



# Windsor-Orange County Updates

**September 2009**

**Farm Service Agency**

28 Farmvu Drive  
White River Jct., VT 05001

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[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

**Hours**

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

**County Committee**

Paul Doton, Chair

Heidi Dolloff, Vice Chair

Michael Emerson

Agnes Spaulding

Sandra Whitney

COC meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday  
each month at 10:00 am

**County Executive**

**Director**

Christine Lary, ext 13  
[christine.lary@vt.usda.gov](mailto:christine.lary@vt.usda.gov)

**Farm Loan Manager**

George Button Jr. X15  
[george.button@vt.usda.gov](mailto:george.button@vt.usda.gov)



**2009 County Committee Elections**

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency county committees is important to ALL farmers, 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 (USDA).

The election this year is for Local Administrative Areas (LAA) #2 and LAA #5. LAA #2 includes the towns of Strafford, Sharon, Norwich, Hartford, Pomfret, Barnard, Stockbridge, Bridgewater and Woodstock. LAA #5 includes the towns of Tunbridge, Orange, Topsham, Williamstown, Washington, Brookfield, Chelsea, and Braintree.

Nomination forms were received for candidates in both administrative areas. Paul Doton is the sole candidate for LAA #2. Sandra Whitney is running unchallenged for LAA #5. Ballots are scheduled to be mailed to voters in both areas on November 6, 2009. All ballots are to be received or post-marked no later than December 7, 2009.

**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](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) for more information.

**Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)**

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 November 20, 2009, and for spring-seeded vegetable crops is March 15, 2010.

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. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops. 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:

- 1) Timely file acreage reports and 2) keep track of harvested production, using acceptable methods.

**Dairy Crisis Hotline**

This toll-free helpline is available to farmers in Vermont struggling with the current downturn in dairy prices. If you, or someone you know, is in need of help, such as assistance with financial planning, or finding ways to cope with stress, or if you simply need someone to talk with about your situation, please, call 800 545-8920 (in St. Johnsbury), 800 281-6977 (in Rutland), or 800 639-2130 (in St. Albans). This is a service of the UVM Extension VocRehab program.

**United States Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency  
Windsor-Orange FSA Office  
28 Farmvu Drive  
White River Junction, VT 05001**

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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### **FSA Farm Loans**

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,094,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For detail information loan eligibility or the different available loan programs, just contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

### **Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers**

FSA assists beginning farmers who are 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. Socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)