



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  
Darcy Smart, Advisor

**COC meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday  
of each month at 10:30 am**

**County Executive  
Director**

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**Program Staff**

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**Farm Loan Staff**

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**NRCS Staff**

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# Farm Service Agency

## FSA UPDATES

March 2008

### **Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Deadline Approaching**

*March 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline* for producers to apply for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, or NAP coverage, for 2008 spring seeded crops (e.g., vegetables, soybeans, oats, etc.). The application and service fee must be filed by the applicable closing date for each crop. To remain eligible for NAP, a producer must annually report the crop, including: type, variety, location, producer shares, date planted, and the intended use (fresh, processed, etc.). Once the crop is harvested the production must also be reported.

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.

In the event of a crop failure caused by natural disaster, the producer needs to notify the local FSA office within 15 days of the date the damage became apparent.

**REMINDER** — The deadline to purchase crop insurance (from an independent agent) for spring seeded crops including corn is **March 15<sup>th</sup>**.

### **Beware of Crop Insurance Rebating Schemes**

With the spring sales closing date for many Federal crop insurance policies right around the corner, crop insurance agents have stepped up their marketing efforts. The Risk Management Agency (RMA) has received reports from producers and agents that some aggressive marketers have been approaching producers with rebating offers. These schemes promise lower insurance premiums, refunds, dividends, or items of value tied to crop insurance purchases. Most of these activities are illegal.

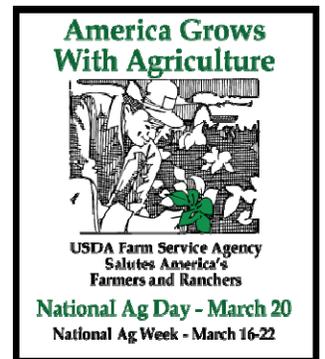
RMA reminds all Federal crop insurance program participants that it is now coordinating with state regulators to take appropriate regulatory action against all those who are found to promote or participate in such schemes. **Producers who are found to participate in illegal rebating activities will not only lose their crop insurance coverage but will also lose eligibility in all USDA programs.** Producers and agents can report suspicions of illegal rebating to the OIG Hotline: 1-800-424-9121.

**Farm Storage Needed?** — The interest for March is **3.125%**.

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, soybeans and corn. (Storage for haylage is not eligible.) The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. For details, contact the county office staff.

### **Dairy Disaster Assistance Payment (DDAP-III) Program Sign-up has started!!!**

The Dairy Disaster Assistance Payment (DDAP-III) Program **sign-up for will run from March 5, 2008 until May 5, 2008.** This program provides \$16 million in benefits. No payments will be issued until all applications are in and tabulated. Benefits will be calculated using a maximum payment rate per pound based on the average annual Mailbox price by State. If the total calculated benefit nationwide totals more than \$16M, then a national factor will be developed to stay within the funding allotment.



Producers in Vermont are eligible to apply for 2006 and/or 2007 milk production losses caused by natural disaster. A producer's loss will be calculated by subtracting commercially marketed production from the base year production. The base period for each disaster year will be the average annual marketed production from calendar years 2003 and 2004. To establish this, you will need to provide documentation of milk production for the calendar years 2003 and 2004, as well as the average number of cows in the dairy herd during those years.

To apply, we will need production and the average number of cows in the dairy herd for the years that you are applying for. To find out more information or to apply for the program, contact your local FSA County Office.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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**Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)** — Sign-up continues for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP). An ending date has not been announced for this program, but you are encouraged to apply now. The LCP program covers pasture loss and additional feed costs for crop year 2006. Additional feed (forages, additives, concentrates, extenders) must have been purchased and PAID for between May 15, 2006 and May 14, 2007 to be eligible. Call the office for more details.

**Crop Disaster Program (CDP)** — Sign-up continues for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP). An ending date has not been announced for this program. CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity or quality losses to 2005 or 2006 crops from natural disasters and related conditions. 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. \*\*Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP.\*\* **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.** We are only administering the *quantity* part of the CDP program at this time. USDA will announce and conduct CDP sign-up for *quality* losses at a later date.

**Value-Added Agricultural Grants Available**

USDA Rural Development is soliciting applications for \$18.4 million in competitive grant funds to help independent agricultural producers enter into value-added market activities. Last year, 162 recipients from 42 states received \$22.6 million to implement innovative projects, including four from Vermont totaling \$397,017 for projects including manufacture of cheese, feasibility for an on-farm woodchip gasification system, wine production and marketing, and on-farm processing of organic foods. The maximum grant amount for economic planning activities is \$100,000 and the maximum grant amount for working capital expenses is \$300,000. Vermont farmers, farmer groups, farmer cooperatives, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures are invited to apply to the Montpelier State Office not later than March 31, 2008.

Eligibility requirements, an application guide, and other materials may be obtained by calling 802-828-6031 or online at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/vadg.htm>.

**Dates to Remember**

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|-----------|--|
| March 5   | Dairy Disaster Assistance Payment (DDAP-III) Program sign-up BEGINS            |
| March 9   | Spring Ahead - Daylight Savings Time Begins                                    |
| March 15  | Deadline to purchase crop insurance for corn                                   |
| March 15  | Deadline to purchase NAP coverage for 2008 spring seeded crops                 |
| May 5     | Dairy Disaster Assistance Payment (DDAP-III) Program sign-up ENDS              |
| Continues | Livestock Compensation Program<br>Crop Disaster Program - quantity sign-up     |
| Ongoing   | Farm Storage Facility Loans<br>Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) |
| Coming    | Crop Disaster Program - quality sign-up  |

**WHAT IS THIS MONTH?**

**March is . . . Women's History Month**

**April is . . . Multicultural Communication Month**

**May is . . . Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month**