



U.S. Department of  
Agriculture

**Caledonia/Essex  
County FSA**  
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**Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**County Committee**  
Burt Patenaude, Chair  
Robert Porter, Vice Chair  
William Nelson, Member  
Michael Tanguay, Member

**COC meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday  
of each month at 10:30 am**

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Tamara Stevens, (x114)  
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Area Director  
Cheryl Ducharme, (x107)  
Loan Specialist  
Mark Koprowski, (x120)  
Loan Specialist  
Suzanne Smith, (x112)  
Area Technician  
Linere Silloway, (x119)  
RD Technician

Farm Service Agency

# FSA UPDATES

October 2007

## Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)

FSA is now accepting applications for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP). LCP provides monetary assistance to eligible livestock producers for feed losses that occurred between May 1, 2006 and April 30, 2007 as a result of "severe storms and excessive moisture."

The LCP program covers pasture loss and additional feed costs due to the "disaster event". Producers may apply for one or both parts of the program. Producers will need to provide us with their livestock numbers (kind and weight range) for livestock that was owned on May 1, 2006.

Payments will be the lesser of either a per-head livestock payment, or the combined value of grazing losses and additional feed purchases necessitated by on-farm losses resulting from qualifying disaster conditions. Per-head payments are based upon various rates assigned to different classes of livestock.

*For the pasture portion of the program* you will need to show us on a map where you had pasture in 2006, the number of days each area was grazed, and what type of pasture it is (native grass or improved pasture). You will have to indicate to us what your percentage of loss in the pasture was.

*For the additional feed costs portion of the program* the feed must be above the normal amount purchased as long as it was purchased because of the "disaster". An increase in feed costs due to increased herd/increased cost is not eligible. There is documentation that will need to be provided. For purchased forage (hay, haylage or corn silage) you will need a receipt, signed and dated by the seller. For all other purchased concentrates, additives or extenders you will need to provide a comparison of amounts and dollars for these purchased feeds prepared by your feed consultant or feed dealer on company letterhead showing the differences in feed purchased between a normal year and the disaster year.

If you are interested in the program, there is a Livestock Compensation Program Payment Calculation Worksheet (FSA-902) we can send to help you capture this information before coming in to apply. Please contact us at 748-2641 for more information.

## Crop Disaster Program (CDP) – Quantity loss

On October 15, 2007 sign-up began for quantity losses under the Crop Disaster Program (CDP). Subject to final rules for the program, CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered losses to the 2005-2007 crops from natural disasters and related conditions so long as the actual crop lost was planted or prevented from being planted before Feb. 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses must choose only one year to receive benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple crops as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

➡➡➡ Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster 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. The payment rate is set at 42 percent of the established price. Assistance, together with any crop insurance or NAP payment received for the same crop and including the value of the crop production not lost, must not exceed 95 percent of the total value of the crop absent the disaster. ⬅️⬅️⬅️

FSA offices may accept information from producers about quality losses when producers submit applications for quantity losses. However, FSA will only consider quality loss applications complete after FSA announces the quality loss sign-up date. FSA will not consider applications completed for any loss, including quantity losses, until a final rule has been issued for this program.

**USDA will announce and conduct CDP sign-up for quality losses as a later date.**

For more information about disaster programs implemented by FSA, visit: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

## Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Deadline Approaching

The deadline to purchase NAP coverage for crop year 2008 is **November 20<sup>th</sup>**. This deadline is for crops such as **grass/mixed forage and perennial crops such as apples, blueberries, strawberries, and raspberries**. NAP provides assistance in the event of catastrophic losses to crop types not insurable under regular crop insurance programs. The cost for NAP coverage is \$100/crop, not to exceed \$300/county and \$900 for multi-county producers.

Under current provisions, NAP coverage for qualifying crop types in the qualifying disaster year is mandatory for those receiving benefits under CDP (see above article). This is a MAJOR change in USDA Disaster provisions! Congress could reverse these provisions . . . but we encourage you to consider purchasing this policy.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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### **Pesticide Certification Class for Farmers and Christmas Tree Growers**

A one-day class will be held in early January for farmers and Christmas Tree growers who wish to obtain their private pesticide application certification. Study manuals will be distributed in advance of the class. A review class and question and answer session will run from 9:00 am thru 1:00 PM (including lunch) with the exam immediately after. Upon completion of the exam with a passing grade the attendees will be certified to apply chemicals to land they own or rent for agricultural purposes.

Anne Hazelrig of UVM Extension and Matt Wood of the Agency of Ag will lead this class. They will review all the pertinent aspects of the Study Manual and help attendees understand all the calculations required for the exam. The exam will be administered immediately following on-site for maximum efficiency and convenience for the farmers/growers.

In order to secure a date and location we must have 12 attendees sign up ASAP. Specific details will be provided at that time. The only cost to the attendees is \$33 for the Study Manual.

Interested farmers and/or Christmas Tree growers should contact Susan Alexander ASAP for details at 802.229.2720.

### **Free Nutrient Management Plan Class Offered**

The Natural Resources Conservation District is pleased to announce they will sponsor a "Do-It-Yourself Nutrient Management Plan Class" this winter (February and early March). The class will be taught by Heather Darby of UVM Extension and run five (5) consecutive weeks from 11:00 through 2:00 (lunch will be provided for a small fee). This class is open to all dairy farmers of any size on a "first come- first served" basis but is limited to 12 farms.

The benefits of this do-it-yourself approach is that the farmer is completely invested in the plan, has a clear understanding of all the components of the plan, will have first-hand knowledge of how the spreading rates are determined, and be better prepared for record keeping. If you are an MFO (medium farm operation) you must have a completed plan by March 2008. Smaller farms have found this course to be useful since they do not have the land base to pay a private consultant to write the plan for them.

Those farmers who sign up for the Nutrient Management Incentive Grant Program with the Agency of Agriculture will be reimbursed upon completion of their plan (\$15 for soil tests, \$35 for manure tests, and \$9 per acre not to exceed \$14,000).

Prior to the class farmers must have their recent soil and manure samples collected and analyzed.

For general questions and to reserve a place in the class contact Susan Alexander at 802.229.2720.

### **County Committee Election**

REMINDER: Be watching your mailbox for your official county committee (COC) election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters starting November 2, 2007. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on December 3, 2007.

This year the election will be held for a COC representative for the towns of Burke, Kirby, Lyndon, Newark, St. Johnsbury, and Waterford.

If, for some reason, you do not receive a ballot please notify the county FSA office and a ballot will be sent.

### **MILC-X Program**

On May 25, 2007, the President signed legislation that provides, among other things, the continuation of the Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC-X) benefits through September 30, 2007.



Due to the Boston Class I price being higher than the program target price, there was no payment rate in effect for September.

The MILCX program ended on September 30, 2007 and has not been extended, to date.

### **Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program Updates**

**2006 Final Counter-Cyclical (CC) Payments** -- Final 2006 Counter-Cyclical payment rates for corn, wheat, barley, and oats are zero because their effective price exceeds their respective target prices.

**2007 Final Direct Payments** -- Enrolled producers can expect their final direct payment to be directly deposited into personal bank accounts sometime during the first few weeks of October.

### **Dates to Remember**

September 10	LCP sign-up began
October 15	CDP sign-up began for quantity losses
November 12	Veterans Day – Office closed
November 20	Deadline to purchase NAP coverage for 2008
November 22	Thanksgiving Day – Office closed
Ongoing	Farm Storage Facility Loans Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
Coming	CDP sign-up for quality losses