



FSA UPDATES



April 2007

Franklin-Grand Isle County FSA

27 Fisher Pond Rd.,
Suite 2
St. Albans, VT 05478

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www.fsa.usda.gov

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

County Committee

John Roy, Chairperson
Darlene Wright, Vice Chair
Madonne Rainville, Member
Robert Howrigan, Jr., Member
Maurice Fortin, Member

**NOTE: COC meets 3rd Thursday
each month at 11:00**

Staff

Carolyn Church (ext.109)
George Godin (ext. 107)
Luc Dupuis (ext. 105)
Mary Lussier (ext. 100)
Tracy Derry (ext. 124)

Loan Officers

Brad Parker (ext. 112)
Dirk Reith (ext. 110)
Liz Vesosky (ext. 111)

Loan Manager

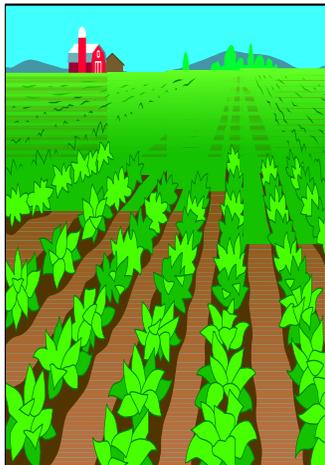
Paul Remillard (ext.108)

County Executive Director

Brenda Ladue (ext. 106)

DATES TO REMEMBER:

May 28	Office Closed for Memorial Day
July 4	Office closed for Independence Day
August 3	DCP Enrollment Deadline Extended



Heavy Snow Load Collapse a Roof? EM Loans Available

USDA (FSA) has designated eight counties in Vermont eligible for emergency loans for physical losses caused by heavy snow, high winds, and blizzard conditions that occurred on February 14, 2007. These counties include Addison, Caledonia, Chittenden, Franklin, Lamoille, Orleans, Rutland, and Washington. Five contiguous counties are also included. These are Bennington, Essex, Grand Isle, Orange and Windsor. Also eligible because they are contiguous are the counties of Grafton in NH and Clinton, Essex, and Washington in NY.

Interested farmers may contact their local FSA office or Dale Thompson in the FSA State Office located at 356 Mountain View Drive, Colchester, VT 05446 @ 802-658-2803 Extension 253 for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other loans and programs. Additional information is also available online at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>

FSA will be accepting applications for the emergency loans through October 29, 2007.

Acreage Reporting

Acreage reporting time will soon be here. Please remember that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) crops, acreage reports are to be certified by the June 30 deadline on small grains and a July 15 deadline on all other crops.

Acreage reports on crops for which NAP assistance may be paid are due in the county office by the earlier of June 30 for small grain and July 15 for all other crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

Remember Conservation When Making Planting Decisions

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Vermont reminds you to check your conservation plan before making final planting decisions this spring to stay eligible for USDA programs.

With high corn prices, some farmers are planting more corn. Anyone who plans to participate in USDA programs now or in the future should check with NRCS before planting land to corn that has not been in corn and before changing the crop rotation on highly erodible land.

USDA program participants are responsible for ensuring that their conservation plan or system is applied and maintained in order to remain eligible for USDA program benefits. The local NRCS office can review your current plan and discuss possible options.

DCP Enrollment Deadline Extended To August 3, 2007

FSA Administrator Teresa Lasseter recently announced that FSA has extended the sign-up deadline for the 2007 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) to Aug. 3, 2007.

Problems with the FSA's web-based computer system caused agency officials to extend the deadline in order to ensure adequate opportunity for all producers to participate in the sign-up. While the sign-up deadline is extended, the cut-off for participation remains Sept. 30, 2007. Those producers failing to sign up by Aug. 3, 2007, but before Sept. 30, will pay a late-file fee of \$100.

