

**Caledonia/Essex
County FSA**

481 Summer St., Ste 201
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

Phone (802) 748-2641
(802) 748-3885
(802) 748-8746
1-800-862-1121
Fax (802) 748-1621
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
Sharon Baillargeon, ext 105

Farm Loan Staff

(802) 334-6090 or
1-866-241-2190 (toll free)
Brian Kuper, FLM
Diane Gilman, FLO
Dorcas McAllister, 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
Dianne Drown, ext 119



Caledonia/Essex County Office

UPDATES

August 2008

Quality Loss Crop Disaster Signup

Producers can apply for crop *quality* losses under the Crop Disaster Program (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.*

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.

Producers must have suffered a *quantity* loss in excess of 35% and/or a *quality* loss of at least 25 percent to be eligible for CDP. New this year, it is required that the production must have suffered a 25% loss in economic value to be eligible for a quality loss payment. Economic loss is the actual value of the crop if it had been sold.

Quality Loss applications need to have the following

- Crop measurements must be provided by a verifiable third party
- All lab tests taken on your forage crops

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.

Buy-In Waiver for Supplemental Disaster Assistance

Producers can establish 2008 eligibility for the new disaster assistance programs by paying a fee as required by the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (the 2008 Act).

Ordinarily producers who wish to participate in the new disaster programs would need crop insurance or non-insured crop disaster assistance (NAP) coverage on all farms in all counties in which they have an interest. Since the 2008 Act was enacted after the application periods had closed for those programs, producers who did not have insurance coverage could not comply with this requirement in order to be eligible. However, the 2008 Act authorizes a waiver that allows producers to pay a fee, called a "buy-in" fee, to be eligible for the new disaster assistance programs.

The buy-in fee is due no later than Sept. 16, 2008, 90 days after the date of enactment, as required by the 2008 Act. Payment of the applicable fees will allow the producer to be eligible for financial assistance under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), and other disaster assistance programs. Those who miss this opportunity will **not** be eligible for 2008 disaster assistance. Producers are also reminded that the payment of the applicable buy-in fee does **not** provide the producer crop insurance or NAP coverage; it only affords eligibility for the 2008 disaster programs.

The buy-in fee for 2008 eligibility is \$100 per crop, but not more than \$300 per producer per administrative county, or \$900 total per producer for all counties less any previously paid fees for CAT and/or NAP.

Sign Up Underway for the 2008 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP)

The Food, Conservation and energy Act of 2008 was enacted into law on May 22, 2008. The Act provides for the continuation of the Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP) for 2008 through 2012.

Producers have until September 30, 2008 to sign up for the 2008 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.

Differences between 2007 and 2008 DCP – Producers on a farm will **not** receive direct or counter-cyclical payments if the sum of the base acres on the farm is 10 acres or less, **unless** 1 of the following exceptions is met:

- The farm is *wholly owned* by a socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher
- The farm is *wholly owned* by a limited resource farmer or rancher.

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 our office at 748-2641 or toll free in VT at 1-800-862-1121.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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FSA Farm Loans

The new Farm Bill provides increased limits on loans through FSA's Farm Loan Program. The maximum loan amount authorized for direct Farm Ownership (FO) loans and direct Operating Loans (OL) has been increased from \$200,000 to \$300,000.

In the FO program, the maximum loan term for the revised down payment program has been extended from 15 years to 20 years. Changes in the Down Payment Program mean the required down payment amount has been reduced from 10 percent to 5 percent and interest rates have been reduced to as low as 1.5% depending on the present FO interest rate. This program allows the agency to loan up to 45% of the purchase price with another lender providing 50% of the financing and the applicant contributing 5%.

FSA makes both direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank, Farm Credit System institution or other lender. FSA loans can be used to purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed and supplies. The loans can also be used to construct buildings or make farm improvements.

If you're having trouble getting commercial credit, check with your county office staff about a FSA loan.

NAP Coverage

Producers with 2008 NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- **Timely file acreage reports**
- **File a "Notice of Loss"** within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.
- **Keep track of harvested production** using acceptable methods.

For more information on NAP coverage please contact your nearest Farm Service Agency office.

Dates to Remember

Aug 15	Acreage Reporting deadline
Sept 1	Labor Day – Office closed
Sept 16	Crop Insurance and NAP "Buy-In-Fee" deadline for 2008 crops
Sept 30	2008 DCP Enrollment deadline
Ongoing	Crop Disaster Program Farm Storage Facility Loans Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

New Crop Certification Deadline

For 2008, the final crop reporting dates have been **extended to August 15, 2008**. Late fees will not be applied if acreage reports are filed that date.

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.

NRCS News

Energy Costs, Corn, and EQIP With costs of fuel and fertilizer skyrocketing, the profit margin for growing corn has shrunk considerably. If you are considering cutting back on corn acreage or going to an all grass system, EQIP can help fund the transition. New seeding can be cost shared in some instances, and a range of pasture expenses can be covered to set up a grazing system. Sign up with NRCS by October 1. Call the NRCS if you'd like help with preliminary planning.

Forest Management Now Included in EQIP Forest Stewardship Plans that cover the full range of resource conservation on your forest land are now cost-shareable in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). These plans are considerably more detailed than a current use plan and address wildlife, invasive species, and any other concerns that may apply. Practices that control soil erosion and improve water quality on forest lands are also covered. Sign up with NRCS by October 1.

Wildlife Practices Cost Sharing The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) helps fund a wide range of practices benefiting wildlife including controlling invasive species, restoring early successional habitat, and releasing mast trees in upland forests. As of 2008, only private landowners are eligible for WHIP. Sign up with NRCS by September 1.

