



September 2009

Orleans County News

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

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Doug Lawson, Vice Chair
Donna Hammond, Voting Member
Donna Hammond, Minority Advisor

COC meets 2nd Wednesday of each month.

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Paul Daniels, Chair
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Karen O'Donnell
William Ryan
Darryl Mongeon



Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program Changes

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

******Notice to all Farm Program Participants******

Beginning on **August 3, 2009**, all payments made by direct deposit to FSA farm program participants will take a one day detour thru the Department of Treasury. This will allow FSA to become compliant with the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996. Any participant receiving payment who has delinquent Federal debt will have the payment withheld to help satisfy that debt. All payments not withheld will be credited to the participant's account the following day. This process should have minimal affect on the availability of earned funds for most of our customers.

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 2010 NAP coverage for forage crops is Nov 20, 2009.

Producers who already have coverage on 2009 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2010, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. 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, etc.

LIVESTOCK MORTALITY COMPOSTING WORKSHOPS

presented by the

Highfields center for Composting

Composting is the preferred method of managing carcasses in Vermont due to extremely limited rendering options and concerns about groundwater via burial. Composting can be 100% successful **IF** you follow the proper procedures. This short class will cover everything you need to know about site set-up, carcass preparation, and pile construction and management. Join us!

Date: September 17, 2009
Time: 10:00am – 1:00 pm
Location: Highfields Center for Composting, West Hill Road, Hardwick

Date: September 24, 2009
Time: 10:00am – 1:00pm
Location: Nelson's Crystal Brook Farm, Rte 5, Derby Line

Fee: \$10 (\$20 for non-farmers) includes DVD, handouts and refreshments
Call to register: 802-472-5138 x203 or email june@highfieldsinstitute.org

Directions:
Highfields: From Hardwick, N on Rte 14, left on West Hill Rd, 2.3 miles on right
Nelson Farm: From intersection of Rte 5 and 105 in Derby Center, 2.5 miles N, on right

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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Help Available to Stressed Farmers

In the past year, the economy, inclement weather, drought and other factors have hurt many farming operations around the country. These events pushed some farmers to the emotional breaking point. Watching their livelihood being threatened is difficult for farmers and ranchers and especially for those who care about them.

The National Suicide Prevention Hotline is available to help. If you know a farmer or rancher who is under stress and is reluctant to ask for help, or if you just need to talk to someone, call 1-800-273-TALK (8255). Your call will be routed to the crisis center nearest you, where trained staffers are available 24/7. This nationwide service is free and confidential. Help is just a phone call away.

For more information, go to <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>. This service is not affiliated with the US Department of Agriculture.

Locally, services are available to help at:

- THE NORTHEAST KINGDOM HUMAN SERVICES – MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
located at 154 Duchess Avenue in Newport. Telephone contact at 802-334-6744.
- And also at:

Rural & Agricultural VocRehab

University of Vermont is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Celebrating 40 years of service

Providing Services in Support of Employment to Vermonters with Health
Conditions since 1968

~Personal Employment Plans ~ Counseling /Guidance~ ~Career Exploration ~ Equip-
ment/Machine Adaptations~ ~Worksite modifications~ Information & Referral~

St. Johnsbury Office 397 Railroad St. 1-800-545-8920

Speak with Melissa or Audrey

www.uvm.edu/agvocrehab

~Dairy Crisis Hotline~

Dairy Farmers: Take Steps Now to Deal with the Milk Price Downturn!

In 2009, as milk prices continue to decline, and stay low while expenses do not, take steps now to adjust your business plans for this year and beyond.

Dairy farms are vital to Vermont Agriculture and with the current milk price situation; dairy farmers are struggling to keep their farm viable while supporting their families as well. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance, from financial planning, ways to cope and deal with stress, or simply need someone to talk with about your situation, call the **Farmer's Hotline**.

1-800-545-8920

Speak with Audrey or Melissa



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Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more that 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed.

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

Biomass Crop Assistance Program

FSA is currently accepting applications from biomass facilities interested in participating in the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP).

Once an agreement is signed between FSA and a facility and funding through the program is provided, the facilities can begin accepting materials. Producers who sell these materials can apply for matching payments under the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) component of BCAP.

The matching CHST payments are paid at a rate of \$1 for \$1 per dry-ton equivalent received from a qualified biomass conversion facility, not to exceed \$45 per dry-ton equivalent. A biomass owner is eligible to receive payments for two years. The purpose of the matching payments is to assist biomass producers with the CHST cost of delivering biomass to a qualified biomass conversion facility. Once a facility becomes qualified, eligible material owners or producers who deliver biomass to that facility may be eligible to receive CHST payments.

Eligible material owners or producers, who market eligible material to a qualified biomass conversion facility, may apply for the matching CHST payment at their FSA county office. An application must be submitted before the eligible material is sold and delivered to a qualified biomass conversion facility. After the product is delivered, a producer must provide FSA with documentation of product quantity, quality and payment rate. County offices will validate payment requests with information in the county office and information provided under the terms of MOUs with the qualified biomass conversion facilities. CHST payments will not be authorized until after an appropriate environmental analysis has been conducted.

Biomass conversion facilities and material owners or producers should contact their FSA state offices or visit www.fsa.usda.gov for more information