

Windham County News

Windham County USDA Service Center

28 Vernon St.
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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

Windham County welcomes Bob Paquin to the helm of our agency. Bob seems very receptive to the "open-door" policy and we look forward to working with him.

Our office also had the pleasure of a summer intern, Rebecca Roa, from Virginia. She was extremely helpful and she had the pleasure of working with some of you.

A few things to highlight and direct your attention towards:

* Changes pertaining to eligible crops for farm storage loans. The program now includes HAY crops, along with some others, but that has been a request for many years. The program has also extended the loan term. Read more below or call.

* For crop disaster, now called SURE, you need to have insurance, either FCIC or NAP in place. Check with the office for any questions or inquiries- Don't miss out.

* ELAP-Emergency Livestock Assistance Program also requires insurance. This program covers additional livestock feed costs as we have done in the past. There will be more to come as we have training this week.

As always, please give us a call or stop by the office. We have a number of changes and new programs as the farm bill continues to roll out.

Biomass Crop Assistance Program

Biomass Conversion Facilities can begin signing up to participate in the Biomass Conversion Assistance Program (BCAP), which is designed to help increase production of renewable energy. BCAP, authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill, provides financial assistance to producers who deliver eligible material to biomass conversion facilities. FSA will provide financial assistance to collect, harvest, store and transport (CHST) eligible materials.

Through the CHST matching payment program, eligible material producers will be provided payments at a rate of \$1 for each \$1 per dry ton received from a qualified biomass conversion facility, not to exceed \$45 per dry ton. The program will be available to eligible material owners for a period of two years.

Biomass conversion facilities and material producers may become "qualified" by submitting an application to their FSA office. Once a facility becomes qualified, eligible material owners or producers who

deliver biomass to that facility may be eligible to receive CHST payments.

New State Executive Director for Vermont FSA

The Obama administration named Robert Paquin to serve as the State Executive Director (SED) for the Farm Service Agency in Vermont. Robert Paquin has been working in Senator Leahy's Washington and Vermont offices since 1977. He was most recently 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.



Farm Storage Facility Loan Changes

The Farm Storage Facility Loan program was implemented by the 2008 Farm Bill and is administered by the USDA's Farm Service Agency and the Community Credit Corporation (CCC) to allow producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

CCC will provide 85% of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling facility and participants are required to provide the remaining 15% as a down payment. The maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Loan terms are of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan.

An eligible borrower must be a person who is a landowner, landlord, leaseholder, tenant, or sharecropper who produces an eligible facility loan commodity, demonstrates a storage need based on the borrower's three-year-average acreage and share production (minus any current

UPCOMING EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

9/14/09

A Walk Through Pastured-Farm Leasing

**Maple Wind Farm
Huntington, VT**

Look at the opportunities and challenges of using leased land for pasture-based farming, with Bruce Hennessey of Maple Wind Farm. Bruce and his crew operate a diversified livestock farm at three locations, one owned and two leased.

Contact: Jenn Colby
UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture
(802)656-0858
jcolby@uvm.edu

9/18/09

Forage Field Day & Pasture Condition In-Service at VT Technical College

Randolph, VT

Sessions include assessing good pasture management through pasture condition scoring, evaluating pasture species mixtures from first year results of a Northeast SARE project, and more. Bring lunch, refreshments provided.

Cost: Free

Contact: Jenn Colby
(802)656-0585

9/26 – 9/28/09

NE Animal Power Field Day

Tunbridge, VT

For more information visit:
www.animalpowerfielddays.org

9/26/09

Game of Logging

**Windham Co. Conservation District
Newfane, VT**

Hands-on training designed for novice to advanced chain saw users who have never had formal training. Participants receive individualized coaching and personal feed back at a series of in-the-woods practice sessions. Class is for women only and is limited to 10 participants.

Cost: \$150

Contact: Jolene Hamilton
Windham Co. Conservation District
(802)254-5323

storage available) and provides proof of multi-peril crop insurance from the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIP) or a private company for the life of the loan. For more information about eligibility requirements visit

http://fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsfl09.pdf.

For a complete list of eligible commodities, facilities, and upgrades visit <http://www.usda.gov> and <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE)

SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster. It is the 2008 Farm Bill's successor to the prior Ad Hoc Crop Disaster Programs also known as the CDP or Crop Disaster Programs. Unlike the prior USDA Disaster Programs, SURE is legislated through 2011.

Eligible Farms:

SURE payments are available to producers on farms that:

- are located in a county covered by a qualifying natural disaster declaration (USDA Secretarial Declarations only) or a contiguous county

OR

- the actual production is less than 50% of the normal production.

In order to receive payments, the farm must suffer at least a 10% eligible production loss on at least one crop of economic significance.

Eligible Producers & Risk Management Purchase Requirement (RMPR)

For a producer to be eligible for the SURE Program, all of the farming operation's crops (planted or intended) that are of economic significance must be covered by either Federal Crop Insurance (CI) or FSA's Non-Insurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage. Coverage must also be obtained for other crops for which CI or NAP is available, such as nursery, honey, aquaculture, and floriculture. However, Statute does not require coverage for grazed crops for the SURE.

