



March 2008

FSA Updates

Chittenden/Washington
County
USDA Service Center

**Chittenden/Washington
County FSA**

802 865-7895 x4
800 910-2035 x4 (VT only)
802 865-7947 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/VT

Hours

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

County Committee

Donald Pouliot LAA-1
Claude Lapierre LAA-2
Deborah Conant LAA-3
Elwin Neill, Jr. LAA-4
Michelle Gardner LAA-2

**Upcoming County
Committee Meeting**

Dates

March 19, 2008
April 23, 2008

Staff

Lawrence Parker x102
Eileen Powers x106
Pearl Wells x100
Bradford Parker x103

**Natural Resources
Conservation Service**

Caroline Alves x203
Tate Jeffrey x119
Michel Lapointe x118
Danny Peet x202
Norman Smith x117

**Winooski Natural
Resources Conservator
District**

Jessica Andreoletti x104
Anna Farmer x202

Dairy Disaster Assistance Pay- ment (DDAP-III) Program Sign- up has opened

Sign-up for DDAP-III opened on March 5, 2008 and **will end on May 5, 2008**. DDAP-III reimburses farmers for losses in milk production attributable to eligible disaster events. For Vermont farmers that means that a drop in milk production resulting from the poor feed harvested or grazed in 2006 is eligible. Producers will be able to apply for losses experienced in both 2006 & 2007. Production losses will be calculated by comparing the 2006 & 2007 production figures with a base value derived from 2003 & 2004 production. It is the responsibility of producers to provide all production numbers as well as cow numbers. The program does have limited funding, and payments will not be issued until national factoring is considered. Please call your local FSA office for more details.

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)

Sign-up for LCP continues, with no closing date yet announced. LCP pays farmers for losses in pasture and/or harvested feed in 2006, with the calculation of benefits considering livestock numbers as well as feed loss values. Some farmers have been able to receive maximum benefits based entirely on the loss of pasture, while those with confinement systems have received payments using additional feed purchases as justification. Sign-up has been relatively light so far, but most livestock producers should be eligible for some level of benefit. Though LCP has been available for many months, program requirements have just recently been clarified. Please contact us for more details.

Crop Disaster Program (CDP)

CDP sign-up is ongoing, with no announced ending date. Benefits are available to farmers who suffered eligible quantity or quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops. Benefits are limited to losses suffered in one of the three years, with the greatest benefit issued. Only those farmers who carried crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for the given year are eligible. We are currently taking sign-ups and issuing payments for the Quantity portion of this program. CDP sign-up for Quality losses will take place at a later date. To determine if you are eligible, call the office and ask for Pearl, Eileen, or Larry.

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 rebate 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**.

NAP Coverage Deadline

Producers in need of insurance coverage for crops that cannot be covered by federal crop insurance (FCIC) can enroll in FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). NAP is a federally funded program that provides coverage to producers for non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters. Crops eligible for NAP coverage are those for which crop insurance is not available, including fruits and vegetables, aquaculture, turf grass and forage crops just to name a few.

NAP coverage requires a service fee of \$100 per crop, with a \$300 cap per county per producer. Out-of-

pocket expenses will not exceed \$900 for any producer, even if production occurs in more than three counties. Service fees may be waived for eligible limited resource producers.

NAP applications for coverage must be filed and service fees paid, by the applicable closing date. Application closing dates vary by crop. ***The deadline for vegetables and small grains is March 17th.*** Chittenden and Washington County producers may contact the FSA Office for specific crop application sales closing dates at: 802 865-7895 x4 or 1 800-910-2035 x4.

REMINDER – The ***deadline*** for purchasing crop insurance (from an independent agent) for spring seeded crops, including corn, is **March 15th**.

Visit our Web site at

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/VT>

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.