



June 2008

FSA UPDATES

Disaster Signup Continues

Eligible farmers and ranchers who suffered livestock losses, feed losses, or crop loss damage before Dec. 31, 2007, can still apply to receive disaster assistance.

FSA has announced a **July 18, 2008 deadline for sign up under the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)**. LCP provides aid to eligible livestock producers who suffered livestock feed losses between January 1, 2005 and December 30, 2007 due to natural disaster. For Vermont producers, the eligible program year is 2006, when continual excessive rains caused losses in pastures and in harvested feed. You are entitled to benefits by certifying to pasture loss or if you can provide documentation for increased feed costs or other feed losses. Eligible feed expenses include atypical purchases of feed stuffs to either extend or improve your TMR, increased volume of grains purchased, increases in grain costs due to higher protein or energy needs, or purchases of feed that you normally produce yourself in adequate volumes. Additional feed costs must have been incurred from May 15, 2006 through May 14, 2007. Other rules do apply, so please contact this office for more details.

For more disaster program information go online at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>

Crop Reporting

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.

The certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The producer certification deadline for *all crops* has been extended until Aug. 15, 2008. **Don't wait until the last minute-call for an appointment today!**

CRP & NAP Certification

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.

Prevented Planting:

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

Failed Acreage:

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

Sign Up for Quality Loss Crop Disaster Program Begins June 23

Signup for quality losses under the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) began on June 23, 2008. Producers can apply for crop quality losses at their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office.

The CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered losses to their 2005-2007 crops from natural disasters and related conditions. Producers who incurred qualifying quantity or quality losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 may receive benefits for only one of these years. However, producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple crops as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Lamoille County USDA Service Center

Lamoille County FSA
109 Professional Dr. Ste.2
Morrisville, VT 05661
802-888-4935
www.fsa.usda.gov

Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

County Committee
Steven Jones, Chair
Fred Boyden, Vice-Chair
Christine Kaiser, reg. member

COC meets 3rd Tuesday
of each month

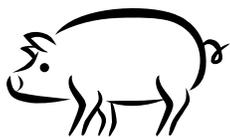
Staff
County Executive Director
John St.Onge (ext. 11)
John.stonge@vt.usda.gov

Program Staff
Heather Mateja (ext.10)
Heather.mateja@vt.usda.gov



FUN FARM FACTS:

- A pig can run a 7-minute mile.
- Abe Lincoln's mother died when the family dairy cow ate poisonous mushrooms and Mrs. Lincoln drank the milk.
- Onions contain a mild antibiotic that fights infections, soothes burns, tames bee stings and relieves the itch of athletes foot.



- Farmers and ranchers provide food and habitat for 75% of the nations wildlife.
- In one day a honey bee can fly 12 miles and pollinate up to 10,000 flowers.
- It takes 24 to 26 hours for a hen to produce an egg; there is 30 minutes between each egg-producing cycle.
- Dairy represents about 76% of Vermont's total agricultural economy.



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 quality losses of at least 25 percent to be eligible for CDP Quality Loss. The payment rate is set at 65 percent of the amount of the affected crop multiplied by 42 percent of the per-unit average market value in the year in which the loss occurred. Producers may receive assistance for both quantity and quality losses. However, the total quantity and quality assistance, together with any crop insurance or NAP payment received for the same crop and the value of the crop production not lost, must not exceed 95 percent of the total value of the crop absent the disaster.

Working with woodland owners

The Farm bill of 2008, which was passed in late May, has much to offer the woodland landowner. There is technical and financial assistance available through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to improve your forest lands. NRCS works to help the landowner meet their management objectives while addressing the resource concerns on their property. There is opportunity for financial assistance through NRCS to implement various conservation practices that will improve your forest's wildlife habitat, water quality, forest health, etc.

