



U.S. Department
of Agriculture

**Addison County
FSA**

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Middlebury, VT 05753

Phone: (802) 388-6748

Fax: (802) 388-3709
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)

VT AG LOANS-

Montpelier –
Vermont farmers may
apply immediately for
the new low interest
(presently 2%)
agricultural stimulus
loans available
through the Vermont
Ag Credit
Corporation, VACC.
Details at
www.veda.org.or
call 1-866-828-
FARM (3276).

Farm Service Agency

FSA UPDATES

Addison Agriculture

May
2009

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 2009 -- 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)

DCP and ACRE Sign UP)----Deadline August 14, 2009

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.

FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is a new program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill. The ACRE program signup began April 27, 2009, and runs through August 14, 2009. The ACRE alternative provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price.

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

Commodities eligible for ACRE payments include wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, soybeans, sunflower seed, canola, flaxseed, safflower, mustard seed, rapeseed, sesame seed, crambe, dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas and large chickpeas., and additional crops. (Please call the county office for further details)



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Nominations for County Committee

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, 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).

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

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

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*.

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.

Election Timetable

- June 15 Nomination period begins.
- Aug. 3 Deadline to submit nomination forms.
- Nov. 6 Ballots are mailed to eligible voters.
- Dec. 7 Deadline to return completed ballots

Nominations- Continued

The election this year is for LAA #1. The towns included in this area are: ***Bristol, Ferrisburg, Lincoln, Monkton, New Haven, Starksboro, Vergennes, and Waltham.*** 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 FSA county office or downloaded from <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under News & Events/County Committee Elections. Eligible voters can nominate as many candidates as they wish.

Request for Soybean Referendum

The Request for Referendum will be conducted at county Farm Service Agency offices beginning May 4, 2009, and continuing through May 29, 2009. Producers may obtain a request form by mail, fax, or in person from FSA. Forms also available at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsmarketingprograms> during the same time period.

To be eligible to participate, producers must certify and provide documentation that shows that they produced soybeans and paid an assessment on the soybeans during the period of Jan. 1, 2007, through Dec. 31, 2008.

2008 Disaster Buy In – Waiver Extension

Producers who did not obtain crop insurance or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) **coverage for 2008** can pay a buy-in fee through **May 18, 2009**, to become eligible for 2008 disaster assistance programs authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. Please call our office at 388-6748 ext. 3 for further details.