



June 2007

FSA UPDATES

**Chittenden/Washington
County
USDA Service Center**

**Chittenden/Washington
County FSA**

802-865-7895 x4
800-910-2035 x4 (VT only)
802-865-7947 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/VT

Hours

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

County Committee

John Rowley, Jr., LAA-1
Claude Lapiere, LAA-2
Deborah Conant, LAA-3
Kendall Maynard, LAA-4
Michelle Gardner, LAA-5

Upcoming County Committee Meeting

Dates

June 20, 2007
July 18, 2007

FSA Staff

Lawrence Parker x12
Eileen Powers x16
Pearl Wells x10
Keith Canter - Intern
Bradford Parker x13

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Caroline Alves x23
Tate Jeffrey x19
Michel Lapointe x18
Danny Peet x22
Norman Smith x17

Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District

Jessica Andreoletti x14
Anna Johnson x24



County Committee Election

It's county committee election time, and this special issue of the Chittenden/Washington County office newsletter is your guide to the 2007 election.

Since this only happens once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into *local administrative areas*, or LAAs. Each LAA contributes one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency county committee.

Most counties are divided into three LAAs. Combined counties may have three to five LAAs.

Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. In counties with three LAAs, one seat is up for election. In combined counties in some years, two seats may be up for election.

The election this year is for Local Administrative Area (LAA) #1. The towns included in this area are: **Burlington, Colchester, Essex, Milton, S. Burlington, Westford and Winooski**. The current representative for this area is John Rowley, Jr.

The three steps in the election process are the call for nominations, the election and installing the new committee member.

Election Timetable

- June 15 Nomination period begins.
- Aug. 1 Deadline to submit nomination forms.
- Nov. 2 Ballots are mailed to eligible voters.
- Dec. 3 Deadline to return completed ballots to FSA county office.
- Jan. 1, 2008 New committee members and alternates are installed.

Nominations Open June 15

Nominations for candidates to run for the Farm Service Agency county committee election representing producers in a Local Administrative Area will be accepted from June 15 through Aug. 1, 2007.

Producers who are residents in the LAA holding the election and 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 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/pas/publications/elections>.

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

The county committee election is held by mail. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning Nov. 2, and must be returned to the FSA county office by the close of business on Dec. 3, or postmarked by midnight Dec. 3, 2007.

Who Can Vote

Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm can also vote.

No one can be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

If you are unsure of your eligibility, contact the staff at the county office.

Who Can Hold Office

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
- Not have been:
 - Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
 - Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
 - Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

For more information about county committee elections, contact the county office staff.

Crop Reporting

Acreage reporting season is well underway, and, as usual, great cropping weather has you all in the field with no thoughts of coming into the office and reporting! The **deadline** this year is **July 16th** for most crops, **July 2nd** for small grains. Producers may call to make an appointment until June 28th, then, the final 2 weeks, ***we will be assigning you a specific date and time*** to come in and report. We will notify you by postcard when your appointment is, and remember, late filing does carry a significant fee. To best fit your schedule, please give us a

call now and make an appointment! Those required to report include participants in Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), as well as Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP). **Call now** to schedule your first choice for an appointment time!! 865-7895 or 800 910-2035.

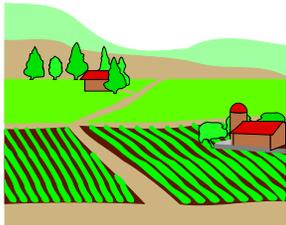
Rural & Agricultural VocRehab Program

FSA recently attended a conference designed to promote the Rural & Agricultural VocRehab Program (FAVR). From our perspective, this little known program could be of great benefit to our farming community. RAVR provides services in support of employment to rural Vermonters with disabilities. These services include health evaluation, counseling, and assistance in job maintenance or placement; and are available to eligible individuals with health issues or disabilities that interfere with employment in agriculture. RAVR assistance can include machinery and equipment adaptations, worksite and homesite modifications, job training, and more. Assistance is not limited to those with severe disabilities such as lost limbs or paralysis, but is also available to those suffering from common ailments such as arthritis and back pain. For more information, call 1-800-639-2130, or write to RAVR, 278 South Main Street, Suite 2 St. Albans, VT 05478-1866.

