



November 2009

Chittenden/Washington County FSA News

**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
8:00a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Richard Parizo LAA-1
Claude Lapiere LAA-2
Sumner Farr, Jr. LAA-3
Catherine Scribner LAA-4
Michelle Gardner LAA-5

**Upcoming County
Committee Meeting Dates**

November 18, 2009
December 9, 2009

Staff

Lawrence Parker x102
Eileen Powers x106
Pearl Wells x100
Bradford Parker x103

**Natural Resources
Conservation Service**

Caroline Alves x203
Tate Jeffrey x119
Michel Lapointe x118
Danny Peet x202
Norman Smith x117

**Winooski Natural
Resources Conservation
District**

Ashley Lidman x104



2010 DCP Signup

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2010.

USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2010 DCP contract.

USDA 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 2010, eligible producers may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment. USDA will issue advance direct payments beginning Dec. 1, 2009.

Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price. The effective price is the higher of the national average market price received during the 12-month marketing year for each covered commodity and the national average loan rate for a marketing assistance loan for the covered commodity.

The ACRE Option

The optional ACRE Program provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity. For 2010, the 2-year price average will be based on the 2008 and 2009 crop years.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. The payment is based on 83.3 percent (85 percent in 2012) of the farm's planted acres times the difference between the State ACRE guarantee and the state revenue times the ratio

of the farm's yield divided by the state expected yield. The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may not exceed the total base on the farm. In exchange for participating in ACRE, in addition to not receiving counter-cyclical payments, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20 percent, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30 percent.

The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.

The June 1, 2010, deadline is mandatory for all participants. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.

Acresage Reports Needed For SURE

Because of the delay in announcing the provisions of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, producers enrolling in the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) are reminded that 2008 crop reports are required for SURE participation. This includes crops planted on cropland and/or non-cropland, including native pasture or improved grass that will be hayed.

Physical evidence of the crop in the field is not required for Farm Service Agency (FSA) to accept late-filed 2008 acresage reports. "However, evidence of existence or disposition, is required.

The following requirements for 2008 SURE include:

- producers **must** report all crops, in all counties, in which they have an interest

- late filed fees shall be waived for late-filed 2008 acreage reports and physical evidence in the field is not required
- if the actual use of a crop is different from the intended use reported, the producer may report the final use to the County Office; however, the intended use shall **not** be changed.

The provisions noted are for 2008 only. For 2009 and 2010, normal acreage reporting requirements will be applied.

More details on the 2008 SURE Program are available at county FSA offices or on line at www.fsa.usda.gov

TIMELY FEED MEASUREMENT!!!!

Farmers are reminded to be sure to get their corn and hay measured before **December 31, 2009**. Otherwise, they may be penalized under future disaster programs.

TIMELY FEED ANALYSIS!!!!

Farmers are reminded to be sure to get their corn and hay sampled and tested before **December 31, 2009**. Otherwise, they may be penalized under future disaster programs.

Supplemental Disaster Assistance Programs

The 2008 Farm Bill amended the Trade Act of 1974 to create five new disaster programs, collectively referred to as Supplemental Agriculture Disaster Assistance programs. These programs include:

- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

To be eligible for these programs, producers must purchase at least catastrophic risk protection (CAT) level of crop insurance for all insurable crops and/or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for non-insurable crops under SURE, TAP, and ELAP.

In the 2008 Farm Bill; in general, the term "farm" means the sum of all crop acreage in all counties that is planted or intended to be planted for harvest by the eligible producer.

Voting for County Committee Begins

Ballots for this year's county committee election were mailed to eligible voters on November 6, 2009. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 7, 2009. ***If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 7, 2009.***

The candidates in this year's election:

Daniel Pillsbury and Mary Taft are nominated in LAA 2, Chittenden County, to serve as a committee member. Pillsbury resides in St. George and has farmed there on the family farm for many years. Taft resides in Huntington where she and her husband have farmed for many years.

