



March/April 2009

# New Haven/Middlesex County News

**New Haven/  
Middlesex  
County USDA  
Service Center**

**New Haven/  
Middlesex County  
FSA**  
900 Northrop Road  
Suite# A  
Wallingford, CT 06492  
203-269-6665 (phone)  
203-294-9741 (fax)  
www.fsa.usda.gov/ct

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

**County Committee:**  
Bill Weed –  
Chairman

Nelson Ccarelli –  
Vice-Chairman

Richard Brock –  
Regular Member

Joyce Werbiski –  
Minority Advisor

**Next County  
Committee meeting:**  
Monday April 20th  
at 7:00 PM

**Staff:**  
Ann Marie McCard -  
Program Technician

Teresa Peavey -  
Program Technician

Nancy Welsh -  
County Executive  
Director

**February MILC Payment**

USDA announced the February Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) payment rate will be \$1.51/cwt. adjusted for a national average dairy feed price of \$7.73/cwt.

Without the feed adjustment, the February MILC payment would have been \$1.34/cwt.

**MILK INCOME LOSS CONTRACT  
PROGRAM PAYMENT RATES**

FY 2009	BCI Price \$	Pymt Rate Before Adj \$	NADFRC \$	Adj. Trigger \$	Final Pymt Rate Adj. for Trigger \$
Oct	18.78	0.0000	8.83	18.48	0.0000
Nov	20.58	0.0000	8.47	18.10	0.0000
Dec	18.68	0.0000	8.14	17.76	0.0000
Jan	18.99	0.0000	8.35	17.98	0.0000
Feb	13.97	1.3365	7.73	17.33	1.5135

The MILC payment is based on an adjusted trigger lever of \$17.33/cwt. (the \$16.94/cwt. Boston Class I trigger plus the feed adjuster). The actual Class I price in Boston was \$13.97. (The difference between the trigger and the actual Class I price is then multiplied by 45% to get the actual payment rate.)

The feed adjustment rate is based on national average prices of \$3.87/bu. for corn, \$9.55/bu for soybeans and \$143/ton for alfalfa hay. Those prices were released by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) March 30, 2009.

For more information, go to:  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp)



**Beginning and Limited  
Resource Farmers & Ranchers**

FSA has funding to assist beginning farmers and/or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more that 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed. Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) .

## **Reporting Crop Acreage**

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 Loan Deficiency Payments.

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.

Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. Producers are required to file reports by July 15th for all crops.



### **Prevented Planting:**

Prevented planting needs 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.

## **Conservation Compliance**

All participants in USDA programs are required to have a conservation system in place on all the highly erodible land (HEL) that they operate.

Several areas where problems can arise with complying with a conservation system are: renting new cropland, purchasing new land, breaking out additional cropland, planting different crops and changing or removing existing conservation practices.

It is very important that you contact the FSA office before doing any of the above. Also, it is very important that you contact our office before modifying - tiling, draining, dredging, filling, or leveling - any wetland or drainage ditch. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in loss of all Federal payments and eligibility.

## **Direct and Guaranteed Loans**

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are available now.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Loan funds can be made available. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner. Most of our loan programs have special funding available for minority, female and beginning farmers.

FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact Ellen Losee at (860) 626-8258 Ext# 104.



## Rural Youth Loans

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes operating loans to individual rural youths age 10 through 20 to establish and operate income producing projects. These projects must be of modest size and be initiated, developed, carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H Clubs, FFA, or a similar organization or with a vocational teacher or county extension agent. The project must be an organized and supervised program of work. It must be planned and operated with the assistance of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. Contact Ellen Losee for more details at (860) 626-8258 Ext# 104.

## Banking Changes?

If you have changed banks and not notified FSA, your payment could be delayed. Payments are electronically transferred into your bank account, and if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers, there could be problems. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in producer's account such as type account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

## NAP Production Reporting

Production Records for individual crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield.

If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up to date. Records submitted must be reliable and verifiable. Records need to show crop disposition. We recommend producers submit 2009 production records as soon as harvest is complete. The deadline for reporting your 2008 NAP production is the same date as reporting your 2009 crop acreage.

## Producers Wanted

Connecticut Farm-to-Chef is a free program that helps Connecticut local culinary professionals connect with producers and distributors of CT Grown products. Informational newsletters, workshops, networking, promotions and other opportunities are provided to members as part of the program. Additional Connecticut producers and distributors are needed for this popular and expanding program. Please help us get your product into the hands of local chefs! Contact Linda at the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, [Linda.Piotrowicz@ct.gov](mailto:Linda.Piotrowicz@ct.gov) or (860)713-2558, for more information.



### Selected Interest Rates for April 2008

90-Day Treasury Bill	**
Farm Operating - Direct	**
Farm Ownership - Direct	**
Limited Resource	**
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	**
Emergency	**
Farm Storage Facility	**
Sugar Storage Facility	**
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	**
Tobacco (TTPP) Discount Rate	**

\*\*Please call Ellen Losee at (860) 626-8258 Ext#104 for current rates not shown.

<b>Dates to Remember</b>	
July 15 <sup>th</sup>	Acreage Reporting Deadline
Aug 14 <sup>th</sup>	DCP Sign-up Extended Dead- line date

Visit our Web site: <http://www.fsa.usda/ct>

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