



Rutland/Bennington County News

2009 County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established, with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. County committees provide local input on:

- Commodity price support loans and payments
- Conservation programs
- Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities
- Emergency programs
- Payment eligibility

FSA county committees operate within official regulations to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

Nominations for candidates to represent producers in Local Administrative Area (LAA#1) will be accepted from **June 15 through August 3**. LAA#1 includes the towns of Benson, Castleton, Fair Haven, Hubbardton, Ira, Middletown Springs, Poultney, Wells and West Haven. Dick Sheldon is the current representative on the Rutland/Bennington County Committee for this area.

Producers who are residents in LAA #1, who participate or cooperate in an FSA program, and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. Forms are available at the county FSA office or online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA>.

Important dates for this year's election:

- ✓ June 15 Nomination period begins
- ✓ Aug. 3 Deadline to submit nomination forms
- ✓ Nov. 6 Ballots mailed to eligible voters.
- ✓ Dec. 7 Deadline to return completed ballots to the FSA County Office.
- ✓ Dec.10 COC will count Ballots
- ✓ Jan. 1, '10 Elected Committee members and alternates take office

Loan Applications Being Accepted for New Agricultural Stimulus Financing

Vermont farmers may apply immediately for the new agricultural stimulus financing available through VEDA's farm lending program, the Vermont Agricultural Credit Corporation (VACC). VACC has up to \$6million in low-interest financing available, made possible by \$1 million in federal economic stimulus funds from VT's share of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The new loan funding is available to help farmers with this season's operational costs—feed, seed, fertilizer or other needs, or to refinance prior years' operating costs. The stimulus financing has a variable rate, now at 2%. The term for the financing is generally 2 year and the maximum loan amount is \$100,000.

To learn more, VT farmers in need of financing are encouraged to speak with one of VACC's experienced farm lenders by calling 1-866-828-3276. Detailed information about the program is available at www.veda.org.

Request for Soybean Referendum

The Request for Referendum will be conducted at county Farm Service Agency offices beginning May 4 and continuing through May 29. Producers may obtain a request form by mail, fax, or in person from FSA. Forms also available at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsmarketingprograms> during the same time period.

To be eligible to participate, producers must certify and provide documentation that shows that they produced soybeans and paid an assessment on the soybeans during the period of Jan. 1, 2007 through Dec. 31, 2008.

Farm Reconstitutions

At FSA, farms are "constituted" to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. If an owner or operator can not agree about program participation, like in the case of the new ACRE program, then producers should inquire about a reconstitution of the farm at the county FSA office.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

Rutland/Bennington County FSA

170 S Main St STE4
Rutland, VT 05701-4559
802-775-8034
800-300-6927 (VT)
802-773-4177 (FAX)
802-253-0191 (TDD)

Hours

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

County Committee

Richard P Browe, Chair
Karl Strohmaier, Vice Chair
Clifton Cressy
Richard Sheldon
David Seward

Minority Advisor

Cristine Carabeau

Staff

Diane Heleba, PT X 10
Marge Christy, PT X 12
Michelle Smith, SCEP X 13

Co. Executive Director

Phyllis L Torrey X 11

Farm Loan Staff

Farm Loan Manager

Gary Braman

Loan Officers

David Girard
Jill Cioffi-Thomas

802-388-6748 (Middlebury)
1-888-408-3783 (Loans)

*Farm Loan Staff is in the
Rutland Service Center
Wednesdays – Ext 22*

NRCS Staff

William Forbes, DC X 14
Steve Pytlík X 18
Sally Eugair X 16
Les Wright X 23
Corinne Matarese X 21

Rutland NRCD Staff

Nanci McGuire X 17

Poultney-Mettowee NRCD

Marli Rupe 287-8339

Bennington NRCD

Shelly Stiles 442-2275



Dates to Remember	
May 18	NAP/Crop Insurance Waiver Buy-In
May 21	No-Till Workshop
May 25	Office Closed for Memorial Day
May 29	Soybeans Referendum ends
June 1	GRP Application Cut-Off
June 30	Deadline to report small grains
July 15	Crop Acreage Reports Due
July 15	2008 Production Reports Due
August 3	Deadline to submit Nomination for LAA #1
August 14	2009 DCP & ACRE Signup Deadline
Continues	Conservation Reserve Program/ CREP
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan
Continues	MILC

Visit our Web site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/>

No-Till Workshop

You are invited to a No-Till workshop at the Hathaway Farm, 741 Prospect Hill Rd, Rutland Town on **Thursday May 21**.

Joel Myers, technical coordinator for the Pennsylvania No-Till Alliance and No-Till farmer with 20 years experience, will discuss the process of transitioning to a no-till system and the management strategies for this transition. Discussion will also include: manure management for no-till, the importance of cover crops, crop rotations, and pest and disease management and equipment choices.

Dr. Charles Kome, Soil Scientist with USDA/NRCS will also be present for discussion on soil quality differences between conventional till and no-till planting systems.

Date: **Thursday May 21**
 Time: **9:00-2:00 Rain or Shine**
Lunch and snacks provided

For more information, directions and to RSVP (requested not required), call **Jennifer by May 18 at 802-558-6470– cell**

Workshop made possible with a grant from LCBP and sponsored by PMNRCD, RNRCD, SVNMP and NRCS.



Acreage Reporting Stations

Acreage reports can be filed in the following locations **between 8 am and 5 pm**. Please call the County Office (802-775-8034 or 800-300-6927) and **make an appointment TODAY**:

- Monday June 8 - Shaftsbury Firehouse**
- Tuesday June 9 - Strohmaier's Store**
- Monday June 15 - Pawlet Firehouse**
- Tuesday June 16 - Pawlet Firehouse**
- Monday June 22 - Rupert Firehouse**
- Tuesday June 23 - West Haven Community Hall**

Or you may also report at the **Rutland/Bennington County Office**. **July 15 is the final date to report timely.**

Reporting Crop Acreage- Deadline – June 30 Small Grains & July 15 All Other Crops

It goes by different names — crop report, acreage report, crop certification — but regardless of what you call it, filing an accurate and timely acreage 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 (including **ALL HAY**) *must be reported* to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP), marketing assistance loans, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs), and NAP (Non Insured Crop Disaster Program). Conservation Reserve Program acreage *must be reported* to receive annual rental payments.

Crop reports must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle/fallow or planted. Producers are required to file reports by **June 30th** for small grains and **July 15th** for all other crops.

Planting Dates -- Please keep track of your planting dates as these are needed when you certify your crop acreage. Those dates are helpful to you in the event of a disaster program. Planting dates are required for farmers enrolled in NAP and crop insurance.

Prevented Planting: Report no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

Failed Acreage: Failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted because of a natural disaster.

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