

November 2007

# Orleans County News



**Farm Service Agency**  
59 Waterfront Plaza, Site 11  
Newport, VT 05855-4877

334-6090-Phone  
1-866-241-2190 Toll Free Phone  
334-1365-Fax

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

**County Committee**  
Scott Birch, Chair  
Brad Maxwell, Vice Chair  
Doug Lawson, Voting Member  
Donna Hammond, Minority Advisor

COC meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month.

**NRCS District**  
Karen O'Donnell, Clerk X18  
Marybeth Whitten, ARS X22  
Dee Nault  
Paul Daniels, Chair  
Betsy Inkel, Vice Chair  
Richard Delfavero, Treasurer  
Burton Strong  
William Ryan  
Darryl Mongeon

**NRCS Staff**  
David Blodgett, DC X25  
[David.blodgett@vt.usda.gov](mailto:David.blodgett@vt.usda.gov)  
David Gauvin, CET X23  
Brenda MacDonald-Kuper, SC X21  
Robert Long, SS X20  
Jessica Philippe, SS X19

**Loan Staff**  
Brian Kuper, FLM X14  
[Brian.kuper@vt.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.kuper@vt.usda.gov)  
Diane Gilman, FLO X11  
Dorcas McAllister, FLO X15  
Cheryl Smith, PT X13  
Angela Goodridge, PT X12  
Meghan DuBois, FLOT X17

**Program Staff**  
William Putnam, CED X28  
[William.putnam@vt.usda.gov](mailto:William.putnam@vt.usda.gov)  
Laurie Locke, PT X16  
Brock Columbia, PT X26



## Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

## Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Crop Disaster Program (CDP) – Quantity loss

FSA is now accepting applications for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and the Crop Disaster Program (CDP). **The LCP program** covers pasture loss and additional feed costs for crop year 2006 due to the “disaster event” as defined by the Secretarial Disaster Designation. Qualifying producers will be compensated based on livestock numbers owned and on-site on May 1, 2006. Payments will be the lesser of either a per-head livestock payment, or the combined value of grazing losses and additional feed purchases required due to disaster conditions. Maximum per-head payments are based upon established rates.

For pasture losses you will need to indicate on a map where you had pasture in 2006, the number of days grazed, and type of pasture (native grass or improved pasture). You will also need to indicate your “percentage of loss” in the pasture.

If you incurred additional feed costs in the disaster year above the amount purchased in a normal year, these additional expenses are eligible as long as it was purchased because of the “disaster”. An increase in feed costs due to increased herd size or inflation is not eligible. Documentation will need to be provided.

For purchased forage (hay, haylage or corn silage) you will need a receipt, signed and dated by the seller. For all other purchased concentrates, additives or extenders you will need to provide a comparison of amounts and dollars for these purchased feeds prepared by your feed consultant or feed dealer on company letterhead showing the differences in feed purchased between a normal year and the disaster year.

If you are interested in the program, there is a Program Payment Calculation Worksheet (FSA-902) we can send to help you capture this information before coming in to apply. Please contact us at 334-6090 for more information.

**The CDP program** provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity or quality 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 before Feb. 28, 2007. 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. Software and program parameters for quality are not developed as yet. **USDA will announce and conduct CDP sign-up for quality losses as a later date.** We will however, accept all data from you or your feed consultant at this time for both quantity and quality and keep the information on file until such time as the quality part is implemented.

For more information about disaster programs implemented by FSA, visit: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov> .

## NAP Coverage Deadline Approaching

**The fact that the current crop disaster program requires enrollment in either crop insurance or NAP in order to be eligible is a MAJOR change in USDA Disaster Provisions. The previous disaster programs allowed for “linkage” to purchase the appropriate insurance coverage for two years following the year in which you received benefits. This is no longer the case.** In light of this, we urge you to carefully consider the implications this rule change may have on your operation and your eligibility to participate in future disaster programs. Congress may change this ruling with the upcoming Farm Bill but based on current knowledge, it may prove to be a prudent decision to have crop insurance and/or NAP coverage for your 2008 crops. **Important deadlines for purchase of a NAP policy are fast approaching:** November 20, 2007 for all hay crops, apples, blueberries, strawberries and raspberries. January 1, 2008 is the deadline for Maple Sap.

## Wetland Determination Identifiers

As part of the USDA continuous effort to use digital mapping technology to increase efficiency, FSA and NRCS have recently revised the symbols used to identify wetland determination locations on FSA maps. NRCS makes wetland determinations based on landowners’ requests. FSA marks these sites with symbols on the maps for producers’ ease of use. Originally FSA used blue dots to represent wetland determinations. Updated symbology now gives producers a more detailed representation and approximate location of wetland determinations on their land.