Producers were given the opportunity to buy into the RMPR until January 12, 2009, for crops that had a closing date before August 14, 2008 and for which crop insurance was not purchased. The administrative fee was \$250 per crop. **Equitable relief may be granted on a case-by-case basis to eligible producers that failed to meet the 2009 RMPR.**

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)

Producers or legal entities whose average adjusted

gross income exceeds \$2.5 million shall not be eligible for benefit payments unless 75% or more of the income is from agriculture.

Payment Calculation:

Producers with qualifying losses are eligible to receive 60% of the difference between the SURE Disaster Program Guarantee and the actual Farm Revenue.

Disaster Program Guarantee

The guarantee is determined by totaling the calculated guarantee for each crop. For insured crops, the guarantee is based on the level of coverage the producer has elected. Higher levels of coverage will result in higher crop guarantees. For NAP crops, the guarantee is based on a formula that includes the yield, acreage, and price factors. The formula is provided in the example on the back page. The farm's Disaster Program guarantee cannot exceed 90% of the expected revenue for the farm.

Total Farm Revenue

Included in the Total Farm Revenue calculation are estimated crop value, CI indemnities, NAP payments, Market Assistance Loan proceeds, other disaster payments, DCP payments (15% of direct payments, plus cc payments and ACRE payments.)

SURE Calculator:

To assist farmers and ranchers in evaluating their options with SURE, USDA has created a SURE Calculator. Note that to qualify for SURE; producers need to obtain CI or NAP on all crops in all counties in all states. To utilize the Calculator, visit the website www.fsa.usda.gov, click on the Farm Bill banner and look under "Tools".

Please note that the calculator and instructions linked on the FSA website are for informational purposes only. This calculator in no way binds FSA to potential payments under SURE and should not be relied on as the sole source of information to make final management decisions.

Notice to all Farm Program Participants

Beginning August 3, 2009, all payments made by direct deposit to FSA farm program participants will take a one day detour thru the Department of Treasury. This will allow FSA to become compliant with the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996. Any participant receiving payment who has delinquent Federal debt will have the payment withheld to help satisfy that debt. All payments not withheld will be credited to the participant's account the following day. This process should have minimal affect on the availability of earned funds for most of our customers.



Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

The application deadline date for the 2010 NAP coverage for forage and perennial crops is November 20, 2009.

Blueberries, Raspberries, Rhubarb, Strawberries, mixed hay, alfalfa, pastures, etc.- are all due by Nov. 20.

If applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date, producers who had coverage for 2009 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2010. Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports
- To keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.

VT Department of Labor Provides Paid Training to Unemployed Farmers

The Vermont Department of Labor (VDOL) announced training opportunities for farmers who become unemployed due to general economic conditions. Eligible farmers are given vouchers for training support under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) as dislocated workers. Generally training is paid for up to the Associate's level.

Farmers interested in training should:

- Call and make an appointment with a WIA case manager in any VDOL field office
- Develop a new occupational goal; VDOL staff will work with the farmer to develop one.
- Identify the appropriate training provider and/or school.

A general discussion of employment & training services can be found on the VDOL website:

<http://labor.vermont.gov/Default.aspx?tabid=287>.

DATES TO REMEMBER

9/14/09 Last day to modify MILC contract start date to October 2009

10/14/09 Last day to modify MILC contract start date to November 2009

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

11/20/09 2010 Perennial Crop Sales Closing date For NAP (forages, strawberries, blueberries, rhubarb, etc.)

3/15/2010 2010 Annual Crop Sales Closing Date (spring seeded annual crops-lettuce, kale, pumpkins, peppers, squash, etc.)

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.

Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP)

September Interest Rates

Farm Operating – Direct.....	3.125%
Farm Ownership – Direct.....	5.000%
Farm Ownership – Direct, Joint Financing.....	5.000%
Farm Ownership – Down Payment.....	1.500%
Emergency Loan – Amount of Actual Loss.....	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loan CCC-185	
7 year.....	3.125%
10 year.....	3.500%
12 year.....	3.875%

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



PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Brattleboro, VT 05301
PERMIT #100

Return Service Requested



Portable Skidder Bridges for Rent

- Easy to Install
- Minimize Potential for Soil Erosion
- In Compliance with Vermont's AMP's
- Reduce Logging Costs Associated with Temporary Stream Crossings

**Interested loggers and consulting foresters in Windham County should contact:
Jolene Hamilton
(802)254-5323, ext. 104**

Livestock Mortality Composting Workshops

Presented By:

Highfields
center for
Composting

Composting is the preferred method of managing carcasses in Vermont due to extremely limited rendering options and concerns about groundwater via burial. Composting can be 100% successful **IF** you follow the proper procedures. This short class will cover everything you need to know about site set-up, carcass preparation, and pile construction and management. Join us!

Date: September 17, 2009 **Time:** 10:00am – 1:00pm **Location:** Highfields Center for Composting

Date: September 24, 2009 **Time:** 10:00am – 1:00pm **Location:** Nelson's Crystal Brook Farm

Fee: \$10 (\$20 for non-farmers) includes DVD, handouts and refreshments. Call to register: 802-472-5138 x203 or email june@highfieldsinstitute.org

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



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