



U.S. Department of
Agriculture

**Caledonia/Essex
County FSA**
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Hours

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

County Committee

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Robert Porter, Vice Chair
William Nelson, Member
Michael Tanguay, Member

**COC meets 3rd Thursday
of each month at 10:30 am**

**County Executive
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Mark Koprowski, (x120)
Loan Specialist
Suzanne Smith, (x112)
Area Technician
Linere Silloway, (x119)
RD Technician

Farm Service Agency

FSA UPDATES

December 2007

Wool/Mohair/Unshorn Pelt LDPs

For crop year 2007--January 31, 2008 is the final deadline to apply for a 2007 crop wool/ mohair/unshorn pelt Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP). **You must apply and provide documentation by this date!**



LDP rates are announced every Wednesday. The current ungraded wool LDP price is 15 cents per pound and the mohair LDP price is 57 cents per pound. The payment for unshorn pelts is calculated as follows 6.865 lbs. X ungraded wool rate = price paid per pelt.

For crop year 2008— There is a form that producers need to sign once per crop year, indicating their intention to apply for a Loan Deficiency Payment. This form must be signed and submitted prior to losing beneficial interest in the crop. Please contact the office for more details

Eligible producers must have beneficial interest in the pelts, owned the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter. Producers must also comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands they operate or have interest in. Crop reports must have been filed or late fees and field visit fees will apply.

Dairy Disaster Aid Program Dairy Disaster Sign-up Begins

Eligible dairy producers can now sign-up for the Dairy Disaster Assistance Program (DDAP-III) at local FSA service centers. Nationally, this program provides \$16 million in benefits. No payments will be issued until all applications are in and tabulated. If the total calculated benefits total \$16 Million or less, then a maximum payment rate per pound based on the 2006 Mailbox price by State will be utilized. If the total calculated benefit nationwide totals more than \$16M, then those losses exceeding 20% will receive benefits as above. Losses below 20% loss will be factored based on the total eligible losses of less than 20% divided by funds remaining.

A producer's loss will be calculated by subtracting commercially marketed production from the base year production. Base year production is based on the 2006 NASS average for VT which is 18,383 lbs/cow/year.

Cow numbers will need to be reported for each month from Jan through Dec, 2006. Annual marketed production will need to be provided for 2006. However, since our disaster declaration started on May 1st, we will only use production information from May 1 through December 31 to calculate lost production.

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

Ag Census Begins in December

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will begin distribution of the 2007 Census of Agriculture later this month, thereby allowing America's farmers and ranchers the opportunity to participate in shaping the future of agriculture.

Conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Census is a complete count of the nation's farms and ranches and the people who operate them. According to NASS, the Census of Agriculture provides information that is not available elsewhere. The last Ag Census was conducted in 2002.

NASS will mail out Census forms on December 28, 2007 to collect data for the 2007 calendar year. Completed forms are due by February 4, 2008. Producers can return their forms by mail or, for the first time, they have the convenient option of filling out the Census online via a secure web site at <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/>.

The Census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures and other topics. It provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation. Policy-makers use Census data for decisions concerning agricultural and rural programs. Community planners use Census information to target delivery of local services. Companies rely on Census data when determining where to locate their operations. And farmers themselves look at Census data when deciding to make changes in their production strategies.

Farm Loan Program Rules Streamlined

FSA's Farm Loan Programs will be modernized January 1, 2008, to make it easier for farmers, ranchers and producers to apply for loans. Over the past few years FSA has streamlined areas of its farm loan programs, such as the Guaranteed and Emergency Loan Programs, by revising loan making and servicing requirements and procedures to better serve applicants and borrowers.

Direct Loans Programs streamlining includes:

- Reducing the number of pages in the Code of Federal Regulations necessary to administer the Farm Loan Programs by more than 80 percent;
- Modifying requirements to more closely conform to those used by other lenders;
- Ensuring all forms are available on-line;
- Cutting nearly in half the number of forms required; and
- Making guidance more manageable by replacing nearly 40 instruction manuals with six handbooks.

The program rules and forms will officially change on Dec. 31, 2007. This will allow employees time for nationwide training on the new forms and rules. Until then, FSA will follow current procedures. The streamlining rule can be viewed via the *Federal Register* at http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/frcont07.html.

More information about streamlining can be found at the county office or online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>; click on "Farm Loan Programs" for more information.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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NAP Coverage Deadline Approaching

January 1, 2008 is the deadline to purchase coverage for Maple Sap for the 2008 crop year.



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 for crop year 2006.

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 or 2006 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 announce and conduct CDP sign-up for quality losses as a later date.

FSA Seeks Public Comment on Emergency Conservation Program

FSA is offering members of the public an opportunity to voice opinions they may have about the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) and suggest ideas about improving the program in the future.

ECP provides emergency funding and technical assistance for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters and for carrying out emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought. Funding for ECP is appropriated by Congress.

To learn more about ECP program issues and proposed alternatives, please review the Federal Register at <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/e7-20961.pdf>. Written comments on the scope of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and requests for copies should be directed to ECP SEIS, Geo-Marine Incorporated, 2713 Magruder Blvd., Suite D, Hampton, VA 23666-1572. **Comments should be submitted by close of business December 24, 2007.**



From the staff at the
Service Center

IRS Form 1099-G

Producers who have repaid a market gain on a Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loan with cash or commodity certificates in exchange for outstanding loan collateral will now have their market gains reported to the IRS on Form 1099-G.

Due to changes in tax laws, FSA is now required to report to the IRS all market gains associated with the repayment of a CCC loan. A market gain is the difference between the repayment rate, determined by the CCC, and the original loan rate. If the repayment rate drops below the original loan rate then the difference is considered a market gain. Producers will receive, by mail, the amount reported by FSA to the IRS for market gains and storage credits on IRS Form 1099-G.

Producers who have questions about how reporting market gains will affect their taxes should contact a tax advisor or visit the IRS website on *Repayment of Commodity Credit Corporation Loans* at http://www.irs.gov/irb/2007-33_IRB/ar07.html

Pesticide Certification

The Conservation District is sponsoring a pesticide certification class on January 10, 2008 for all farmer and Christmas tree growers in the Northeast Kingdom who would like to be able to use herbicides and insecticides on their property.

Anne Hazelrigg of UVM Extension and Matt Wood of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture will lead the class. The class will be held in East Burke at the Burke Mountain Clubhouse on Route 114 beginning at 9:00 AM. The morning session will cover the core material, sample calculations and allow time for questions and answers. Lunch will be available for \$6.00 or bring your own bag lunch. Following lunch, the exam will be given and upon passing the exam the participant will have a Private Applicators License.

There will be no charge for the class however the study manuals cost \$33. The study manual must be purchased ASAP to allow the participant to read ahead of time and be prepared for the class and exam.

To reserve a place in the class and to order a study manual, call Susan Alexander at 802-229-2720.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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| Dec 24-25 | Office closed for the Christmas Holiday |
| Jan 1 | Office closed for New Year's Holiday |
| Jan 21 | Office closed for Martin Luther King's birthday |
| Jan 31 | Wool/mohair/unshorn pelt 2007 LDP deadline |
| Continues | Livestock Compensation Program
Crop Disaster Program - quantity sign-up
Dairy Disaster Assistance Program III |
| Ongoing | Farm Storage Facility Loans
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program |
| Coming | Crop Disaster Program - quality sign-up |