



Windsor-Orange County Updates

June 2009

Farm Service Agency

28 Farmvu Drive
White River Jct., VT 05001

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(800) 789-6713

Fax (802) 296-3654
www.fsa.usda.gov

Hours

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

County Committee

Paul Doton, Chair
Heidi Dolloff, Vice Chair
Michael Emerson
Agnes Spaulding
Sandra Whitney

COC meets 3rd Wednesday
each month at 10:00 am

County Executive Director

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

Farm Loan Manager

George Button Jr. X15
george.button@vt.usda.gov



2009 County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency county committees is important to ALL farmers, whether beginning or long-established, with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Nominations for candidates to run for the Farm Service Agency County Committee election will be accepted from **June 15 through Aug. 3, 2009.**

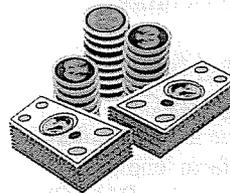
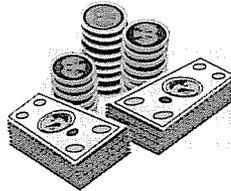
The election this year is for Local Administrative Areas (LAA) #2 and LAA #5. LAA #2 includes the towns of Strafford, Sharon, Norwich, Hartford, Pomfret, Barnard, Stockbridge, Bridgewater and Woodstock. LAA #5 includes the towns of Tunbridge, Orange, Topsham, Williamstown, Washington, Brookfield, Chelsea, and Braintree.

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

Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers may nominate candidates. 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 your local FSA county office or downloaded from <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under News & Events/County Committee Elections.



Crop Reporting

Crop reporting is required for all farm operations participating in the Direct and Countercyclical Program (DCP), the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP/CREP), and the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP). 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.**

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

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."

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

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Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) Updates

For each month that there is a payment rate, our goal is to process payments the first week of the month. The disbursement statement will be mailed from the National Payment Service Center. If you would like to confirm the payment amount in the meantime, feel free to either check with your bank or call the FSA office.

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 years 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 covered 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, barley, oats, soybeans, sunflower seed, and additional crops.

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