



U.S. Department of
Agriculture

Windsor/Orange
County FSA
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White River Jct., VT 05001

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Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Richard Moore, Chair
Paul Doton, Vice Chair
Agnes Spaulding, Member
Robert Vaughan, Member
Sandra Whitney, Member

COC meets 3rd
Wednesday of each month
at 10:00 am

**County Executive
Director**
Christine Lary, ext 13
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Program Staff
Eric Winchester, PT, ext 10

Farm Loan Staff
George Button Jr., FLM

Farm Service Agency

FSA UPDATES

March 2008

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

March 15th 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 15th**.

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 will run from March 5, 2008 until May 5, 2008.** No payments will be issued until after the application closing deadline. This program provides \$16 million in benefits nationwide. Benefits will be calculated using a maximum payment rate per pound based on the average annual marketed price by state. If the total calculated benefit nationwide totals more than \$16 million, then a national factor will be applied 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 a base period production. The base period for this program will be the calendar years 2003 and 2004. To apply for this program, you will need to provide documentation of milk production for the base years 2003 and 2004, the average number of cows in the dairy herd during those years, as well as the milk production and cow numbers for 2006 and/or 2007 disaster years. To find out more information or to apply for the program, contact your local FSA County Office.

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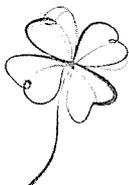
USDA Farm Service Agency
Salutes America's
Farmers and Ranchers

National Ag Day - March 20
National Ag Week - March 16-22

United States Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency
Windsor/Orange FSA Office
28 Farmvu Drive
White River Jct., VT 05001

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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 resulting from excessive rainfall in 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, 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 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 conduct sign-up for *quality* losses at a later date.

Low Interest Loans Available from FSA

FSA may be able to assist your farming operation with an operating or ownership loan. The rate for operating loans approved in March 2008 is 3.75 percent.

It is the time of year where farmers begin thinking of our spring planting needs. Whether you need loan funds to finance your spring needs for fertilizer, seed, or you need to upgrade your equipment line with a new tractor, planter, baler or perhaps you have been thinking about expanding your operation or need credit to increase your production, FSA may be able to help.

FSA's loan programs are designed to help family farmers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. FSA also provides credit to beginning farmers, who do not have sufficient net worth to qualify for commercial credit, or to farmers who have suffered financial setbacks from natural and economic disasters, or who have limited resources with which to establish and maintain profitable farming operations.

Some farmers obtain their credit needs through the use of loan guarantees. Under a guaranteed loan, a local agricultural lender makes and services the loan, and FSA guarantees it against loss. In most cases this is a 90 percent guarantee of loss. In certain limited circumstances, a 95-percent guarantee is available.

Dates to Remember

- 3/5 - Dairy Disaster Assistance Payment (DDAP-III) Program sign-up begins
- 3/15 - Deadline to purchase crop insurance for corn
- 3/15 - Deadline to purchase NAP coverage for 2008 spring seeded crops
- 5/5 - Dairy Disaster Assistance Payment (DDAP-III) Program sign-up ENDS
- Continues - Livestock Compensation Program Crop Disaster Program — quantity sign-up