



February/March 2008

New Haven/Middlesex County News

**New Haven/Middlesex
USDA Service Center**

**New Haven/ Middlesex
County FSA**

900 Northrop Road
Suite# A
Wallingford, CT 06492
www.fsa.usda.gov/ct

Hours:

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

County Committee:

Bill Weed -Chairman

Nelson Cecarelli -Vice
Chairman

Richard Brock - Regular
Member

Joyce Werbiski - Minor-
ity Advisor

**Next County Committee
meeting:**

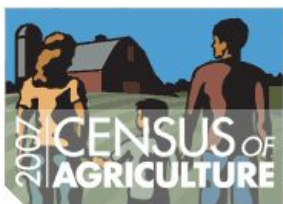
Monday March 17th at
11:00AM

Staff

Nancy Welsh, CED

Ann Marie McCard, PT

Teresa Peavey, PT



**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.

**Not Too Late To Return Your 2007
Ag Census Form**

The 2007 Census of Agriculture, the only source of consistent and comprehensive agricultural data for every state and county in the nation, was mailed out to agricultural producers across the United States last December with a Feb 4th due date for return. Officials at the National Agricultural Statistics Service say that while the deadline has passed, completed forms are still being accepted.

Conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the Census provides detailed data covering nearly every facet of U.S. agriculture. Government organizations, lawmakers, town planners and individual farm operations can use this vital information to help them plan for future facilities, services and community growth.

Producers can return their forms by mail or, for the first time, they have the convenient option of filling out the Census online. For more information about the Census, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov. The Census is your voice, your future and your responsibility.

Acresage Reporting

Acresage reporting time will soon be here. Please remember that filing an accurate acresage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acresage and prevented planting acresage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acresage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acresage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. Acresage reports are to be certified by the July 15th deadline for all crops.

NAP Application Deadline

March 17th is the deadline date for producers to apply for Noninsured Assistance Program, or NAP coverage, using Form CCC-471. The application and service fee must be filed by the applicable closing date for each of the 2007 spring seeded NAP crops. To remain eligible for NAP, a producer must annually report the crop, including: type, variety, location, producer shares, date planted, and the intended use (fresh, processed, etc.). Once the crop is harvested the production must also be reported.

The application service fee is \$100 per crop per county or \$300 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$900 per producer with farming interest in multiple counties. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of service fees.

In the event of a crop failure caused by natural disaster, the producer needs to notify the local FSA office by completing a "Notice of Loss" (form CCC-576). The notice of loss must be executed within 15 days of the date the damage became apparent.

NAP Production Reporting

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable and verifiable. Records need to show crop disposition. We recommend producers submit 2007 production records as soon as harvest is complete. *All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date, which is July 15th.*

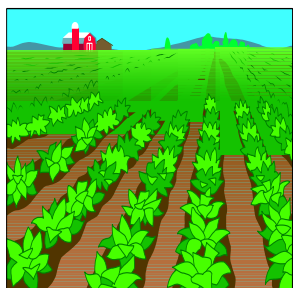


Youth Loans

Remember FSA makes operating loans to individual rural youths age 10 through 20 to establish and operate income producing projects. These projects must be of modest size and be initiated, developed, carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H Clubs, FFA, or a similar organization or with a vocational teacher or county extension agent. The project must be an organized and supervised program of work. It must be planned and operated with the assistance of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. Contact your local FSA office for more details.

Loans for Socially Disadvantaged

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) can make and guarantee loans to socially disadvantaged applicants to buy and operate family size farms and ranches. Funds specifically for these loans are reserved each year. A socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, and Asians and Pacific Islanders. Contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager or Officer for more details and assistance in applying.



Direct and Guaranteed Loans Available

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are available now.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Loan funds are available now — applying early is important so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

Most of our loan programs have special funding available for minority, female and beginning farmers. FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

2002 Farm Bill Extension

The 2008 catch all spending bill signed by President Bush on Dec. 26, 2007, extends FSA's authority to administer the Conservation Reserve Program and marketing loan benefits for wool and mohair through March 15, 2008. It also allows the Milk Price Support Program to continue operating at current price support levels through March 15, 2008. Under the 2002 Farm Bill, USDA's authority to administer these three programs expired on Dec. 31, 2007.

Additionally, the law provides \$3.3 billion in direct and guaranteed loan funds for FSA's Farm Loan Programs.

Disaster Eligibility Date Extended

Eligible farmers and ranchers who suffered livestock, livestock feed and crop losses that occurred before Dec. 31, 2007, can now apply to receive disaster payments.

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting applications and making payments for quantity losses under CDP that occurred before Dec. 31, 2007. FSA is currently issuing LCP and LIP payments for losses that occurred up to Feb. 28, 2007, and will soon issue payments for losses incurred during the remainder of 2007. FSA will conduct sign-up and begin making payments for quality losses under CDP this spring.

