



Rutland/Bennington County News

NAP Fees Are Due December 1

OCTOBER 2008

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)
802-388-6748 (Loans)

Hours

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

County Committee

Cash Ruane, Chair
Cliff Cressy, Vice Chair
Rick Browe
Richard Sheldon
Henry Strohmaier

Minority Advisor

Cristine Carabeau

Staff

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

Loan Officers

David Girard
Jill Cioffi-Thomas

Farm Loan Manager

Gary Braman

Co. Executive Director

Phyllis L Torrey X 11

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

NRCS Staff

William Forbes, DC X 14
Steve Pytlik 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



Quality Loss Crop Disaster Signup

Signup for Quality Losses under the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) continues. CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quality losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007. No deadline has been set.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under NAP for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.

Please call the FSA Office for more information.

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.

The application deadline date for the 2009 coverage on fall seeded 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 \$2250 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.

FSA Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- A married woman shall sign her given name: Mrs. Mary Doe, not Mrs. John Doe
- For a minor, FSA requires the minor's signature and one from an eligible parent. Note, by signing the applicable document, the parent is liable for actions of the minor and may be liable for refunds, liquidated damages, etc
- When signing on one's behalf the signature must agree with the name typed or printed on the form, or be a variation that does not cause the name and signature to be in disagreement. Example - John W. Smith is on the form. The signature may be John W. Smith or J.W. Smith or J. Smith.
- FAXED signatures will be accepted for certain forms and other documents provided the acceptable program forms are approved for FAXED signatures. Producers are responsible for the successful transmission and receipt of FAXED information.
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact the County FSA Office.

Rural and Agricultural VocRehab Celebrating 40 years of Service

In 2008, Rural and Agricultural VocRehab (RAVR), is celebrating its 40th year of collaboration between University of Vermont Extension and VocRehab Vermont. This program provides direct and referral services to rural and farm families through assistance in these areas: coping with physical and mental disabilities; vocational evaluation and counseling; education and training; voca-

tional training and placement; machinery/equipment adaptations; worksite/homesite modifications. For details, contact Kathy Mason at 1-800-281-6977 or 773-3349.

Crop Insurance Update

The Multiple Peril Crop Insurance Catastrophic Risk Program (CAT) has been revised to change the administrative fee from \$100 to \$300 for each crop and county for 2009.

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) has been added as a permanent disaster program to be administered by FSA. In order for the producer to be eligible for disaster assistance under this program, ALL CROPS, will need to be covered under a crop insurance policy or be covered under the NAP program.

We need to be sure that the name and entity on the policy and the Federal ID number or Social Security number are as you certify with FSA.

Starting with the 2009 crop year, the total Added Land Cropland Acres, by county, MUST be reported when certifying Added Land by the acreage reporting date, which is **July 15th**.

Producers need to remember **March 15, 2009**, which is the date you need to have contacted your insurance agency to complete the Spring Reporting form.

Emergency Loans Available

The USDA Secretary has announced that all counties in Vermont have been designated as natural disaster areas. Farmers who suffered significant damage due to severe weather conditions, including excessive rain, high winds, hail, lightning, tornadoes, and flooding, may be eligible for low-interest emergency loans from FSA. These loans carry an interest rate of 3.75 %.

Eligible farmers can also use emergency loan funds to recover a portion of losses on growing crops that were destroyed. Eligible farmers can use emergency loan funds to repair or rebuild essential farm buildings, clean debris or prepare land for replanting, and to replace livestock, supplies and harvested crops on hand or in storage that were lost.

Producers may borrow up to 100 percent of the actual production or physical losses, to a maximum of \$500,000. Loan applications will be accepted through **June 22, 2009**.

Call the loan staff for more information at 802-388-6748, extension 3.

Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office staff if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

Dates to Remember

November 3	County Committee ballots mailed to voters in LAA's 3 & 5
November 11	Office Closed for Veterans Day Holiday
November 26	2008 DCP Sign up Deadline
November 27	Office Closed for Thanksgiving Day Holiday
December 1	2009 NAP application
December 1	Ballots returned to County Office
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan

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

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.

Candidates on the ballot for this year are:

LAA 3:

- * Cristine Carabeau, Tinmouth
- * Marcus "Steve" Fish, Jr., Tinmouth
- * Cash Ruane, Clarendon
- * David Seward, East Wallingford

LAA 5:

- * Marcus "Mark" Gardner, III, Pownal
- * Mailyn Gardner, Pownal
- * Cecily Strohmaier, Pownal
- * Karl Strohmaier, Pownal

Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by close of business on December 1, 2008 or postmarked by this date.

Eligible voters in either local administrative area 3 & 5 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.

Final Payments for 2008 DCP

Enrolled producers should have received their final direct payment(s) electronically deposited into their bank accounts during October.

The direct payment for a crop equals 85 percent of the farm's base acreage times (x) the farm's direct payment yield times (x) the direct payment rate.

Do you have a DCP Contract for 10 base acres or less?

Originally the new Farm Bill would not allow for payment on contracts less than 10 acres. **Recent legislation by Congress now allows for payment on contracts for 10 acres or less.** Please contact the County Office to check on the status of your DCP contracts. Be sure to sign up and submit CCC-510, Rental Certifications for any remaining contracts you might have that are 10 acres or less.

Sign up deadline for these contracts is November 26, 2008.

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged Applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact their local FSA office for details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

