

# FSA FARM NEWS

News for People  
Interested in Agriculture

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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:

Benjamin Bielonko  
Stephen Jarmoc  
Edward Kasheta Jr.  
Gregory Peracchio  
Oliver Tuller Jr.

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

January 21, 2008  
Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday

February 18, 2008  
Geo. Washington's Birthday



## County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Steven Jarmoc! Steve was elected to represent farmers from Enfield, Somers, Stafford, Union, Ellington, Tolland and Willington. Anita Mihaliak will be the 1st Alternate. FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

## Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information.



## 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.

## Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

## Customer Statement

January signals the beginning of a new year, and time to gather financial records and starting thinking about filling out a 1040. Producers who have signed up for a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account will be able to access their farm data via their Customer Statement. The Customer Statement puts a range of USDA services and programs into a single report that's at your fingertips and available online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It allows USDA customers to view their participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation program; information on farm loans; and conservation plan and land unit information.



## USDA's Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency Program & Value-Added Producer Grant Program at a pre-Funding Information Session

USDA Rural Development will hold an information session for small businesses and agricultural producers about the various federal and state loan and grant programs available which address renewable energy and energy efficiency on Wednesday, February 6, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 pm at the Windsor Ag Experiment Station. Speakers from the USDA will also discuss the agencies' Value-Added Producer Grant program which enables producers to develop business that produce and market value-added agricultural products. The Windsor Ag Experiment Station is located at 153 Cook Hill Road, Windsor, CT.

For more information please contact: Paula Friedmann at 860-688-7725 ext 102.

**Ag Census Forms Due Feb 4th**

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) began distribution of the 2007 Census of Agriculture last month and completed forms are due by February 4, 2008. Producers can return their forms by mail or, for the first time, they have the convenient option of filling out the Census online via a secure web site at <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/>. Conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Census is a complete count of the nation's farms and ranches and the people who operate them. According to NASS, the Census of Agriculture provides information that is not available elsewhere. The last Ag Census was conducted in 2002. The Census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures and other topics. It provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation. Policy-makers use Census data for decisions concerning agricultural and rural programs. Community planners use Census information to target delivery of local services. Companies rely on Census data when determining where to locate their operations. And farmers themselves look at Census data when deciding to make changes in their production strategies.

**CDP Signup Continues**

The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops. CDP signup for quantity loss began October 15, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to apply for benefits. Participants may apply for loss benefits on multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP. Please call the office to set up your appointment before coming in to apply.

**Tobacco Meeting Scheduled**

Tuesday, February 19, the Annual Research Meeting for those working on or interested in research and issues concerned with growing wrapper tobacco in the CT River Valley is scheduled at Suffield High School from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Snow date will be Feb. 21. For more information: The CT Agricultural Experiment Station@ 860-693-4977. Bring license number for CT or MA pesticide applicator re-certification credit.

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U.S. Department of Agriculture  
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