



September 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

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

September 22, 2010
October 13, 2010

Staff

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

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Caroline Alves x203
Tate Jeffrey x119
Michel Lapointe x118
Danny Peet x202
Norman Smith x117
John Thurgood x204

Natural Resources Conservation District

Justin Kenny x104

September 30 Deadline for SURE Applications

The deadline to submit USDA Farm Service Agency 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) program payment applications is close of business on September 30, 2010. Applications not filed by September 30, 2010, will not receive a payment.

SURE provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred crop production or crop quality losses. The program takes into consideration crop losses on all crops grown by a producer nationwide. SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE farm guarantee and total farm revenue. The farm guarantee is based on the amount of crop insurance and Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on the farm. Total farm revenue takes into account the actual value of production on the farm as well as insurance indemnities and certain farm program payments.

To be eligible for SURE, producers must have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance. In addition, producers must meet the risk management purchase requirement by either obtaining a policy or plan of insurance, under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or NAP coverage, for all economically significant crops. For 2008 crops, producers had the opportunity to obtain a waiver of the risk management purchase requirement through a buy-in provision. Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage.

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

The USDA Farm Service Agency announced the availability of the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) for Chittenden County producers *to help them rehabilitate cropland damaged by strong winds that hit the county on July 21, 2010.*

For this instance, because of the localized winds experienced in the northern section of the county, ECP funds will provide producers with additional resources for clean-up and debris removal, as well as restoring or replacing maple sap taps and tubing. Eligible producers will receive cost-share assistance of up to 75 percent of the cost of the approved practices as determined by the FSA county committee, pending funding.

The County Committee has established an **ECP sign-up period** that began on August 30, 2010 and **ends on September 30, 2010.** For a producer's land to be eligible, the disaster must create new conservation problems that, if untreated, would impair or endanger the land, materially affect its productive capacity, represent damage that is unusual in character, and be so costly to rehabilitate that federal assistance is required to return the land to productive agricultural use. Conservation problems existing prior to the applicable disaster date of July 21, 2010 are ineligible for ECP assistance.

For more information on ECP or to file an application for cost share assistance to help with clean-up from these July 21, 2010 winds, please contact the Chittenden/Washington County FSA office at 802 865-7895. Additional information is also available online at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

Beginning Women Farmers - Vermont

Whole Farm Planning Training for Beginning Women Farmers in Ver- mont – Applications now being Ac- cepted

The Vermont Women's Ag Network partnered with the UVM Extension New Farmer Project is now accepting applications for the Whole Farm Planning for Beginning Women Farmers course. The 10 session course is geared toward women farmers with 3-10 years of experience managing a farm



operation. It offers training in creating a holistic goal, financial planning, marketing, decision making and other skills that will support women farmers as they develop their farm businesses. The course covers basic soil and pasture management. It is free and limited to 15 participants. Six sessions will take place over the winter of 2010/2011 and 4 farm tours will take place during the spring and summer of 2011. The program includes farm mentors and on-site farm visits. Participants will be chosen through an application process.

The application deadline is October 29, 2010. More information about the course and application materials can be found at http://www.uvm.edu/newfarmer/?Page=whole_farm_planning.html, or contact Jessie Schmidt at 802 223-2389 or newfarmer@uvm.edu.

Applications are also being accepted for farmers interested in serving as paid mentors for this course. Applicants must have at least 10 years of farm management experience and experience in or interest in learning about Holistic Farm Management. The application deadline is November 15, 2010. For more information about being a mentor, go to

<http://www.uvm.edu/newfarmer/:Page=mentor.html>, or contact Jessie Schmidt at 802 223-2389 or newfarmer@uvm.edu.

USDA/NIFA has funded Holistic Management International to teach beginning women farmers the tools of whole farm planning. Course topics include:

- Introduction for Whole Farm Program; Creating a Values-based Farm Mission; Whole Farm Decision Analysis Process
- Increasing Farm Profitability (Gross Profit Analysis; Enterprise Analysis)
- Creating a Whole Farm Financial Plan
- Business Planning Basics
- Creating a Marketing Plan
- Soil Fertility Basics; Examining Enterprise's Environmental Impact
- Time Management – Pulling it All Together in a Whole Farm Plan
- Land and Infrastructure Planning
- Leadership/Communication Skills
- Improving Land Health and Sustainable Soil Building Techniques

NAP Coverage

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. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

The application deadline date for the 2011 NAP coverage for mixed forage, perennials, fruit trees, bushes & grains is November 20, 2010.

