



Windsor/Orange County Updates

November 2008

Farm Service Agency

28 Farmvu Drive
White River Jct., VT 05001

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1-800-789-6713

Fax (802) 296-3654

www.fsa.usda.gov

Hours

Monday - Friday

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

County Committee

Richard Moore, Chair
Paul Doton, Vice Chair
Agnes Spaulding, Member
Robert Vaughan, Member
Sandra Whitney, Member

COC meets 3rd

Wednesday of each month
at 10:00 am (Meeting date
is subject to change, so
please check first.)

County Executive Director

Christine Lary, ext 13
Christine.lary@vt.usda.gov

Program Staff

Eric Winchester, ext 10
eric.winchester@vt.usda.gov

Farm Loan Manager

George Button Jr., ext 15
george.button@vt.usda.gov

Voting for County Committee Begins

Ballots for this year's county committee election will be mailed to eligible voters on November 3, 2008. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 1, 2008. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 1, 2008.

This year the election will be held for COC representatives in the following Local Administrative Areas (LAA):

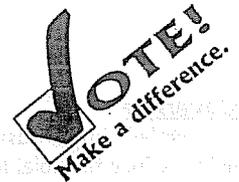
LAA #3 which includes the townships of Andover, Cavendish, Chester, Hartland, Ludlow, Plymouth, Reading, Springfield, Weathersfield, Weston, and Windsor

LAA #4 which includes the townships of Bradford, Corinth, Fairlee, Newbury, Thetford, and Vershire

Eligible voters in the above LAAs who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

Voter Requirements Persons meeting requirements in 1 or 2, plus 3, below, is 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.

Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing, agriculture-related projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing, agriculture-related project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Disaster Signup Continues

Signup for Quantity and Quality Losses under the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) continues. CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and/or quality losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007. No deadline has been set. Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under NAP for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Please call the FSA Office for more information.

"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."

DATES TO REMEMBER

<u>Nov 26</u>	DCP deadline for "10 acres or less" contracts	<u>Dec 1</u>	NAP deadline on fall seeded crops
<u>Nov 27</u>	Thanksgiving Day – Office closed	<u>Dec 25</u>	Christmas Day – Office closed
<u>Dec 1</u>	Deadline to return COC election ballots		

NAP Coverage

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 2009 coverage on fall seeded crops has been extended to **December 1, 2008**. In order to be eligible for disaster assistance programs, like SURE, producers are required to timely purchase, at a minimum, CAT coverage for all insurable crops and/or NAP coverage for all non-insurable crops of "economic significance" on their entire farm.

NAP coverage for 2009 costs \$250 per crop, but not more than \$750 per producer per county, or not more than \$1875 total per producer for all counties.

Producers who already have coverage on 2008 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2009, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

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. Filing early will help ensure that your loan is processed and approved as early as possible so that planting decisions can be made. Failure to apply early can result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications that must be processed in date order.

Disaster Designation – Emergency Loans

The entire State of Vermont has received a designation as a primary natural disaster area due to losses caused by severe weather events (including excessive rain, flooding, high winds, hail, lightning, tornadoes) occurring from June 1 through August 31, 2008.

This designation makes farm operators in all Vermont counties eligible to be considered for assistance from FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE). FSA will consider each application on its own merit by taking into account the extent of losses, security available, and repayment ability.

Contact the office for more details.

United States Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency
Windsor-Orange FSA Office
28 Farmvu Drive
White River Jct., VT 05001

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