



U.S. Department of
Agriculture



Lamoille County FSA
109 Professional Drive
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Morrisville, VT 05661
(802)-888-4935
www.fsa.usda.gov

Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Steven Jones, Chair
Fred Boyden, Vice-Chair
Christine Kaiser, reg.member

COC meets 3rd Tuesday
of each month

Program Staff
Heather Mateja (ext.10)
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**County Executive
Director**
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NRCS Staff
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Soil Conservationist
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Lamoille County Farm Service Agency FSA UPDATES

November
2008

The "Ten Acre" Legislative Change

On October 13, 2008, HR-6849 was signed into law and amended the commodity provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill to permit producers with small-acreage to participate in farm programs for the 2008-crop season. The Farm Bill modification for 2008 suspends the provision that prohibits Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) payments on eligible commodities if the sum of the base acres on the farm is 10 acres or less.

The legislation extends the 2008 crop year signup for producers with 10 base acres or less, until November 26, 2008. This regulation change ensures that no penalty can be assessed by USDA against participants who fell into this 10-acre prohibition, for failure to submit reports or timely comply with program requirements. The law also provides clarification on various aspects of the new standing disaster assistance program, specifically how minor acreages and grazing land are supposed to be treated under the program.

Producers with ten base acres or less are encouraged to contact their local FSA office before November 26, 2008 to schedule an appointment to enroll in the 2008 DCP farm program.



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 2009 coverage on perennial forage crops has been extended to **December 1, 2008**. In order to be eligible for disaster assistance programs, like 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 2009 costs \$250 per crop, but not more than \$750 per producer per county, or not more than \$1875 total per producer for all counties.

Producers who already have coverage on 2008 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2009, 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.

Voting for County Committee Begins

Ballots for this year's county committee election will be mailed to eligible voters on November 3, 2008. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 1, 2008. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 1, 2008.

Eligible voters in a local administrative area 3 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, is 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.** Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; *and*
- 3.** 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.

Lamoille County Farm Service Agency
109 Professional Drive, Ste. 2
Morrisville, Vermont 05661

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To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Applications for FSA Farm Loan Assistance

Farmers and ranchers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Filing early will help ensure that your loan is processed and approved as early as possible so that planting decisions can be made. Failure to apply early can result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications that must be processed in date order. Contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager or Officer for more details and assistance in applying.

Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

Why Farms Should Compost Mortality and Residuals

- ✓ Pathogen kill occurs as temperatures increase in the pile
- ✓ Can be done any time of the year, even when the ground is frozen
- ✓ Can be done with equipment available on most farms
- ✓ Relatively odor free
- ✓ All sizes of animals can be composted
- ✓ Placental membranes and other tissue can be composted
- ✓ Relatively low labor and management needed
- ✓ Low cost

If you have an existing mortality composting site that is not working well

Or if you would like to set up a site, technical assistance is available from NRCS – call Nancy Allen 888-4965 Ext 15



DATES TO REMEMBER

November 11 — Veterans Day- Office Closed
November 27 — Thanksgiving Day- Office Closed
December 1 — Deadline to return COC election ballots
December 1— NAP deadline on fall seeded crops
December 25— Christmas Day- Office Closed

Selected Interest Rates for November 2008

Farm Operating - Direct	3.375 %
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.875 %
Emergency	3.75 %
Farm Storage Facility	3.25 %