



FRANKLIN-GRAND ISLE CO. FARM SERVICE AGENCY NEWS/PROGRAM UPDATES

APRIL 2008

Franklin-Grand Isle County
FSA
27 Fisher Pond Rd.,
Suite 2
St. Albans, VT 05478

Phone: (802) 527-1296
(800) 717-8637
Fax: (802) 524-4575
www.fsa.usda.gov

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

County Committee

Darlene Wright, Chairperson
Maurice Fortin, Vice Chair
Madonne Rainville, Member
Dwight Bullis, Member
Andrew Brouillette, Member

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

Staff

Carolyn Church (ext. 109)
George Godin (ext. 107)
Luc Dupuis (ext. 105)
Tracy Derry (ext. 124)
John Maille (ext. 100)
Dorothy Perkins (ext. 113)
Marguerite Noel (ext. 104)

Loan Officers

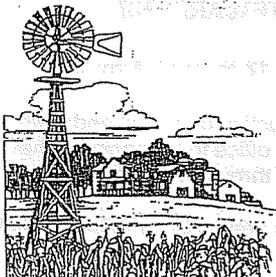
Brad Parker (ext. 112)
Liz Vesosky (ext. 111)

Loan Manager

Dirk Reith (ext. 110)

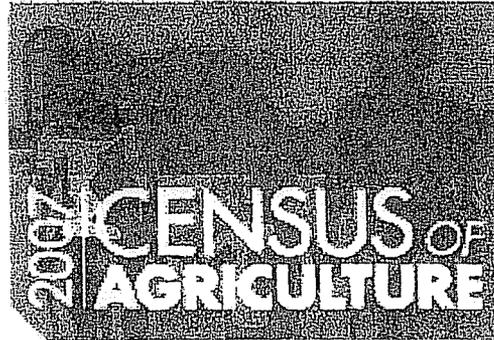
County Executive Director

Brenda Ladue (ext. 106)



Dates to Remember:

**MAY 5: Dairy Disaster
Assistance Program (DDAP-
III Deadline**



NASS Still Accepting Ag Census

The Census of Agriculture is conducted every five years and the deadline for producers to turn the forms in was Feb. 4.

However a large number of the census forms have not been returned according to National Agricultural Statistics Service Deputy Administrator Carol House. She says they're waiting for the rest of them and will give farmers until **June 1** to turn them in.

"We are sending another form out there again with encouragement to fill it out," House says. "We'll give a little bit of time and then we're going to start calling people. Of course calling costs money, its tax payer dollars, so hopefully producers out there will go ahead and fill it out before we have to make a phone call."

Responding to the census is required by law and the privacy of answers given is protected.

"If a producer is not filling it out because they have a question, they're not quite sure how to go about it, they're not sure whether they're required to fill it out or not, please call," House says. "We've received 130,000 calls since census forms were sent out."

A toll-free help line is available at (888) 424-7828. The census can also be submitted online at www.agcensus.usda.gov.

Sign-up for DDAP III Ends May

Reporting Crop Acreage

****APPOINTMENTS ARE ENCOURAGED****

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP/CREP) acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. Also, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must be reported.

Crop Report of Acreages must account for all cropland and land uses on a farm, whether idle or planted. Producers are required to file reports by **JULY 15**.

Prevented Planting:

Prevented planting needs be reported no later than **15 calendar days** after the final planting date.

Failed Acreage:

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

Conservation Compliance

All participants in USDA programs are required to have a conservation system in place on all highly erodible land (HEL) that they operate. Several areas where problems can arise with complying with a conservation system are; renting new cropland, purchasing new land, breaking out additional cropland, planting different crops such as soybeans, and changing or removing existing conservation practices.

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



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Are You Interested In Receiving Incentive Payments For Reducing Phosphorus (P) Loss From Your Farm?

The USDA-funded project titled "Pilot-testing Performance-based Incentive for Agricultural Pollution Control" is paying participating farmers in Missisquoi River Watershed for reducing P loss from their farm and/or being below specified baseline P loss targets. The program provides farmers flexibility to choose the most cost-effective and preferable actions for their farm and fields. Having this flexibility is key to reducing costs of controlling P loss.

Payments are made in two phases. In the first phase, program participants receive a payment for updating or creating a P Index for their farm and brainstorming with project staff on appropriate actions that reduce P loss. In the second phase, participants are paid based on the pounds of P loss and/or amount of P loss reduced, as estimated using the P Index. For more information about this project, please contact Charles.Kerchner@uvm.edu or call him at 802-656-0257.

This project is being implemented by the University of Vermont and Winrock International. It is supported by the Natural Resources Conservation Service of USDA under Agreement No. 68-3A75-6-184.

VERMONT FARMERS INVITED TO HARVEST REWARDS FROM THEIR LAND STEWARDSHIP

Missisquoi Watershed farmers can sign-up for federal Conservation Security Program April 18 through May 16

COLCHESTER, VT (March 28, 2008) – Vermont farmers with land in the Missisquoi watershed and who practice good soil and water conservation are encouraged to contact their local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office to determine if they are eligible to sign-up for the conservation Security Program (CSP). Sign-up begins April 18 and continues through May 16.

Approximately 700 farmers and nearly 171,740 acres of land in Vermont are potentially eligible for CSP this year. CSP is offered nationwide on a rotational basis in as many watersheds as funding allows.

CSP is a voluntary conservation program that supports ongoing stewardship of private, agricultural working lands and rewards those producers who are meeting the highest standards of conservation and environmental management on their operations.

Farmers are encouraged to call or visit their local USDA service center for additional CSP information; Locations are listed on-line at <http://offices.usda.gov> or in the phone book under Federal Government, U.S. Department of Agriculture. **Call the St. Albans NRCS at 524-6505 (if you are located in Franklin County) or Newport NRCS at 334-6090 (if you are located in Orleans**