



U.S. Department of  
Agriculture

**Caledonia/Essex  
County FSA**

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St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

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(802) 748-8746  
1-800-862-1121  
Fax (802) 748-1621  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

**Hours**

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

**County Committee**

Burt Patenaude, Chair  
Robert Porter, Vice Chair  
William Nelson, Member  
Michael Tanguay, Member  
Patricia Willey, Member

**COC meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday  
of each month at 10:30 am**

**County Executive  
Director**

Patricia Passut (x104)  
[patricia.passut@vt.usda.gov](mailto:patricia.passut@vt.usda.gov)

**Program Staff**

Patty Matte, PT (x100)  
Donna Rae Heath, COR

**Farm Loan Staff**

(802) 334-6090 or  
1-866-241-2190 (toll free)  
Brian Kuper, FLM  
Diane Gilman, FLO  
Dorcas McAllister, FLO

**NRCS Staff**

[www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)  
Tim McKay, DC (x109)  
Nick Comerchi, SC (x101)  
Daniel O'Brien, ITS (x113)  
Roger DeKett, SS (x111)

**NRCD Staff**

Andrea Machell (x116)  
Kerry O'Brien, (x110)  
Caledonia District Mgr  
Tamara Stevens, (x114)  
Essex District Mgr  
Brandon Carpenter, (x106)  
Land Treatment Planner

**Rural Development**

[www.rd.usda.gov](http://www.rd.usda.gov)  
Steve Campbell, (x102)  
Area Director  
Cheryl Ducharme, (x107)  
Loan Specialist  
Suzanne Smith, (x112)  
Area Technician  
Linere Silloway, (x119)  
RD Technician

# Farm Service Agency

## FSA UPDATES

June 2007

### Crop Acreage Reporting

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 FSA programs. **ALL** cropland, whether idle or planted, on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the following programs:

- o Direct and Counter-Cyclical (DCP)
- o LDP's for corn, oats, soybeans, wool, mohair, unshorn pelts & honey
- o Conservation Reserve (CRP)
- o Non-Insured Assistance (NAP)



**We strongly encourage you to have your crop reporting completed before July 1** so that our staff can complete the data entry and obtain all required signatures before the **deadline of July 15<sup>th</sup>**.

**Please keep track of planting dates as we are required to enter this data into the system.**

### Prevented Planted/Failed Acreage

If you were unable to plant crops this spring due to the weather, you should report these prevented planted acres

- o To your crop insurance agent by the crop's established final planting date if the crop is covered by insurance.
- o To the FSA office within 15 days of the crop's established final planting date to maintain eligibility for non-insured crops.

Producers should contact their crop insurance agent or the FSA county office staff for the final planting dates.

- o Failed acreage must be reported before the disposition of the crop.

### Measurement Service

Farmers who would like a guarantee on their crop plantings and land use acreages can make it official by using the FSA measurement service. Producers must file a request with the county office staff and pay the cost of a field visit to have stake and referencing done on the farm.

Incorrect acreage self-certification can result in reduced program payments, penalty, or loss of eligibility.

### Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

**REMINDER:** Producers with mixed forage policies, please be advised that notice of loss must be provided within 15 days after:

- o Report planted crop acres to the office by acreage reporting deadlines.
- o File a Notice of Loss (CCC-576) with the office within 15 calendar days after damaging weather occurs or damage to the crop becomes apparent. Failure to report timely will result in loss of benefits.
- o Contact the FSA office for an appraisal to be completed prior to destroying the crop or putting the crop to another use.
- o Certify last year's harvested NAP production by the crop's acreage reporting date.

**WARNING:** If you do not plan to take the crop to normal harvest, you must file a notice of loss and a loss adjuster will visit the affected acreage for an appraisal **before** you destroy the damaged crop.

### April 16<sup>th</sup> Windstorm Emergency Conservation Program Sign-Up Underway

**CALEDONIA COUNTY ONLY:** The FSA county office is currently accepting Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) applications for disaster assistance to clear debris from fields or help maple producers clear debris from their lines due to the damaging affects of the April 16<sup>th</sup> windstorm. The county committee has established a **deadline of June 20, 2007** for accepting applications. *There is no funding for the program at this time.*

If you had damage to your sugar bush and are interested in this program contact this office. FSA will need to know the number of acres in your sugar bush, number of taps, and the number and size of your maple trees. A site visit must also be scheduled to document damage.



Call the FSA office at (802) 748-2641 for more information.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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### **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)**

CREP is an incentive-based voluntary program that aims to improve water quality by helping landowners install buffers along streams on agricultural land. These streamside or "riparian" buffers filter runoff from adjacent fields, help to stabilize streambanks, and improve in-stream and terrestrial wildlife habitat. Since this riparian land is often very productive and vital to an agricultural operation, the program provides compensation to the landowners who are willing to take land out of production and convert it to grass or trees for a period of at least 15 years.

A landowner enrolling agricultural land in CREP is, in effect, renting that acreage to the USDA and the State. In addition to the annual rental payment received over 15 years, they also receive upfront incentive payments from the USDA and the Vermont Agency of Agriculture.

For more information call the FSA office at (802) 748-2641.

### **Rural Youth Loans**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes operating loans to individual rural youths age 10 through 20 to establish and operate income producing projects. These projects must be of modest size and be initiated, developed, carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H Clubs, FFA, or a similar organization or with a vocational teacher or county extension agent. The project must be an organized and supervised program of work. It must be planned and operated with the assistance of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. Contact the FSA loan staff in Newport at 802-334-6090 or toll free at 1-866-241-2190 for more details.

### **County Committee Nominations Open June 15th**

Nominations are now being accepted for candidates to run for the Farm Service Agency County Committee election representing producers in Local Administrative Area #2 which includes the towns of Burke, Kirby, Lyndon, Newark, St. Johnsbury, and Waterford.

Nominations will be accepted from June 15, 2007 through August 1, 2007.

Producers who are residents in the towns listed above, who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the County Committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers are encouraged to nominate candidates. Forms are available at the county FSA office or online at [www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/election](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/election).



### **Dates to Remember**

June 20	ECP Maple sign-up deadline
June 30	Crop reporting deadline for small grains
July 4	Independence Day Holiday—Office closed
July 15	Crop reporting deadline NAP 2006 production report deadline
August 1	DCP sign-up deadline
Ongoing	Farm Storage Facility Loans Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program