

**AUGUST/  
SEPTEMBER 2008**



**NEWSLETTER**

# **FARM SERVICE AGENCY**

## **LITCHFIELD/FAIRFIELD**

### **SIGN UP UNDERWAY FOR THE 2008 DCP**

The new farm bill continues the familiar Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program from the old farm bill. **PRODUCERS HAVE UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30, 2008 to sign up for the 2008 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP).**

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 October 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 additional information, contact this office.

### **QUALITY LOSS CROP DISASTER SIGNUP**

Signup for quality losses under the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) began on June 23, 2008. Producers can apply for crop quality losses at their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office.

**THE SIGNUP DEADLINE DATE HAS NOT YET BEEN ANNOUNCED.**

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.

**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.**

Producers must have suffered quality losses of at least 25 percent to be eligible for CRP Quality Loss. 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.

### **JUST A REMINDER OF OUR EXTENSION NUMBERS:**

**Howard – 101, Ellen – 104, Barbara – 102, Karen – 103, Clark – 108, Carolyn – 100**

#### **COUNTY FSA OFFICE**

1185 New Litchfield Street  
Torrington, CT 06790-6098  
Tel. 860-626-8852  
Fax. 860-626-8850

#### **HOURS**

Monday – Friday  
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

#### **COUNTY COMMITTEE**

Rick Plumb-Chairman  
Don Taylor-Vice Chairman  
Dan Logue - Regular Member  
Charles Ferris IV-Reg Memb  
Luke Tanner-Reg. Member  
Dorothy Jacquier-Advisor

#### **COUNTY OFFICE STAFF**

Howard E. Rood Jr.,  
County Executive Director  
Ellen Losee,  
Farm Loan Manager  
Karen Tomlinson,  
Farm Loan Officer  
Barbara Hawley,  
Program Technician  
Carolyn A. Tomczyk,  
Program Technician  
Clark Chapin, Summer Intern

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## **BUY-IN WAIVER FOR SUPPLEMENTAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE SEPTEMBER 16 DEADLINE**

The Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (the 2008 Act) includes several new disaster programs.

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 SEPTEMBER 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 program. 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. Producers can contact their local administrative FSA County Office to get more information or pay applicable fees.

## **BEGINNING AND LIMITED RESOURCE FARMERS**

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who has operated a farm for not more than 10 years, will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm, agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA, does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size. Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed. Additional information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)