



May 2010

# 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  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### County Committee

Richard Parizo LAA-1  
Daniel Pillsbury LAA-2  
Sumner Farr, Jr LAA-3  
Catherine Scribner LAA-4  
Morgan Churchill LAA-5

### Upcoming County Committee Meeting

#### Dates

June 16, 2010  
July 14, 2010

#### 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



## TAKE NOTE!!!

Please read this if nothing else!

The deadline for enrollment of your 2010 DCP and ACRE contracts is **June 1, 2010**, end of story! Many of you refer to this as "that corn program thing that I sign up for every year". Yes, that thing! Sign up is now running around 67% for Chittenden/Washington Counties, which means many of you will be out of luck, wondering why your payments didn't come thru. We've mailed out many of those missing contracts, called the producers, even stopped you in the streets; there's not much more we can do. So, give us a call if you don't know how you stand, or stop in to the office and we'll get 'em done!

## You mean me????

Yes, we mean you...if you receive any program benefits from FSA or NRCS you **must fill out forms CCC-297 and/or CCC-928 and submit them to the IRS**. This is part of the verification process of everyone's Average Adjusted Gross Income certification, contained on CCC-926 that is filed in this office. The CCC-927 and/or CCC-928 **must be submitted to the IRS no later than June 15, 2010**. So, what if you don't? You could be paying back all of your applicable 2009 program benefits **plus 2010 benefits may not find their way into your bank account!** The forms are available in our office; you can pick them up here, but don't return them to us...they must be sent to the IRS directly. No ifs ands or buts on this one, gotta comply.

## Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

TAP is available to those who have suffered losses exceeding 10% normal mortality rate and the program requirements of a 15% loss for a total of 25% loss before any potential benefits could be seen.

Applicants who suffered eligible tree, bush, and vine losses:

- during calendar years 2008 and/or 2009, and 2010, before May 7, 2010, just file FSA-899 and supporting documentation no later than July 6, 2010
- after May 7, 2010, must file FSA-899 and supporting documentation within 90 calendar days from the following: (1) occurrence of the disaster event, (2) date when the loss of trees, bushes, or vines became apparent to producer.

## ACRE Program

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is a program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill. Through ACRE, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers producers an alternative to Direct and Counter-cyclical (DCP) payments. 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.

ACRE payments are made when both state- and farm-level triggers are met. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments. Producers also elect to receive a 20% reduction in direct payments and a 30% reduction in loan rates.

A decision to elect ACRE binds the producer to the program through the 2012 crop year, the last crop year covered by the 2008 Farm Bill. For more details contact your local FSA office.

## Washington County Crop Reporting!!!

We will be in Berlin for Acreage Reporting on

- **June 1<sup>st</sup>**
- **June 16<sup>th</sup> and**
- **June 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Please call for an appointment as soon as possible!**

## 2010 FSA County Committee Elections

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.

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the producers and to represent all constituents. This means wherever possible, minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for these underrepresented groups.

County committees provide local input on:

- Commodity price support loans and payments
- Conservation programs
- Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities
- Emergency programs
- Payment eligibility

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

This year's election will be held in LAA 1 Which consists of *Burlington, Colchester, Essex, Milton, S. Burlington, Westford and Winooski*. See map on page 3 for Chittenden/Washington County LAA boundaries.

### Election Period

**June 15, 2010** – The nomination period begins. Request nomination forms from the local USDA Service Center or obtain online at: [http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/fsa0669a\\_commiteelectform.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_commiteelectform.pdf)

**Aug. 2, 2010** - Last day to file nomination forms (FSA-669A) at the local USDA Service Center

**Nov. 5, 2010** - Ballots mailed to eligible voters

**Dec. 6, 2010** - Last day to return voted ballots to the USDA Service Center

**Jan. 1, 2010** - Newly elected county committee members take office

### Who Can Hold Office

To hold office as a county committee mem-

ber, 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.

### Nominations

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form is available at USDA Service Centers and online at:

[http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/fsa0669a\\_commiteelectform.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_commiteelectform.pdf)

Nomination forms for the 2010 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 2, 2010.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. Nomination forms are filed for the county committee of the office that administers a producer's farm records.

### Who Can Vote

Agricultural producers of legal voting age may be eligible to 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 of an entire farm may also be eligible to vote. More information about voting eligibility requirements can be found in the FSA fact sheet titled "FSA County Committee Election - Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a County Committee Member." Producers may contact their local USDA Service Center for more information.

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## **Debt for Nature Program (DFN)**

The Debt for Nature Program (DFN), also known as the Debt Cancellation Conservation Contract Program, is a unique program for eligible landowners that protects important natural resources and other sensitive areas while providing a debt management tool.

Debt for Nature is available to persons with Farm Service Agency (FSA) direct loans secured by real estate. These individuals may qualify for cancellation of a portion of their FSA indebtedness in exchange for a conservation contract with a term of 50, 30, or 10 years. The conservation contract is a voluntary legal agreement that restricts the type and amount of

development that may take place on portions of the landowner's property. Contracts may be established on marginal cropland and other environmentally sensitive lands for conservation, recreation, and wildlife purposes.

By participating in this program, direct loan customers may reduce their Farm Service Agency debt, thereby improving their overall financial stability.

For more information contact your local FSA County Office:

- Middlebury, VT 802 388-6748
- St Albans, VT 802 527-1296
- Newport, VT 802 334-6090
- White River Jct., VT 802 295-7942

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Chittenden/Washington County FSA Office  
 1193 S Brownell Rd STE 35  
 Williston, VT 05495-7416



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

## 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. Measurement service is available using digital imagery and where an on-site visit is not required are charged at a reduced rate.

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

Producers can request ortho-imagery and CLU covering their land (commonly referred to as a clip) at no charge. This would provide the acreage of an entire field.

Selected Interest Rates for May 2010		Dates to Remember	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%	On going	<b>2011</b> Forage Crops
Farm Operating - Direct	2.875%	May 31	Memorial Day – Office Closed
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.00%	June 1	DCP/ACRE Sign-up Closes
Limited Resource	5.00%	June 1	Recons Should be filed
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%	June 14	Flag Day
Emergency	3.75%	<b>June 15</b>	IRS Consent Forms need to be Filed
Farm Storage Facility – 7 year	3.250%	June 30	Crop Reports for Small Grains
Farm Storage Facility – 10 year	3.875%	July 5	Independence Day – Office Closed
Farm Storage Facility – 12 year	4.125	July 15	Crop Acreage Reports Due
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.50%	July 15	<b>2009</b> Production Reports due for NAP

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."