



U.S. Department
of Agriculture

**Addison County
FSA**

68 Catamount Drive
Middlebury, VT 05753

Phone: (802) 388-6748

Fax: (802) 388-3709
www.fsa.usda.gov

Hours

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

County Committee

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

Summer: COC meets 2nd
Tue. evening of each month

**County Executive
Director**

Craig Miner (EXT15)
craig.miner@vt.usda.gov

Program Staff

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

Farm Loan Manager

Gary Braman, FLM (x18)
gary.braman@vt.usda.gov

Farm Loan Staff

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

**Reasonable
Accommodations**

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the Farm Service Agency and we will be happy to make arrangements.

Farm Service Agency

FSA UPDATES

Addison Agriculture

August
2008

Important Decision by September 16, 2008:

Buy-In Waiver for Supplemental Disaster Assistance

Producers can establish 2008 eligibility for the new farm bill 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 SURE, LFP, and other 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 for insurable crops and \$300 per producer for uninsurable crops per administrative county, or \$900 total per producer for all counties less any previously paid fees for CAT coverage and/or NAP. Producers can contact their local administrative FSA County Office to get more information or pay applicable fees.

The following questions are provided to assist a producer in making the decision whether to pay the buy-in fee:

- Do you anticipate having losses in crop production quantity or quality for 2008? If you say "no", you do not need to "buy-in". If you say "yes", see next question.
- Do you have crop insurance and/or NAP coverage for **ALL CROPS** including pasture for which you have a commercial interest? If you say "yes", you do not need to "buy-in". If you say "no" or you are not sure, see next question.
- Do you want to have the option of applying for benefits for 2008 losses under the new disaster programs? If you say "no", you do not need to "buy-in". If you say "yes", contact your local USDA Service Center to determine what your fee will be.

The 2008 Farm Bill created new disaster programs which require that producers have crop insurance for **ALL** insurable crops and/or NAP coverage for **ALL** noninsurable crops for all farms in all counties in which they have an interest. In Vermont, this would include **ALL** commercial production of corn, hay, soybeans, maple, fruits, vegetables, tree fruits, etc., **including pastureland grazed by livestock**.

Crop Disaster Program –QUALITY LOSS SIGN-UP. The Addison FSA office is now accepting applications for quality loss in hay/haylage due to weather related disaster in 2005-2007. There will **not be a quality loss program available for farm stored corn silage** due to new regulations. (Corn sold must have evidence of 25% or greater loss in sale value due to quality.) The County Committee has documentation of widespread weather related losses in 2006 forage. Individuals with losses in 2005 or 2007 may also apply, but will be required to identify a weather related cause for the loss in quality.

A minimum of 25% loss of feed quality will apply for the CDP-Quality Loss Program. Producers will need to provide verifiable measurements of ALL hay/haylage (by cutting) produced in the loss year and ALL crop tests taken for each cutting. Producers should contact their crop consultants for assistance in providing verifiable documentation or call the county office for further program details. * 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. *****



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2008 DCP Signup Continues

Producers have until September 30, 2008 to sign up for the 2008 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP). If you received sign up materials in the mail, please complete and return to be processed. Producers can also fill out their DCP contract at any USDA Farm Service Agency County Office or on-line after completing e-authentication. On line services allow you to choose payment options, assign crop shares and sign and submit contracts 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. 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).

FSA Farm Loans

For Farm Ownership loans, 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 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.

NAP Coverage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

The application deadline dates for 2009 NAP coverage for forage and perennial crops is Dec 1, 2008; for maple sap and honey is Dec 31, 2008 and for spring seeded annual crops is March 15, 2009.

Increased fees apply to 2009 NAP. New Farm Bill rules set the application rate at \$250 per crop but not more than \$750 per producer per county or more than \$1875 total per producer for all counties.

Producers who already have coverage on 2008 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2009, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee. Producers with 2008 NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits: Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.

File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.

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