Enrollment in DCP for the 2007 contract period began Oct. 1, 2006, and was scheduled to end on June 1, 2007. The extension applies only to the enrollment period, and does not extend the DCP contract period.

DCP provides payments to eligible producers on farms enrolled for the 2002 through 2007 crop years. There are two types of DCP payments - direct payments and counter-cyclical payments. Both are computed using the base acres and payment yields established for the farm. The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 authorizes DCP, which is administered by FSA.

Payment Limits

USDA payments and benefits are subject to producer eligibility and limitation provisions as defined by law. It is the producer's responsibility to report changes in the farming operation which may affect payment eligibility and payment limitation. Failure to do so can result ineligibility for payments for all years affected.

The following payments apply to DCP for each contract year through both direct and counter-cyclical payments. For all covered commodities, except peanuts: \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments. For Peanuts: \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments. The Environmental Quality Incentive Program has a \$450,000 payment limitation total for fiscal years 2002 - 2007. The Conservation Reserve Programs annual limit is \$50,000 per person. Marketing loan gains payment limit of \$75,000 per person.

Entities such as corporations, limited partnerships, trusts and estates are required to provide names, addresses, and ID numbers of their members.

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Beginning, Small and Limited Resource Farmers & Ranchers: Do You Require Financial Assistance to Fund Conservation Program Initiatives?

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) have worked together to make conservation programs more available to beginning, small, and limited resource farmers. As producers move from initial contract development into the implementation stage under NRCS' Environmental Quality Incentives Program, many face the inability to acquire the initial capital investment of their cost-share portion needed for contract implementation.

To help producers implement conservation measures, FSA has several loan programs available to assist with up-front costs. FSA makes direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit otherwise. A primary objective of FSA's farm loan programs is to assist small, beginning, and socially disadvantaged (minority and female) producers. In fact, a portion of FSA's loan funds are reserved for beginning and socially disadvantaged producers. These loan programs are not new and have been used successfully in conjunction with conservation programs throughout the United States.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov and www.nrcs.usda.gov.

FSA Signature Requirements

Proper signatures on Farm Service Agency contracts, applications and forms must be submitted before the document will be considered as filed. All entities, including revocable and irrevocable trusts, corporations, partnerships, estates, etc., must provide evidence of signature authority stipulating those individuals who are authorized to represent the entity. FSA cannot accept signatures without such documentation on file. Examples of acceptable evidence include trust agreements, corporate charters or resolutions, partnership agreements and court orders of appointment. Spouses can sign for one another on most program documents unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office staff. An FSA-211 may be filed to delegate signature authority for FSA program purposes to another individual.

Rural Youth Loans

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes operating loans to individual rural youths age 10 through 20 to establish and operate income producing projects. These projects must be of modest size and be initiated, developed, carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H Clubs, FFA, or a similar organization or with a vocational teacher or county extension agent. The project must be an organized and supervised program of work. It must be planned and operated with the assistance of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. Contact your local FSA office for more details.

Toll-Free Number for Borrowers

Direct loan borrowers with USDA's Farm Service Agency can now check the status of their accounts around the clock using a new toll-free telephone number. The toll-free number, 1-888-518-4983, is available in both English and Spanish. The system delivers information on active FSA loans 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. During the first call to the new system, borrowers will enter their tax identification number or the Social Security Number associated with the loan. They also will need to enter their ZIP code. Borrowers will create a personal identification number for security. Customers must enter their PIN every time they use the system and may change their PIN. The system menu helps the producer access helpful information. The system may also direct borrowers to contact their local FSA servicing office if action is necessary on their accounts.

Update MILCX Contracts

Dairy operations are reminded to inform the county office of any entity or operation changes that may affect your Milk Income Loss Contract (MILCX). The change from an individual to a corporation or partnership, etc. would require an update to your MILCX and other applicable eligibility forms. If you have changed creameries or dairy plants and have had your production information sent directly from them in the past, an updated authorization would need to be completed. Contact your local FSA office for additional information.