

1 Sec. A. INTERIM DAIRY ASSISTANCE

2 (a) The interim dairy assistance will pay the difference between target
3 prices established by the secretary of the agency of agriculture, food and
4 markets and the combined announced Federal Order Statistical Uniform Price
5 for the Middlebury Location plus the amount of the MILCX payment rate on a
6 per-hundredweight basis. The payment will be paid in March of 2007, based
7 on the amount of milk produced in the previous two months or on the seasonal
8 herd formula pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, using the entire
9 appropriation.

10 (b) The agency of agriculture, food and markets will request the Farm
11 Services Agency to provide the production data for dairy producers and assist
12 the agency to administer the assistance.

13 (c) Dairy producers will receive a single payment based on pounds of milk
14 produced in January and February 2007 multiplied by the payment rate for the
15 interim dairy assistance as calculated in this section on a per-hundredweight
16 basis. The payment will be made by the end of March 2007 based on January
17 and February milk production and price data. Farmers who do not take part in
18 the MILCX program and who wish to receive this interim assistance shall
19 provide the agency of agriculture, food and markets with the appropriate
20 verifiable production evidence by the 12th day of March for the previous two
21 months' milk production. Seasonal herds that have no production in the

1 qualifying months would be paid on the monthly production average of the 12
2 months, including the payment period, as determined by the secretary.

3 Acceptable forms of verifiable production evidence include: milk marketing
4 payment stubs, bulk tank records, milk handler records, and daily milk
5 marketing records.

6 (d) The payment will come as a separate check to dairy producers from the
7 state of Vermont.

8 (e) Determination made within the MILCX program on farm ownership
9 will be used for interim dairy assistance. The following is not considered
10 commercially marketed milk and is ineligible for this assistance:

11 (1) Dumped milk that causes bulk load contamination for which a
12 producer receives an insurance indemnity;

13 (2) Milk dumped on the farm by order of a state agriculture or health
14 department official.

15 Sec. B. ASSISTANCE THROUGH A LOAN BUY-DOWN PROGRAM

16 The state of Vermont will buy down the interest rate of farm loans at the
17 Vermont agricultural credit corporation for three additional months to continue
18 the program for the entire fiscal year 2007.

19 Sec. C. APPROPRIATIONS

20 (a) There is appropriated from the general fund in fiscal year 2007 the sum
21 of \$3 million to the department of finance and management for transfer to the

1 agency of agriculture, food and markets to process payments for interim dairy
2 assistance established in this act.

3 (b) For the purpose of continuing to provide interest rate support for farm
4 loans, the sum of \$100,000.00 is appropriated from the general fund in fiscal
5 year 2007 to the Vermont agricultural credit corporation.

6 (c) The sum of \$100,000.00 is appropriated from the general fund to the
7 agency of agriculture, food and markets for emergency funding for farm
8 capital needs resulting from the February 2007 blizzard. The funds shall be
9 used according to a plan determined by the secretary of the agency of
10 agriculture, food and markets, and whatever funds are not necessary for the
11 blizzard emergency shall go to the Vermont agricultural credit corporation for
12 the purpose of the interest support program pursuant to subsection (b) of this
13 section.