



U.S. Department
of Agriculture

Addison County

FSA
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Middlebury, VT 05753

Phone: (802) 388-6748

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www.fsa.usda.gov

Hours

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

County Committee

Thomas Audet, Chair
Phyllis Bowdish, V.Chair
Curt Estey, Member

Summer: COC meets 2nd
Tue. evening of each month

**County Executive
Director**

Craig Miner (EXT15)
craig.miner@vt.usda.gov

Program Staff

Lisa Gaboriault, PT (X11)
Billie Jo Forgues, PT
(X10)

Farm Loan Manager

Gary Braman, FLM (x18)
gary.braman@vt.usda.gov

Farm Loan Staff

David Girard, FLO (x20)
Jill Thomas, FLO (x17)
Mari Quesnel, PT (x28)

**2008
Compliance**

Compliance and spot checks will once again be utilized during the 2008 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for spot check and review, a nationwide selection of producers will be used to obtain a statistical sampling of producers.

Farm Service Agency

FSA UPDATES

Addison Agriculture

June
2008

Reporting Crop Acreage- Deadline – June 30 Small Grains & July 15 All Other Crops

It goes by different names — crop report, acreage report, crop certification — but regardless of what you call it, filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. **ALL** cropland on the farm (including ALL HAY reports) *must be reported* to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP), marketing assistance loans, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs), and NAP (Non Insured Crop Disaster Program).



Conservation Reserve Program acreage *must be reported* to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage that is enrolled in Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must be reported.

Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle/fallow or planted. Producers are required to file reports by **June 30th** for small grains and **July 15th** for all other crops. *Please call to set up an appointment.*

Prevented Planting: needs 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 a natural disaster.

Crop reports made after July 15 may be accepted but are considered late reports and fees apply. Be timely!

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.

ALL Hay or Not Planting Crops in 2008 -- Beat the rush by reporting your hay and fallow ground today. Call us now! We can send you a crop report to sign and return by mail. (802-388-6748, extension 3)

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)---Deadline July 18, 2008

The deadline to enroll in the 2005 - 2007 Livestock Compensation Program is rapidly approaching. We encourage all eligible producers to enroll soon because sign-up ends on July 18, 2008.

The LCP program covers pasture loss AND additional feed costs for those producers with 2006 disaster affected crops and greater than usual feed purchases. Additional feed (forages, concentrates, extenders) must have been purchased and PAID for between May 15, 2006 and May 14, 2007 to be eligible. Call the office for more details.

Crop Disaster Program: is divided into two parts, a *Quantity or Production Loss Program* and a *Quality Loss Program*. We are still accepting applications under the Quantity or Production Loss Program without a set deadline, but it is recommended that you make application by June 15 since payment software will be shut down for update to the quality loss program until approximately August 20. **We expect to be able to make payments for both quantity and quality losses after payment software is updated.** These programs provide benefits to farmers who suffered losses to 2005, 2006 or 2007 crops from natural disasters and related conditions so long as the actual crop lost was planted or prevented from being planted in one of the above years.

***** Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP – Quantity Loss Program. A minimum of 25% loss of feed quality will apply for the CDP-Quality Loss Program. More information regarding quality loss criteria will be available later this summer.*****

***** Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. *****



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Nominations for County Committee

Nominations for candidates to run for the Farm Service Agency County Committee election will be accepted from June 15 through Aug. 1, 2008.

Producers who are residents in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) holding the election and who are eligible to participate or cooperate in an FSA program *and* are of *legal voting age* may be nominated *to serve on* the *county* committee.

The election this year is for LAA #2. The towns included in this area are: **Addison, Cornwall, Hancock, Granville, Middlebury, Panton, Ripton and Weybridge.** Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates.

A nomination form, FSA-669A, is included in this newsletter. Additional forms and details may be picked up at your local USDA Service Center, FSA county office or downloaded from <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>. Eligible voters can nominate as many candidates as they wish.

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. 1, or postmarked by midnight Aug. 1.

Election Timetable

- June 15 Nomination period begins.
- Aug. 1 Deadline to submit nomination forms.
- Nov. 3 Ballots are mailed to eligible voters.
- Dec. 1 Deadline to return completed ballots

Farm Loan Programs – Loan Limits Increased

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans. ***Limitations for these loans have been recently increased from \$200,000 to \$300,000.*** Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$949,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For detail information loan eligibility or the different available loan programs, just contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

Online Services

You may obtain Level 2 USDA Service Center Customer ID and password at: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> eAuthentication is the system used by USDA agencies to enable customers to obtain accounts that will allow them to access USDA Web applications and services via the Internet. This includes things such as submitting forms electronically, completing surveys online, and checking the status of your USDA accounts.