

August 7, 2014



Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

- [USDA Notifies Producers on Acreage History and Yields](#)
- [Livestock Disaster Assistance Sign-up Continues - Be Aware of Upcoming Deadlines!](#)
- [NAP Sales Closing Date of Sept. 30, 2014 for Fall Seeded Annual Crops and Perennial Forage and Grazing Crops](#)
- [CRP Managed Summer/Fall Grazing/Haying Requests](#)
- [CRP 1-Year Contract Extensions – Aug. 8th Contract Extension Signup Deadline](#)
- [CRP Continuous Signup – Sept. 30th Deadline to Submit Offers](#)
- [Foreign Buyers Notification \(AFIDA\)](#)
- [Margin Protection Program for Dairy Producers](#)
- [USDA Selects 36 Energy Facilities to Accept Biomass Deliveries – FSA accepting applications from biomass owners from July 28 through Aug. 25](#)
- [Agricultural Producers in Montana Still Have Time to Apply for Direct Farm Ownership Loan Program](#)
- [Emergency Loan Program available in Montana disaster counties](#)
- [HELP WANTED: Montana FSA is Seeking Applicants for Several Positions Across Montana](#)
- [Register now for Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium in Billings Sept. 23-25](#)
- [Rocky Mountain Intertribal Agriculture Council's 3rd Annual Conference in Polson Aug. 21-22](#)
- [Important Montana FSA Dates/Deadlines:](#)

---

## Montana FSA: August 2014 eNewsletter

---

### USDA Montana Farm Service Agency (FSA)

P.O. Box 670  
Bozeman, MT 59771

**Phone:** 406.587.6872

**Fax:** 855.546.0264

**Web:** [www.fsa.usda.gov/mt](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt)

**State Executive Director:**  
Bruce Nelson

**State Committee:**  
Steve Carney  
Floyd Dahlman  
Kelly Flaherty-Settle  
Hans McPherson  
Patricia Quisno

Montana USDA  
Directories: [Online Directory of FSA Offices](#)

### USDA Notifies Producers on Acreage History and Yields

Written notifications from USDA Farm Service Agency are underway to producers that provide updates on their current base acres, yields and 2009-2012 planting history. Please cross check the letter from USDA with your farm records. If the information is correct, no further action is needed at this time, but if our letter is incomplete or incorrect, contact your local FSA office as soon as possible.

Verifying the accuracy of data on a farm's acreage history is a required early step for enrolling in the upcoming Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) program and the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program. Later this summer, farmers and ranchers will have an opportunity to update their crop yield information and reallocate base acres.

By mid-winter all producers on a farm will be required to make a one-time, unanimous and irrevocable election between price protection and county revenue protection or individual revenue protection for 2014-2018 crop years. Producers can expect to sign contracts for ARC or PLC for the 2014 and 2015 crop years in the spring of 2015. Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice (includes short grain rice and temperate

[PDF of Montana FSA Directory](#) japonica rice), safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed, and wheat. Upland cotton is no longer a covered commodity.

[PDF of Montana USDA Directory](#)

---

## Livestock Disaster Assistance Sign-up Continues - Be Aware of Upcoming Deadlines!

Livestock disaster program enrollment opened on April 15, 2014. These disaster programs are authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill as permanent programs and provide retroactive authority to cover losses that occurred on or after Oct. 1, 2011. To expedite applications, all producers who experienced losses are encouraged to bring records documenting those losses to their local FSA Office. Producers should record all pertinent information of natural disaster consequences, including:

- Documentation of the number and kind of livestock that have died, supplemented if possible by photographs or video records of ownership and losses
- Dates of death supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts
- Costs of transporting livestock to safer grounds or to move animals to new pastures
- Feed purchases if supplies or grazing pastures are destroyed
- Crop records, including seed and fertilizer purchases, planting and production records

Eligible producers can sign-up for the following livestock disaster assistance programs:

### **Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP):**

LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses because of qualifying drought or fire. For drought, the losses must have occurred because of a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the county on land that is native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or is planted to a crop specifically intended for grazing the covered livestock. For fire, LFP provides payments to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses on rangeland managed by a Federal Agency if the eligible livestock producer is prohibited by the Federal Agency from grazing the normal permitted livestock on the managed rangeland because of a qualifying fire. Eligible producers must physically be located in a county affected by a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the county. Producers who suffered eligible grazing losses should submit a completed CCC-853 and supporting documentation by **January 30, 2015**.

### **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP):**

LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to an eligible adverse weather event, or attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the Federal Government or protected by Federal law, including wolves and avian predators. Producers who suffered livestock death losses should submit a notice of loss and an application for payment to their local FSA office by **January 30, 2015**.

### **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)**

The enrollment deadline for the 2012 and 2013 Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) has been extended to **Aug. 15, 2014**. Originally, program sign-up was scheduled to end Aug. 1.

ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires. ELAP assistance is provided for losses not covered by LFP and LIP. Producers who suffered eligible livestock, honeybee or farm-raised fish losses during 2012 and 2013 program years must submit a notice of loss and application for payment to their local FSA office by **August 15, 2014**. For 2014 program year losses, the notice of loss and an application for payment must be submitted by **November 1, 2014**.

For more information, producers can review the LFP, LIP and ELAP Fact Sheets on the [Farm Bill webpage](#). Producers are encouraged to make an appointment with their local FSA office to apply for these programs.