To receive a fact sheet explaining these changes please contact our office or visit online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/factsheets> for more details and to view a PowerPoint presentation.

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



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.

**Pesticide Certification Class for Farmers and Christmas Tree Growers**

A one-day class will be held in early January for farmers and Christmas Tree growers who wish to obtain their private pesticide application certification. Study manuals will be distributed in advance of the class. A review class and question and answer session will run from 9:00 am thru 1:00 PM (including lunch) with the exam immediately after. Upon completion of the exam with a passing grade the attendees will be certified to apply chemicals to land they own or rent for agricultural purposes.

Anne Hazelrig of UVM Extension and Matt Wood of the Agency of Ag will lead this class. They will review all the pertinent aspects of the Study Manual and help attendees understand all the calculations required for the exam. The exam will be administered immediately following on-site for maximum efficiency and convenience for the farmers/growers.

In order to secure a date and location we must have 12 attendees sign up ASAP. Specific details will be provided at that time. The only cost to the attendees is \$33 for the Study Manual.

Interested farmers and/or Christmas Tree growers should contact Susan Alexander ASAP for details at 802.229.2720.

**Free Nutrient Management Plan Class Offered**

The Orleans County Natural Resources Conservation District is pleased to announce they will sponsor a "Do-It-Yourself Nutrient Management Plan Class" this winter (February and early March). The class will be taught by Heather Darby of UVM Extension and run five (5) consecutive weeks from 11:00 through 2:00 (lunch will be provided for a small fee). This class is open to all dairy farmers of any size on a "first come- first served" basis and is limited to 12 farms.

The benefits of this do-it-yourself approach is that the farmer is completely invested in the plan, has a clear understanding of all the components of the plan, will have first-hand knowledge of how the spreading rates are determined, and be better prepared for record keeping. If you are an MFO (medium farm operation) you must have a completed plan by March 2008.

Smaller farms have found this course to be useful since they do not have the land base to pay a private consultant to write the plan for them.

Those farmers who sign up for the Nutrient Management Incentive Grant Program with the Agency of Agriculture will be reimbursed upon completion of their plan (\$15 for soil tests, \$35 for manure tests, and \$9 per acre not to exceed \$14,000).

Prior to the class farmers need soil and manure samples collected and analyzed (contact Susan Alexander, Ag Resource Specialist at 802.229.2720) and a Land Treatment Plan needs to be completed (contact Marybeth Whitten at the USDA Service Center in Newport at 802.334.6090 ext 22).

For general questions and to reserve a place in the class contact Susan Alexander at 802.229.2720.

**County Committee Election**

Ballots for this year's county committee election were mailed to eligible voters on November 2, 2007. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 3, 2007. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 3rd.

The candidate in this year's election is: SCOTT BIRCH

The election this year is in LAA 3 which serves the farmers in the towns of Derby, Holland, Morgan, Charleston, Brownington and Westmore. Eligible voters in LAA #3 who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

**Dairy Management Teams**

The Vermont Dairy Task Force through a partnership with UVM Extension, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Farm Viability Enhancement Program, Small Business Development Center, farmers, cooperatives and others would like to announce the launch of Dairy Management Teams in Vermont. The goal of this program is to enroll 20 -25 farms for 2007 - 2008.

Dairy Management Teams are a new method for management on Vermont Dairy farms using a team approach. Dairy farmers involved in the Dairy Management Team program will select their own team of dairy professionals to provide advice and information on farm management priorities to improve profitability on the farm. The farmers and their team will receive training on how best to interact as a group and will be provided a trained facilitator to assist with managing the team in meetings, taking notes, assigning tasks and monitoring progress of the farmer and the team.

Dairy Management Teams will challenge Vermont dairy farmers to take a hard look at their dairy operations to search out what management area of the farm is affecting profitability. The team will discuss the issues and will provide solutions to the dairy farmer to improve areas affecting profitability. The farmer has the ultimate decision making authority.

Information shared with the Dairy Management Team members will be kept confidential and all team members and facilitators will be trained to keep the team functioning at a high level.

If you are interested in taking part in a Dairy Management Team, please contact Tony Kitsos for an application to this program by email at [Tony.Kitsos@uvm.edu](mailto:Tony.Kitsos@uvm.edu) or by phone at 802-524-6501.