

# FSA FARM NEWS

News for People  
Interested in Agriculture

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June 2008

Farm Service Agency  
100 Northfield Drive,  
4th floor  
Windsor, CT 06095

860-688-7725 ext. 2  
Fax: 860-688-0083

Hours: Monday–Friday  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

#### County Committee:

##### Members:

Edward Kasheta Jr.  
Chairman  
Gregory Peracchio  
Vice Chair  
Benjamin Bielonko,  
member  
Stephen Jarmoc,  
member  
Oliver Tuller Jr.  
member  
Anita Mihaliak  
Minority Advisor

#### County Office Staff:

Ross E. Eddy, CED  
Doris G. Ostrowski, PT  
Christine Rothe, PT

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

#### Office Closings

July 4, Independence Day

### *Reporting Crop Acreage*

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely 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 must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Load Deficiency Payments.

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. Producers need to file their acreage reports by July 15.

#### Prevented Planting:

Prevented planting needs be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

**Please call the FSA Office to schedule your appointment for reporting your acres once you have completed planting your crops. 860-688-7725 ext. 2.**

### *HELC and Wetland Conservation*

The term “sodbusting” is used to identify the plowing up of erosion-prone grasslands for use as cropland. Sodbuster violations are unauthorized tillage practices on highly erodible lands that converted native vegetation such as rangeland or woodland, to crop production after Dec. 23, 1985. Farmers and ranchers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in Farm Service Agency programs.

Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an AD-1026, indicating the area to be brought into production. If Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates on a CPA-026 that the area will be highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage, before bringing land into production.

In addition, producers and the producer’s affiliates have to file an AD-1026 with the staff in the administrative or control county office before any farm program payments can be made. The AD-1026 is the producer’s signed certification that HELC, as well as wetland conservation, provisions will not be violated.

### *A \$40 Coupon to help you purchase a TV Converter Box needed by February 17, 2009*

Do you have a TV in your home that works with the help of “rabbit ears” or a rooftop antenna? February 17, 2009 will be the date that your analog TV will not be able to process the programming. The coupon will allow you to purchase a converter box to then receive programming on your older television. To receive a coupon you may apply online or by phone. Online: [www.DTV2009.gov](http://www.DTV2009.gov); by phone: 1-888-DTV-2009; by mail: PO Box 2000, Portland, OR 97208 and by FAX: 1-877-DTV-4ME2. If you have cable or satellite TV you will not need to purchase a box.



**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 elections candidates, and encouraged to fill out a nomination form (FSA-669A). Under represented farmers and ranchers are encouraged to step up and participate in their county's COC election process. Eligible voters from Hartland, East Granby, Granby, Suffield, Windsor Locks, Andover, Bolton, Columbia, Coventry, Glastonbury, Hebron, Mansfield, Marlborough and Vernon, will vote this time. COC election fact sheets can be found online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under the News & Events tab on the FSA homepage.

**Farm Loan Programs**

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, borrower 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 \$200,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$949,000. 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 Farms and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA. Contact Ron Clark for Tolland County Loans at 860-887-9941 ext. 105. For Hartford County loans contact Ellen Losee at 860-626-8852 ext. 104.



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