Two of the most applicable conservation programs for woodland owners within the farm bill are the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (commonly known as WHIP) and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (or EQIP). While both programs have been around for years, there are some changes that will be of interest to landowners in Vermont. The biggest changes to the EQIP program in the new farm bill are that 'forest management' has been added specifically as a purpose and cost sharing for forest stewardship plans is now authorized. For WHIP, one of the big changes is in the land that is eligible for the program. In the past farm bill, municipal and state lands were eligible on a limited basis but now, private agricultural land, non-industrial

private forest land and tribal lands will be the only lands eligible for the program.

To get additional information you can contact your local NRCS office. The timeline for application for 2009 funding has not been set but may be as early as September 1st. Contact Nancy Allen, 888-4965 ext 15, Jim Eikenberry 888-4965 ext 18, Morrisville field office NRCS website – <http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Continuous CRP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program is a private lands environmental improvement program that allows participants the opportunity to enroll environmentally sensitive acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources.

The Continuous CRP program is a voluntary enrollment program. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental and maintenance payments, in

centive payments for certain activities, and cost share for the establishment of eligible practices.

To be eligible for enrollment in the Continuous CRP, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. Provided the eligibility requirements are met, FSA will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year.

For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments or local Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) availability, please contact your local FSA office.

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. If you want a crop loan, a power of



- The average person consumes 584 pounds of dairy products a year.
- Vermont farms produce 2.6 billion pounds of milk a year.
- Several dairy farms in Vermont are well over two hundred years old. The three oldest, continually operating dairy farms were started in the 1770's; the same time as the Revolutionary War!
- Actually a fruit, it took a ruling by the Supreme Court in 1893 to make the tomato a vegetable.
- The proper name for a group of goats is a trip
- An official American baseball contains 150 yards of wool yarn.



attorney form will need to be completed for husband and wife, if both do not come into the office to sign the forms on the day the loan is disbursed.

Sign up underway for the 2008 DCP

Producers have until September 30, 2008 to sign up for the 2008 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP). Producers can fill out their 2008 DCP contract at any USDA Service Center or Farm Service Agency County Office. Sign-up can also be completed online by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/edcp> and clicking on "Access eDCP Service." You can choose payment options, assign crop shares and sign and submit contracts from any computer with Internet access. You can also view and print submitted contract options.

FSA computes DCP payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2008, eligible producers may request to receive an advance payment of 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. FSA will issue advance direct payments as soon as practical after enrollment. Final direct payments will be issued after Oct. 1, 2008. Counter-cyclical payments vary depending on market prices, and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price (which takes into account the direct payment rate, market price and loan rate).

For all eligibility requirements or addition information, contact your local office.

Special Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

Measurement Service

Farmers who would like a guarantee on their crop plantings and land use acreages can make it official by using the FSA measurement service. Producers must file a request with the county office staff and pay the cost of a field visit to have stake and referencing done on the farm.

Incorrect acreage self-certification can result in reduced program payments, penalty, or loss of eligibility.

Producers can request computerized data files of aerial photography and farm & field boundaries at no charge. Maps are also available showing acreage for all crop fields at the producer's request.

Crop Disaster Program (CDP)

Sign-up continues for the *quantity* part of the Crop Disaster Program (CDP). An ending date has not yet been announced. CDP-quantity provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity losses to 2005, 2006 or 2007 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 Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.

Software for County Offices to process CDP-*quality loss* applications will be released in late June. Sign-up for the Quality portion of CDP can occur before then. As we learn more about the program parameters and what documentation is required, we will be better able to convey to you what you will need to provide.

Selected Interest Rates for June 2008	
Farm Operating - Direct	3.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.875%
Limited Resource - Farm Operating	5.00%
Limited Resource - Farm Ownership	5.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4.00%
Emergency	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility	3.375%

Dates to Remember	
June 15	Candidate nominations for the FSA county committee begin
July 4	Independence Day – Office Closed
July 18	LCP signup closes
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program
August 15	Crop Reporting Deadline

Visit our Web site at
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/VT>

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