



Caledonia/Essex County Updates

December 2009

Farm Service Agency
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St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

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www.fsa.usda.gov

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 2nd Thursday
of each month at 10:30 am

County Executive Director

Patricia Passut, ext 104
patricia.passut@vt.usda.gov

Program Staff

Patty Matte, ext 100

Farm Loan Staff

(802) 334-6090 or
1-866-241-2190 (toll free)
Brian Kuper, FLM
Dorcas McAllister, FLO
Meghan Dubois, FLO

NRCS Staff

www.nrcs.usda.gov
Tim McKay, ext 109
Nick Comerchi, ext 101
Jacob Clough, ext 117

NRCD Staff

Kerry O'Brien, ext 110
Tamara Stevens, ext 114
Brandon Carpenter, ext 106

Rural Development

www.rd.usda.gov
Steve Campbell, ext 102
Mark Koprowski, ext 120
Suzanne Smith, ext 112



Dairy Economic Loss Assistance Payment (DELAP) Program

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced on December 17, 2009 the implementation of the new Dairy Economic Loss Assistance Payment (DELAP) program. The 2010 Agricultural Appropriations Bill authorized \$290 million for loss assistance payments to eligible dairy producers.

Eligible producers will receive a one-time direct payment based on the amount of milk both produced and commercially marketed by their operation during the months of February through July 2009. Production information from these months will be used to estimate a full year's production for an operation to calculate the payments, using a 6-million pound per dairy operation limit.

A national per hundred weight payment rate will be determined by dividing the available funding of \$290 million, less a reserve established by FSA, divided by the total pounds of eligible milk production approved for payment. Based on current information, FSA estimates that 875 million cwt. of milk production will be eligible for payment. The reserve will cover new applicants and appeals. The payment rate has been determined to be \$0.3211641 per cwt. Payments were issued on Dec 21, 2009.

Producers who participate in the MILC program do not need to apply for the program. MILC automatically gets you into DELAP. FSA will use existing production records for February through July 2009 to calculate and issue their payments.

Dairy producers who do not participate in the MILC program, but wish to apply for DELAP have until January 19, 2010. If you are one of these producers, call the office and we will give you specific details to apply and eligibility requirements.

For more information and eligibility requirements on the new DELAP program, please visit your local FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

Wool/Mohair/Unshorn Pelt LDPs

For crop year 2009--January 29, 2010 is the final deadline to apply for a 2009 crop wool/mohair/unshorn pelt Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP). **You must apply and provide documentation by this date!**

LDP rates are announced every Wednesday. The current ungraded wool LDP price is 29 cents per pound and the mohair LDP price is 10 cents per pound. The payment for unshorn pelts is calculated as follows 6.865 lbs. X ungraded wool rate = price paid per pelt.

For crop year 2010— There is a form that producers need to sign once per crop year, indicating their intention to apply for a Loan Deficiency Payment. This form must be signed and submitted prior to losing beneficial interest in the crop. Please contact the office for more details.

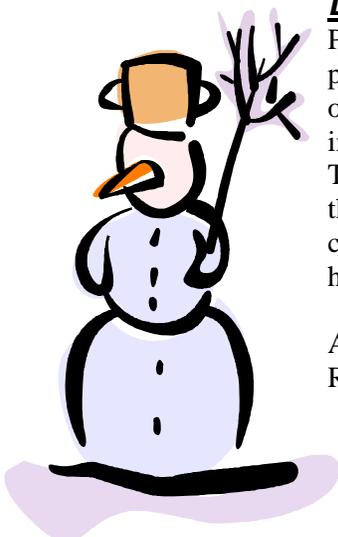
Eligible producers must have beneficial interest in the pelts, owned the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter. Producers must also comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands they operate or have interest in.

To qualify for payment, pelts must have been produced by an eligible producer from live unshorn lambs of domestic origin in the United States.

Deadline for Reporting Losses on Un-harvested Crops

Producers with un-harvested production of spring planted crops, due to bad weather, that could possibly result in being eligible for a crop insurance loss payment, are encouraged to immediately file of loss must be filed not later than 15 days after the end of the calendar date for the end of the insurance period, which is December 10, 2009 for grain corn, grain sorghum (grain) and soybeans. This most important action is done by contacting your crop insurance agent to report a loss, indicating that harvesting is delayed because of adverse weather, which is an insured cause of loss. Ask for a copy of the notice for your records. You must then continue to carry out normal and customary harvesting practices, when possible.

Additional information is available @: <http://www.rma.usda.gov/pubs/2009/delayedharvestwet.pdf> . Refer questions to your crop insurance agent.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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Renewable Energy Options for Farms

The Essex County Natural Resources Conservation District will be hosting a panel discussion/workshop highlighting the on-farm production of renewable energy options. The workshop will take place at The Guildhall (Town Offices) in Guildhall on January 14, 2010 from 10:00 am- 3:30 pm. Anaerobic digesters, solar, wind and hydro powers will be discussed, in addition to the permitting processes and available grants for such endeavors.

Bring a bag lunch; refreshments will be served. For additional information, contact Tamara at 802-748-3885 ext. 114.

e-NEK Project

The Internet can be a great tool to help small farms increase revenue or decrease costs. It is an inexpensive way to attract agro-tourists or sell durable products to out of state customers, as well as to keep in touch with local suppliers and customers. Some farms even use the Internet to remotely monitor water levels and soil temperature.

The USDA-funded e-NEK Project and the Vermont Small Business Development Center have a program underway to help small businesses in the NEK take advantage of the Internet to grow their business. The program includes education about small business uses of the Internet, assistance in developing a plan to use the Internet in your business, and a chance to win cash and services prizes to help implement your plan. All the details are available at www.InternetBiz2010.com.



From the staff
at the
Service Center

Farm Loan Year End Reviews

Producers that have a farm loan with FSA are reminded they must provide data for their Year-End Analysis (YEA) to their loan officer each year. Borrowers are urged to provide this information timely so that their files can be maintained. The office will contact you for the data you will need to provide us.

Dates to Remember

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|----------------|--|
| <u>Dec 24</u> | Office closing at noon |
| <u>Dec 25</u> | Christmas Day – Office closed |
| <u>Jan 1</u> | New Year's Day – Office closed |
| <u>Jan 19</u> | DELAP deadline for producers NOT enrolled in MILC |
| <u>Jan 29</u> | LDP deadline for wool, mohair, unshorn pelts |
| <u>Ongoing</u> | Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) sign-up |

Open House in Honor of Tim McKay!

After 31 years of conservation work with NRCS, Tim McKay is retiring to his Peacham homestead to live the good life!

Tim has been involved in a staggering number of projects on farms, rivers, and woodlands which have protected and enhanced our soils, water and other natural resources. We extend our deepest gratitude for his hard work, professionalism, and friendship. His place on the USDA team here in Caledonia and Essex Counties will be sorely missed.

Please stop by to visit, share stories, and wish him well.

Open House

Thursday, January 21, 2010
11:00-2:00
USDA Service Center in St Johnsbury