Introductions

Those of you visiting the office this summer will see many new faces!

Keith Canter has joined the *FSA program staff* with an internship through the Work Recruitment Program. Keith is a senior in the Dairy Science program at Iowa State University, and has spent most of his summers working on family dairy farms in Wisconsin. Keith brings a strong background in computer applications and high energy level to the office each day, and is responsible for producing all those maps used for acreage reporting!



Brandon Wickham is a California native, a student at Clovis Junior college, and has taken an internship to work with the FSA Farm Loan team. Brandon has a great can-do attitude, always looking at the bright side, earning himself the nickname of “Jester Boy” with his good humor. This is Brandon’s second stint with us, and he hopes to turn his financial skills into a career on Wall Street!



Jacob Clough is yet another intern. He is working for NRCS using his civil engineering skills. Jake grew up on a small dairy farm in South Ryegate, has an Associates Degree from VTC in Civil and Environmental Engineering, and has returned to school in the Dairy Farm Management program. Jake hopes to return to the home farm, once his parents retire, to continue the dairy operation.

Anna Johnson recently started a full time position with the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District, and will be teaming up with local municipalities and other non-profits to implement storm water projects. Her main emphasis will be on rain garden education and pervious pavement project monitoring. A recent graduate of the University of Vermont with a degree in Resource Ecology, she comes from the hills of East Tennessee. Her skills in GIS will aid the District in their goal of obtaining and maintaining data about the District’s cover cropping projects.

Signing for Entities

To sign FSA forms for trusts, limited liability companies, cooperatives, partnerships or corporations, producers need a document on file at the county office saying you’re authorized to sign for the entity. It could be a copy of the articles of partnership or articles of corporation or a valid power of attorney.



CCC-633-EZ Reminder

The Farm Service Agency currently uses the CCC-633-EZ form. It’s a one size fits all form you can fill out to indicate your intention to receive loan deficiency payments for all your crops at the beginning of the crop year, long before you’ve lost beneficial interest.

The same form is then used to submit a re-

quest for an LDP any time during the loan/LDP availability period before or after losing beneficial interest.

For the 2007 crop year, the CCC-633 EZ and eLDP online requests are the only methods available to request LDPs.

Wetland Blue Dot Identifiers

Before the implementation of the FSA Common Land Unit (CLU) project, maps created for producers contained labels and delineations of Natural Resource Conservation Service wetland determinations. The move to using CLU and other digital data to create producer maps brought about the blue dot to represent these wetland determinations. **A blue dot on a map provides no information other than the fact that a determination exists in the area.** The intent of the blue dot is simply to provide a wetland symbol on producer maps until a wetland layer, including delineations of the wetland area, can be completed by NRCS.

In response to concerns expressed about the use of the blue dot symbols, some changes will be made to how wetland determinations are identified on maps. 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.

Selected Interest Rates for June 2007	
90-Day Treasury Bill	5.0%
Farm Operating - Direct	5.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.375%
Limited Resource	5.0%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4.0%
Emergency	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility	4.625%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	5.875%

Dates to Remember	
June 5 th	Acreage Reporting – Berlin
June 14 th	Flag Day – Office Open
June 19 th	Acreage Reporting – Berlin
July 2 nd	Acreage Reporting Deadline – Small Grains
July 4 th	Independence Day – Office Closed
July 16 th	Acreage Reporting Deadline – All Other Crops
August 3 rd	DCP Signup Ends
Sept. 3 rd	Labor Day – Office Closed

Visit our Web site: <http://www.fsa.usda/VT>

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