Candidates for election in LAA-5, Washington County are:

Morgan Churchill, Roy A. Folsom, Sally Goodrich and Seth Gardner. Churchill, Folsom and Goodrich all have farms in Cabot. Gardner farms in E. Montpelier.

Eligible voters in local administrative areas two (2) and five (5) who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

Voter Requirements

Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, are eligible to vote.

- 1.** Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either of the following:
an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper, *or* a partner in a general partnership or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper; or
- 2.** Are not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; **and**
- 3.** Are eligible to participate in any FSA program that is provided by law, regardless of the status of funding.

Discrimination Prohibited

No person shall 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.

Farm Loan Year End Reviews

Producers that have a farm loan with FSA are reminded they must provide data for their Year-End Analysis (YEA) to their loan officer each year. Borrowers are urged to provide this information timely so that their files can be maintained. The office will contact you for the data you will need to provide us.

Online Services

Producers, if you have Internet access you can electronically log on, fill out and print a variety of FSA paper forms in the comfort of your home as your schedule allows. You can also register for secure electronic access that will allow you to electronically sign and transmit some forms directly to the county office staff. If you are new to the website, first you will want to obtain a Level 2 USDA Service Center Customer ID and password at: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> and then click on "Create an Account Page" link.

USDA 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.

If you already have a Customer ID and password, then click on the following eForms website at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainseviet> and then click on the "Sign In" button. A disclaimer window will open and after you read the "Warning message" click on the "Continue" button.

Then the USDA Web services page will open to the eAuthentication login page. Enter your login User ID and password and then click on the "Login" button. To sign and transmit forms electronically, you must sign-up and get a User ID and password.

Submitting an e-Form is convenient. You can access information anytime day or night seven days a week. It's faster and forms and applications can be submitted and received in the county office in a matter of minutes, not days or weeks.

Selling Land

If you're planning to sell farmland, there may be some program consequences you should be aware of. For example, if you're planning to sell land that's enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer doesn't want to continue the CRP contract, you might have to refund all the payments you've received to date.

Reviewing program implications with your local Farm Service Agency staff before completing a sale of farmland is always a prudent precaution.

NAP Fees Due by November 20th

Remember NAP + Crop Insurance = Disaster Eligibility

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance.

The application deadline date for the 2010 coverage on *hay, fruits, wheat and several other crops is November 20, 2009*. In order to be eligible for disaster assistance programs, including Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE), producers are required to timely purchase, at a minimum, CAT coverage for all insurable crops and/or NAP coverage for all non-insurable crops on their entire farm.

NAP coverage for 2010 costs \$250 per crop, but not more than \$750 per producer per county.

These fees may be waived if you qualify as a Limited Resource Producer. Please ask us for a worksheet to determine if you qualify. You may need to review your tax returns for the past two years (2007-2008) to make this determination.

2010 Program Payment Eligibility

FSA requires that a CCC-926, Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) form be filed for each fiscal year (FY). You cannot receive any payments for FY 2010 until this form has been filed. Many of these forms have already been mailed and we are still working on this. If you are not sure this has been done or have any questions about the forms, please call our office at 802 865-7895 x4 or 800 910-2035 x4.

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PRESORTED STANDARD
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 Mailed From Zip Code 05495
 PERMIT #40

Dates to Remember	
Nov. 6	County committee ballots mailed.
Nov. 11	Veterans Day Holiday
Nov. 20	NAP Fees Due – see page 3
Nov. 26	Thanksgiving Day Holiday
Dec. 7	Last day for COC Election Ballots to be Returned

Selected Interest Rates for October 2009	
Farm Operating - Direct	2.875%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.75%
Limited Resource - Operating	5.00%
Limited Resource - Farm Ownership	5.00%
Emergency	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility – 7 year	3.00%
Farm Storage Facility – 10 year	3.625%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.375%

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The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."