



U.S. Department of
Agriculture

**Caledonia/Essex
County FSA**
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St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

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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 3rd Thursday
of each month at 10:30 am**

**County Executive
Director**

Patricia Passut (x104)
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
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
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

July
2007

COC Candidates Sought

It will soon be county committee election time, and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) is actively looking for producers to be a candidate for the local FSA county committee. Your county committee members perform an important function. *They represent you and your agricultural interests.* They help shape how federal farm programs from Washington are implemented on the ground in local communities.

Serving on the committee will take, on average, one day a month, and you will be providing your agricultural community a vital service. Committee members are reimbursed for time and mileage.

The election this year is in LAA #2. The towns included in the area are: *Burke, Kirby, Lyndon, Newark, St. Johnsbury, and Waterford.*

Nomination forms and information about the county committee election are available at the FSA office or on-line at www.fsa.usda.gov by clicking on the County Committee Election icon. **The deadline to submit nomination forms is August 1, 2007.**

Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

REMINDER: Producers with a mixed forage policy, please be advised that you must

- 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.

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.

Armyworm Alert!!!!

Please don't panic, but do go out and scout your corn and grass fields for armyworms. There have been reports of armyworms in Caledonia, Essex, Franklin, and Orleans counties. Keep in mind there usually are army worms around every year . . . it is just the mass numbers of them you want to be careful of, advised Colleen Leonard of UVM Extension.

When full grown, the caterpillars can be almost 1.5 inches long. The caterpillars are usually greenish or brownish, but can be almost black. The sides and back of the caterpillar have light colored stripes running along the body. The caterpillars normally feed at night and much damage can occur before they mature. The preferred foods are grasses including corn, grains, and timothy. They will feed on other plants if grasses are unavailable. Feeding will start on the lower leaves and move upwards. A large population can strip an entire field in just a few days. When the field is eaten they "march" to adjacent fields. Corn fields that are minimum or no-tilled into grass sod or fields infested with grass weeds are most susceptible.



S.O. Bosworth 7/6/1



True Armyworm larva



True Armyworm adult (moth)

If you choose to apply insecticides, use ONLY those approved by the VT Agency of Agriculture. From lessons learned in 2001, it is critical that farmers, pesticide applicators, crop consultants/extension, and the VT Agency of Agriculture all communicate effectively and daily. True Armyworm populations grow, eat, and move themselves with uncanny speed. Scouting of fields even 2-3 times per day is not unreasonable! Catching them early is the best defense!

For more information on scouting and control options please refer to the contact list below.

CONTACTS		
<u>UVM Extension</u>		
Heather Darby, 802/524-6501 Email: heather.darby@uvm.edu	Jeff Carter, 802/388-4969 Email: jeff.carter@uvm.edu	Sid Bosworth, 802/656-0478 Email: sid.bosworth@uvm.edu
<u>VT Agency of Agriculture</u>		
Cary Giguere, 802/828-6531 Email: Cary.Giguere@state.vt.us		
<u>NOFA-VT & VT Organic Farmers</u>		
Willie Gibson, 802/535-9067 Email: williegibson@charter.net NOFA-VT/VOF: 802/434-4122		

Dates to Remember

August 1
Deadline to submit nomination forms for COC election

August 3
DCP sign-up deadline

September 3
Labor Day – Office closed

Ongoing Sign-up
Farm Storage Facility Loans
Conservation Reserve
Enhancement Program

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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2007 Compliance Process

Starting this crop year a new compliance and spot check selection process has been implemented. Instead of locally selecting random farms and contracts, etc. for spot check and review, a nationwide selection of producers will be made using a statistical sampling method. Once selected, reviews will be based on a producer's participation in a majority of the programs in which the entity or individual is enrolled and the review will cover all farms in which they have an interest. This new comprehensive review will include the Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program, The Non-Insured Assistance Program, applicable Crop Disaster Programs, etc.

In addition to this New National Selection Process, County Offices will be spot checking additional producers if County Committees have valid concerns that warrant the spot check and review of those producers. For more information about the new spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact your local Farm Service Agency office for additional clarification.

DCP Enrollment Deadline Extended to August 3, 2007

While the sign-up deadline for the 2007 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) is extended, the cut-off for participation remains September 30, 2007. Producers failing to sign-up by August 3, 2007, but before September 30, will pay a late-file fee of \$100 per contract.

Preventing Fraud, Waste

The Farm Service Agency has joined with the Risk Management Agency to prevent fraud, waste and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. In addition, FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse to RMA. Producers can report suspected cases to the county office staff, RMA office, or the Office of the Inspector General.

FSA Farm Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes both direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank, Farm Credit System institution or other lender. FSA loans can be used to purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed and supplies. The loans can also be used to construct buildings or make farm improvements.

If you're having trouble getting commercial credit, check with the FSA county office staff about loan eligibility, as well as maximum loan amounts, rates, term and use of proceeds.

Wetland Identifiers

In response to concerns expressed about the lack of wetland information on FSA maps, some changes will be made to how wetland determinations are identified. Wetland types will be grouped into the following three categories referred to as Wetland Determination Identifiers on CLU maps:

- **"Restricted Use"** (W, CW, CW+YR, AW/W, GFW, GFW+YR, RSW, RSW+YR, RPW), which is represented by a **red octagon**
- **"Limited Restrictions"** (FW, FWP, CWNA, AW/FW, CWTE, TP, WX, MIW, MW, MWM, CMW, NI, OW, Easement), which is represented by an **upside-down yellow triangle**
- **"Exempt from Conservation Compliance Provisions"** (PC, NW, PC/NW, CC, NW/NAD, AW), which is represented by a **green square**.

All FSA producer maps will feature the following disclaimer:

"Wetland identifiers do not represent the size, shape, or specific determination of the area. Refer to your original determination (CPA-026 and attached maps) for exact wetland boundaries and labels, or contact NRCS."

Additional information on map wetland identifiers can be provided by either FSA or NRCS staff.

