



June 1, 2008

Windham County News

**Windham County
USDA Service Center**
28 Vernon St.
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Brattleboro Vt. 05301
802 245-9766 phone
802 254 3307 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov
Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Jill Adams Mancivalano-
Chair
Charles Robb Jr. -Vice
Arnold Fisher-Member

County Committee meets
2nd Tuesday of the Month

Staff
County Executive Director
Julie Jacque (x107)
Julie.Jacque@vt.usda.gov

Program Technician
Valerie Brassor (x100)
Valerie.brassor@usda.gov

Farm Loan Staff
George Button, Jr. FLM
802-295-7942 x15
800-789-6713
George.button@vt.usda.gov

George is in Windham Co.
Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of
the month or by appointment

NRCS Staff
Lance Gorham x101
Lance.gorham@vt.usda.gov

NRC District Staff
Jolene Hamilton, Mgr.x104
Sylvia Harris x105



Julie's Notes

Well, we know one thing for sure, if you don't like the answer~wait a minute and you'll get a different one! The wheels are turning as Washington is transitioning to a new administration and trying to get the farm bill programs out the door at the same time. It's extremely challenging to get a final answer. If this were the show "Who wants to be a Millionaire" the same contestant would be on the show for a whole season deliberating an answer!

Here is a little about what we do know or our "Final Answer":

1. MILC has been reinstated in the bill. Signup will be "soon" for 2009. Reports are there was no month in 2008 that qualified for a payment.
2. If you want insurance on your crops~come see us~BY Dec. 1 for hay & other perennial crops, Jan. 1 for maple and Mar. 15 for spring seeded annuals.
3. If you want to qualify for disaster programs~which is still directly linked to #2~come see us.
4. A NAP policy for pasture is NOT required for the new CDP now known as SURE program.
5. A NAP policy linking you to SURE, is not required for any crop that is less than 10% economically significant to your farming operation.
6. DCP is scheduled to continue as is. There will be some bells and whistles coming under the context of a program called ACRE, which is pretty limited in details.
7. We are still taking applications for 2005, 2006, 2007 quantity and QUALITY losses under crop disaster program. If you have some feed samples bring them in and make an application.
8. We can take applications for conservation reserve, grassland reserve programs.
9. We have farm-storage feed facility loans available. Hay crop is included in the new farm bill as an eligible commodity to build a storage facility for.

2009 Non-Insured Assistance (NAP)

Purchasing NAP coverage is a great start to protecting your crop investment. Please keep the following in mind:

Report planted crop acres to the office by acreage reporting deadlines. **NOTE:** *Previous year production for annual crops is due at crop reporting, July 17th! Without it, you will be assigned a reduced yield for last year.*

File a Notice of loss (CCC-576) with the office within **15 calendar days** of the:

- *final planting date, if your planting was prevented by a natural disaster;
- *natural disaster occurrence;
- *date damage to the crop or loss of production becomes apparent to you;
- * Or the normal harvest date.

To receive NAP benefits, you must complete Form CCC-576 part B, Application for Payment, prior to the application closing date of the subsequent year. The CCC-576 requires you to provide evidence of production and note whether the crop was marketable, unmarketable, salvaged or used differently than intended.

Contact the FSA office for an appraisal to be completed **prior to destroying** the crop or putting the crop to another use.

2008 COC Election Information

One of FSA's responsibilities is to conduct County Committee elections in an open manner that ensures accountability. County FSA Offices will provide local organizations representing socially disadvantaged groups with detailed information about the COC election process. FSA is reaching out to agricultural communities to get equitable representation on their county committees.

Groups representing socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, will be actively solicited for COC election candidates, and encouraged to fill out a nomination form (**FSA-669A**). Under represented farmers are encouraged to step up and participate in their county's COC election process.

This year's Local Administrative Area (LAA) up for election includes the towns of **Brattleboro, Dummerston, East Halifax, Guilford, Marlboro, Vernon**. Producers who are a resident in one of these towns, 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.

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.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Disaster Signup Continues

Eligible farmers and ranchers who suffered livestock losses, feed losses, or crop loss damage before Dec. 31, 2007, can still apply to receive disaster assistance. FSA continues to accept applications and make payments for quantity losses under the Crop Disaster Program (CDP), for losses that occurred before the end of the 2007 calendar year. Later this summer FSA will begin making payments to producers for quality losses under CDP. For more disaster program information go online at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>

Deadline Announced: Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) — Sign-up continues for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) through the announced deadline of **July 18th**. The LCP program covers pasture loss, forage losses for quantity and quality, and additional feed costs for crop year 2006. Additional feed (forages, additives, concentrates, extenders) must have been purchased and PAID FOR between May 15, 2006 and May 14, 2007 to be eligible. Call the office or stop by for more details.

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.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 21 years of age
- Live in the open country or in a town of less than 50,000 people
- Must obtain a written recommendation and consent from a parent or guardian if the applicant has not reached the age of majority under state law
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

“Growing With You”

Southern Vermont Nutrient Management Program is offering a new program while funds last. With the "Growing with You" program, SVNMP will provide to farmers up to 5 soil tests with Phosphorous Index and RUSLE2 analyses and consultation to explain the value of these tests in crop management - **absolutely free! All information is completely confidential.** Please contact: SVNMP at 287-2250 or Jennifer at 802-558-6470 for more information or to request a brochure.

Preventing Fraud

The Farm Service Agency has joined with the Risk Management Agency to prevent fraud, waste and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. In addition, FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse to RMA. Producers can report suspected cases to the county office staff, RMA office, or the OIG.

Signing for Entities

To sign FSA forms for trusts, limited liability companies, cooperatives, partnerships or corporations, producers need a document on file at the county office saying you're authorized to sign for the entity. It could be a copy of the articles of partnership or articles of corporation or a valid power of attorney.

Banking Changes?

To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

Dates to Remember	
June 3 rd	Stateline Farm On Farm Biodiesel Workshop Call Vern Grubinger @ Vermont Extension Service 802-257-7967 ext. 13
June 21	So. VT Dairy Goat Association Annual Goat Show Marlboro Vt. info@vtgoats.org
Jun 30-Jul 1	Business Planning for Farm Success Middlebury, Vt., Allen Matthews 802-656-0037
June 30 July 4	Deadline to Report Acreage of Small Grains USDA Offices Closed
July 15	Crop Acreage Reporting Deadline