More information about CDP, LCP and LIP is available online at:
<http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

The Dairy Disaster Assistance Payment (DDAP-III) Program, which provides benefits to eligible dairy producers for production losses suffered as a result of natural disasters since Jan. 1, 2005, has also been extended to include disasters occurring before Dec. 31, 2007.



As a result, DDAP-III sign-up, which began Dec. 3, 2007, was temporarily suspended until automation, policy, procedure and other administrative items could be updated accordingly. DDAP-III program sign-up is expected to resume sometime soon.

Kansas City Mails 1099-G

During the last week of January, producers who have received payments from FSA should have also received a CCC-1099-G from the Kansas City office. A CCC-1099-G is a report to the Internal Revenue Service about FSA payments made to you in calendar year 2007. The CCC-1099-G is a service to help participating producers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the program participant's responsibility to report income to the IRS.

If you received a CCC-1099-G, we recommend that you check the amounts shown with those in your records to see that the amounts are correct. Refunds will no longer be reported on the 1099-G, but will be available online from the FSA Financial Inquiries (FSA-FI) web-based database. Program participants with eAuthentication user ID's and passwords can access their refund information at FSA-FI and select "Inquiry Type 1099/Refund Reports". Refund amounts are displayed on the Producer's Year-to-Date Activity web page.

If you have a question concerning the 1099-G refund information, you may contact your local FSA office for assistance locating the correct payment data. If you choose to visit the office, bring your CCC-1099-G with you.



NASS Statistical Surveys

Have you been asked to participate in a survey with USDA's Agriculture Statistics Service?

The Quarterly Agricultural Surveys, conducted by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) provide inventory and production estimates for crops and livestock at state and national levels. Each quarter a list

sample of farm operators are contacted by mail, telephone or personal interview for inventory information on the land they operate.

Why is it important for producers to participate in these surveys? Because...

Statistical information on acreage, production, stocks, prices, and income is essential for the smooth operation of Federal farm programs. It is also indispensable for planning and administering related Federal and State programs in such areas as consumer protection, conservation and environmental quality, trade, education, and recreation.

Moreover, the regular updating of information helps to ensure an orderly flow of goods and services among agriculture's producing, processing, and marketing sectors. Reliable, timely, and detailed crop and livestock statistics help to maintain a stable economic climate and minimize the uncertainties and risks associated with the production, marketing, and distribution of commodities.

Conservation Compliance

All participants in USDA programs are required to have a conservation system in place on all the highly erodible land (HEL) that they operate. Several areas where problems can arise with complying with a conservation system are: renting new cropland, purchasing new land, breaking out additional cropland, planting different crops such as soybeans, and changing or removing existing conservation practices.

It is very important that you contact the FSA office before doing any of the above. Also, it is very important that you contact our office before modifying - tiling, draining, dredging, filling, or leveling - any wetland or drainage ditch. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in loss of all Federal payments and eligibility.

County Committee Advisors

FSA County Committee (COC) Advisors are a valued voice for under represented groups and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.

County committee members and their county executive directors, actively reach out to producer groups who are under represented on county committees. The COC shall have submitted the name of their nominee to the State Committee for confirmation, no later than February 1 of each year.

Eligibility requirements for COC advisor nominee include:

- be actively participating in farming or ranching in the county or area
- be willing and able to serve as an advisor, if appointed
- indicate in writing a willingness and ability to serve



County committee advisors serve for

- for a 12-month period not to exceed 9 consecutive years beginning March 1 each year

Duties and Responsibilities of COC Advisors include:

- attending each COC meeting, including executive sessions
- participating in all deliberations
- increasing awareness of and participation in FSA activities, including elections, by eligible voters to ensure that socially disadvantaged group problems and viewpoints are understood and considered in FSA actions
- helping to develop interest and incentives in socially disadvantaged group members for considering FSA work as a career
- actively soliciting candidates from socially disadvantaged groups for nomination during the election process
- able to perform special duties at COC's request

Note: Advisors do not have authority to sign documents.

Dates to Remember	
March 9	Daylight Savings Time – Please set your clocks ahead 1 hour!
March 17	NAP Coverage Deadline
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
July 15	Acres Reporting Deadline



Selected Interest Rates for March 2008	
Farm Operating - Direct	*
Farm Ownership - Direct	*
Limited Resource - Farm Operating	*
Limited Resource - Farm Ownership	*
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment	*
Beginning Farmer or Rancher	*
Emergency	*
Farm Storage Facility	*

* Please call Ellen Losee for current rates at: (860) 626-8258 ext# 104

America Grows With Agriculture

USDA Farm Service Agency
Salutes America's
Farmers and Ranchers

National Ag Day - March 20
National Ag Week - March 16-22