Producers who already have coverage on 2010 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2011, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, and other eligible weather conditions.

For more information on NAP coverage please contact your FSA office.

SAFE Conservation Projects

Enrollment in Vermont State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) continues. SAFE is a component of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), tailored to specific watershed areas.

SAFE practices serve to restore wildlife habitat by establishing small blocks of grassland (10-40 acres) and enhancing ex-

isting habitats. Certain wildlife species are in decline, and SAFE habitats are designed to help revitalize these populations.

Under CRP, farmers and ranchers enroll eligible land in 10 to 15-year contracts. These plantings help prevent soil and nutrients from running into regional waterways and affecting water quality. The long-term vegetative cover also improves wildlife habitat and soil quality.

In addition to the annual rental payment and cost-share, SAFE may offer participants an upfront one-time CRP Signing Incentive Payment (SIP) of \$100 per each SIP-eligible acre and a Practice Incentive Payment when cost share is made.

For more information contact your local FSA office.

FSA Farm Loans

FSA offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,094,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For detailed information about loan eligibility, contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

Upcoming Deadlines -- NRCS Farm Bill Programs

October 1 – Deadline to apply for Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP).

October 30 – Deadline to apply for the Con-

servation Stewardship Program (CSP).

For more information please contact: Danny Peet, Williston, 802-865-7895, ext 202; Ellen Sivret, Berlin, 802-828-4493, ext 101; or for Middlebury call 802-388-6748, Al Con-falone, ext 25, Keith Hartline, ext 27 or George Tucker, ext 21.

2010 Women in Sustainable Agriculture Conference

The 2010 Women in Sustainable Agriculture Conference will take place November 1-3, 2010 at the Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee, VT.

The conference strives to bring together farmers, ranchers, educators, agricultural service providers and activists to:

- Build production and business skills
- Share educational and organizational strategies
- Forge new connections that support farm women in the Northeast

It will feature:

- Farm-based workshops and tours
- Intensive skill building sessions
- Engaging speakers and practical workshops
- Small-group, roundtable discussions with other farmers
- Locally grown food that showcases the bounty of the season

Join us in celebrating farm women's accomplishments and help us set the stage for further success.

Registration opens September 7, 2010. Fees will range between \$100 and \$150, depending on the conference options you select. Early registration discounts are available through September 30, 2010.

Sign-up to receive email updates about the conference at

<http://www.uvm.edu/wagn/?Page=conference/updates.html&SM=conference/sub-menu.html>.

Visit www.uvm.edu/wagn and click on "202=10 Women in Sustainable Agriculture Conference" in the green "Quick Links" box for more information.

If you have questions, please email wagn@uvm.edu.

The conference is supported by the Northeast Center for Risk Management Education and the USDA Farm Service Agency.

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

If you have made any changes that affect your interest in base acres since you signed your last Direct and Counter-cyclical Program contract, you must report these *successions-in-interest* to the county committee by **Sept. 30**, so that a final determination can be made on who is eligible for the program on the farm.

Changes that qualify as a succession-in-interest include:

- A sale of land
- A change of operator or producer, including an increase or decrease in the number of partners
- A foreclosure, bankruptcy or involuntary loss of the farm.
- A change in producer shares to reflect changes in the producer's share of the crop(s) that were originally approved on the contract.

If a succession-in-interest has taken place, you, as the “predecessor,” are required to refund any advance DCP payments you received for the affected base acres before a payment can be made to the “successor.”

Not reporting a succession-in-interest can result in contract termination and a loss of program benefits for all producers involved.

Selected Interest Rates for September 2010		Dates to Remember	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%	Sept 30	Succession in Interest Report to County Committee
Farm Operating - Direct	2.375%	Sept 30	2008 SURE Sign-up Ends
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.375%	Sept 30	ECP sign-up Ends
Limited Resource	5.0%	Oct 1	EQIP & WHIP Application Deadline
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%	Oct 30	Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) deadline
Emergency	3.75%	Nov 20	NAP Fees Due – 2011 Mixed Forage & Perennials Fruit trees, bushes & grains
Farm Storage Facility – 7 year	2.250%	Ongoing	MILC & FSFL
Sugar Storage Facility – 10 year	2.875%	Ongoing	Conservation Reserve Program (CREP)
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.250%		

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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.”