Brattleboro Vt. 05301
802 254-9766 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, Chair
Charles Robb Jr., Vice Chair
Arnold Fisher, Member

County Committee meets
2nd Tuesday of the Month

Staff

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

Program Technician
Dana Ruppert (x100)
Dana.Ruppert@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 appointment

NRCS Staff

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

NRC District Staff

Jolene Hamilton, Mgr.x104
Sylvia Harris x105

Julie's Notes

Please join me in welcoming our new program technician, Dana Ruppert. She started in the office on May 26. She is very interested in agriculture and I am very pleased to have her on staff. Note her contact info on the left.

We remain busy administering the MILC payments. Software glitches continue to be a challenge, but we have paid out over \$200,000 to our county dairy farmers.

Emergency Conservation Program funds are quickly being exhausted. Submit your completed work as soon as you are finished. We are still waiting in anticipation for additional funds to continue paying losses due to the ice storm. Thank you to those who have been active in contacting your local representatives to keep them aware of the need. Please feel free to continue with those efforts.

We are working with Franklin County FSA in Greenfield, MA to arrange a twilight meeting to present the ACRE program. If you are still growing corn or any other commodity crop, you may want to consider the options of the ACRE program versus DCP. The date is to be confirmed, but we are looking at the first full week of July.

Another reminder is CROP REPORTING. Any and all acres should be reported by July 15. Consider using this crop reporting process for your other certifications, like NOFA, crop insurance, or anything.

2009 County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to FSA County Committees is important to farmers and ranchers of any size operation, whether long-established or just beginning. County Committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Committee members help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level and assist in the decision-making that is necessary to administer programs in their counties.

There are three County Committee members elected to serve each of Windham County's three Local Administrative Areas, or LAAs. Members serve for a three-year term. This year's election is for LAA #1, which includes the towns of: **Athens, Brookline, Grafton, Putney, Townsend, Rockingham and Westminster.**

Candidate Eligibility --To hold office as a County Committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate
- Not have been:
 - Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
 - Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of
 - fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
 - Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

Nominations - Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates. Nominations will be accepted from **June 15 through Aug. 3, 2009.**

To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected, and returned to the FSA county office by the close of business on Aug. 3, or postmarked by midnight Aug. 3.

A nomination form (FSA-669A) is included in this newsletter. Additional forms and details may be picked up at our office or downloaded from:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under News & Events/County Committee Elections.





Crop Reporting Reminder

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of FSA programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

The certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The producer certification deadline is **June 30 for small grains** and **July 15 for all other crops**.

Planting Dates – Please keep track of your planting dates as these are needed when you certify your crop acreage. Those dates are helpful to you in the event of a disaster program. Planting dates are required for farmers enrolled in NAP and crop insurance.

CRP & NAP Certification - Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Prevented Planting - Prevented planting is to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

Failed Acreage - Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

Loan Applications Being Accepted for New Agricultural Stimulus Financing

Vermont farmers may apply immediately for the new agricultural stimulus financing available through VEDA's farm lending program, the Vermont Agricultural Credit Corporation (VACC). VACC has up to \$6 million in low-interest financing available, made possible by \$1 million in federal economic stimulus funds from VT's share of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The new loan funding is available to help farmers with this season's operational costs-feed, seed, fertilizer or other needs, or to refinance prior years' operating costs. The

stimulus financing has a variable rate, now at 2%. The term for the financing is generally 2 year and the maximum loan amount is \$100,000.

To learn more, VT farmers in need of financing are encouraged to speak with one of VACC's experienced farm lenders by calling 1-866-828-3276. Detailed information about the program is available at www.veda.org.

DCP and ACRE Sign UP

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**.

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is a new program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill. Under the ACRE Program, eligible producers may receive revenue-based payments as an alternative to receiving price-based counter-cyclical payments.

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

Only farms with commodity base acres may participate in the ACRE Program. Farms that are already enrolled in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) may elect to switch to ACRE before the end of signup.

Commodities eligible for ACRE payments include wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, soybeans, sunflower seed, canola, flaxseed, safflower, mustard seed, rapeseed, sesame seed, cranberries, dry peas, lentils, small and large chickpeas.

More information and an ACRE calculator spreadsheet is located on the FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> under the heading titled Direct and Counter Cyclical Program/ACRE.

DATES TO REMEMBER

6/15/09 County Committee nomination opens

6/30/09 Acreage reporting deadline for small grains

7/03/09 Independence Day (observed) – Office closed

7/15/09 Acreage reporting deadline for all other crops

8/3/09 County Committee nomination deadline

8/14/09 Enrollment deadline for DCP / ACRE programs

11/6/09 County Committee ballots mailed to eligible voters

Ongoing

Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) sign-up

Loans for Beginning Farmers

Loan Assistance for annual operating costs, equipment, livestock, bridge loans for projects, etc.





FSA Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- A married woman shall sign her given name: Mrs. Mary Doe, not Mrs. John Doe
- For a minor, FSA requires the minor's signature and one from an eligible parent
** Note, by signing the applicable document, the parent is liable for actions of the minor and may be liable for refunds, liquidated damages, etc.**
- When signing on one's behalf the signature must agree with the name typed or printed on the form, or be a variation that does not cause the name and signature to be in disagreement. Example - John W. Smith is on the form. The signature may be John W. Smith or J.W. Smith or J. Smith. Or Mary J. Smith may be signed as Mrs. Mary Joe Smith, M.J. Smith, Mary Smith, etc
- FAXED signatures will be accepted for certain forms and other documents provided the acceptable program forms are approved for FAXED signatures. Producers are responsible for the successful transmission and receipt of FAXED information.

Examples of documents **not** approved for FAXED signatures include:

- Promissory note
- Assignment of payment
- Joint payment authorization
- NAP actual production history and approved yield record
- Acknowledgement of commodity certificate purchase
- Financing statement
- UCC financing statement
- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities
- All members of a general partnership must sign for the general partnership unless an individual is authorized to act on the behalf of the general partnership and bind all members
- Spouses may sign on behalf of each other's individual interest in a partnership, unless notification denying a spouse that authority is provided to the county office
- Acceptable signatures for general partner-

ships, joint ventures, corporations, estates, and trusts shall consist of an indicator "by" or "for" the individual's name, individual's name and capacity, or individual's name, capacity, and name of entity

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.

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. If you want a crop loan, a power of attorney form will need to be completed for husband and wife, if both do not come into the office to sign the forms on the day the loan is disbursed.

Special Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

Farm Loan Interest Rates for June

Farm Operating – Direct	2.25%
Farm Ownership – Direct.....	4.25%
Farm Ownership – Direct, Joint Financing.....	5.00%
Farm Ownership – Down Payment.....	1.50%
Emergency Loan – Amount of Actual Loss.....	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loan CCC-185.....	2.625%

UPCOMING EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

Horse Manure Composting Workshop

Composting is good for the health of your horse, your land, and your pocketbook. Ag. Resources Specialist Sylvia Harris will cover the what, where & why's of composting, special formulas, compost bin construction and answer any questions.

Date: Mon. 6/22

Time: 6:00 - 8:30pm

Where: Elm Lea Farm at Putney School, 418 Houghton Brook Rd, Putney

Cost: \$25 inc. a 'local food' dinner

Contact:

Windham County NRCD
Jolene Hamilton, District Mgr
802-254-5323 x104 or
Jolene.hamilton@vt.nacdnet.net

Registration required by June 15th. Credits for Master Gardeners and Master Composter programs are available.

Windham County FSA Office
28 Vernon St., STE 331
Brattleboro, VT 05301



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