



U.S. Department  
of Agriculture

**Addison County  
FSA**

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**Hours**

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

**County Committee**

Thomas Audet, Chair  
Phyllis Bowdish, V.Chair  
Curt Estey, Member

Winter: COC meets 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Tue. morning of each  
month

**County Executive  
Director**

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[craig.miner@vt.usda.gov](mailto:craig.miner@vt.usda.gov)

**Program Staff**

Lisa Gaboriault, PT (X11)  
Billie Jo Forgues, PT  
(X10)

**Farm Loan Manager**

Gary Braman, FLM (x18)  
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**Farm Loan Staff**

David Girard, FLO (x20)  
Jill Thomas, FLO (x17)  
Mari Quesnel, PT (x28)

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

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

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

Farm Service Agency

**FSA UPDATES**  
**Addison Agriculture**

March  
2008

**DISASTER PROGRAMS—ONE NEW PROGRAM + CONTINUING TWO OTHERS- sign-up NOW**

We now have full procedure for accepting applications for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), the Crop Disaster Program (CDP)- for PRODUCTION/QUANTITY LOSSES, and the NEW Dairy Disaster Assistance Program (DDAPIII). Payments are now being made on CDP and LCP. A **DEADLINE of MAY 5, 2008** has been set for the new DDAPIII Program. No deadlines have been set at this time for CDP and LCP, but we encourage you get these applications in soon- before the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) for QUALITY losses starts. (QUALITY Program expected to start by mid April) **Please call to request an appointment.**

**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. Payment for lost milk production will be calculated using approximate average price of milk from the annual Mailbox price for the state. If the total calculated benefit nationwide totals more than \$16M, then a national factor will be developed and applied to producer payments.

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 will be the average annual marketed production from calendar years 2003 and 2004.

To apply, we will need documentation of milk production for the calendar years 2003 and 2004, and 2006 and/or 2007 as well as the average number of cows in the dairy herd during these years.

Crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Assistance (NAP) insurance is NOT required for this program.

To find out more information or to apply for the program, contact your local FSA County Office.

**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 since we are processing these payments now! The LCP program covers pasture loss AND additional feed costs for those producers with 2006 disaster affected crops and greater than usual feed purchases. Additional feed (forages, 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 insurance or Noninsured Crop Assistance (NAP) insurance is NOT required for this program.

**The CROP DISASTER PROGRAM (CDP)** is divided into two parts, a *Quantity or Production Loss Program* and a *Quality Loss Program*. At this time FSA has authority to accept applications under the Quantity or Production Loss Program. **USDA will announce and conduct CDP sign-up for quality losses at a later date.** These programs provide benefits to farmers who suffered losses to 2005, 2006 or 2007 crops from natural disasters and related conditions so long as the actual crop lost was planted or prevented from being planted in one of the above years. Producers who incurred qualifying losses must choose only one year to receive benefits and must use the same year for both quantity and quality losses. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple crops as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. We have the capability to calculate which year will provide you with the greatest benefits.

**\*\*\* Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP – Quantity or Production Loss Program. A minimum of 25% loss of feed quality will apply for the CDP- Quality Loss Program. \*\*\***

**\*\*\* 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 recommend that you have your feed consultant provide measured quantities of your insured crop at this time so that we can begin processing your CDP Quantity payment ASAP— before the Quality loss program begins. Our large number of applications may otherwise create a difficulty in meeting deadlines once announced..



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### **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.).

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 independent agents) for spring seeded crops for which crop insurance is available (including corn) is **March 15<sup>th</sup>**.

#### **FSA Low Interest Loans -**

The rate for FSA operating loans approved in March 2008 is 3.75%. Like many other farmers, you are most likely now planning spring planting / cropping needs. Whether you need loan funds to finance your spring needs for fertilizer, seed, or if you need to upgrade your equipment line, FSA may be able to help. Please call 802-388-6748 ext 3 and ask for one of our loan officers or the loan manager to discuss Operation Annual, our short term credit for annual operating costs.

### **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.

#### **Dates to Remember**

- 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  
Crop Disaster Program - quantity sign-up
- Ongoing Farm Storage Facility Loans  
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