---

## **NAP Sales Closing Date of Sept. 30, 2014 for Fall Seeded Annual Crops and Perennial Forage and Grazing Crops**

Beginning with the 2015 Crop Year, the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) has a new sales closing date of **Sept. 30, 2014** for fall seeded annual crops and perennial forage and grazing crops. NAP provides financial assistance to eligible producers affected by a natural disaster. The program covers crops for which Federal crop insurance is not available. Previously, the sales closing deadline for all NAP crops except value loss and honey, was March 15 of each year. However, procedure required that the NAP sales closing dates coincide with Risk Management Agency (RMA) sales closing dates for the specific crops. The Montana FSA State Committee changed the annual sales closing date for fall seeded annual crops and perennial forage and perennial grazing crops from March 15 to Sept. 30 of each year. The deadline for 2015 spring planted crops is March 15, 2015.

NAP covers losses greater than 50 percent of your expected production, based upon your approved yield and reported acreage. To apply for 2015 crop coverage, producers must complete an FSA CCC-471 application for coverage form and pay the applicable NAP service fee by the sales closing date for the specific crop. The service fee is \$250 per crop per administrative county, up to \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed \$1875 per producer in all counties. The administrative service fee for NAP coverage will be waived for producers who meet the definitions for socially disadvantaged, limited resource, or beginning farmers and ranchers.

Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA county office to purchase NAP policies for all fall seeded annual crops and perennial forage and grazing crops by the 2015 sales closing date of Sept. 30, 2014.

---

## **CRP Managed Summer/Fall Grazing/Haying Requests**

Summer/Fall Managed Haying begins July 16th and ends Sept. 30th. Managed Grazing begins July 16th and ends Sept. 13th. Producers are reminded to sign up at their local FSA office and complete a CRP-117 form for county office approval **BEFORE** conducting any managed haying and/or grazing activity.

## **CRP 1-Year Contract Extensions – Aug. 8th Contract Extension Signup Deadline**

Beginning June 9, 2014, certain CRP participants with CRP contracts that are scheduled to expire on September 30, 2014, may extend all or part of the contract acreage for a 1-year period at the same payment rate. Contract extensions are only available for general signup contracts. The signup period for the 1-year extension ends August 8, 2014. Contracts ineligible to be extended for 1-year are those contracts that will exceed a total of 15 years. Therefore, contracts that were approved for contract lengths of 14 years and 1 month up to 15 years will NOT be eligible for the 1-year extension. No General CRP Signup is scheduled for Fiscal Year 2014.

## **CRP Continuous Signup – Sept. 30th Deadline to Submit Offers**

FSA County Offices began accepting new offers under Signup 46 Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) continuous, CREP, FWP and SAFE signup types on June 9, 2014. The deadline for Signup 46 offers expires September 30, 2014. Producers interested in offering land for enrollment in CRP should contact their local FSA Office.

---

## **Foreign Buyers Notification (AFIDA)**

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of United States agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. FSA administers this program for USDA. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties up to 25% of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements. Please contact your local Farm Service Agency office if you have questions regarding the requirements for filing the FSA-153. [Click HERE for the FSA-153 Form.](#)

---

## Margin Protection Program for Dairy Producers

The 2014 Farm Bill authorized the Margin Protection Program (MPP-Dairy) for dairy producers. The new, voluntary risk management program replaces the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program which expires on Sept. 1, 2014. MPP-Dairy offers protection to dairy producers when the difference (the margin) between the all-milk price and national average feed cost falls below a certain producer selected amount. Eligible producers may purchase coverage for their dairy operation by paying an annual administrative fee of \$100 and a premium, as applicable, for higher levels of coverage. Producers in the dairy operation will have to select a desired coverage level ranging from \$4.00 to \$8.00, in \$0.50 increments and a desired coverage percentage level ranging from 25 to 90 percent, in 5 percent increments. Producers will also have to decide whether or not to participate in the MPP-Dairy Program or the Livestock Gross Margin program administered by the Risk Management Agency (RMA), but they will not be allowed to participate in both. A decision tool will be made available in the fall of 2014 to help producers make coverage level decisions. Enrollment will also begin this fall. Dairy operators will establish their production history during signup. Verification of the production records will be required. The regulations for MPP-dairy are still being developed. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

---

## USDA Selects 36 Energy Facilities to Accept Biomass Deliveries – FSA accepting applications from biomass owners from July 28 through Aug. 25

### *Program Includes Biomass Removals from Federal Lands to Reduce Forest Fires*

USDA has selected 36 energy facilities in 14 states to accept biomass deliveries supported by the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP), which was authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill. Biomass owners who supply these facilities may qualify for BCAP delivery assistance starting July 28, 2014. Of the total \$25 million per year authorized for BCAP, up to 50 percent (\$12.5 million) is available each year to assist biomass owners with the cost of delivery of agricultural or forest residues for energy generation. Some BCAP payments will target the removal of dead or diseased trees from National Forests and Bureau of Land Management public lands for renewable energy, which reduces the risk of forest fire.

Farmers, ranchers or foresters who harvest and deliver forest or agricultural residues to a BCAP-qualified energy facility may be eligible for financial assistance for deliveries. The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), which administers BCAP, will begin accepting applications from biomass owners from **July 28 through Aug. 25**. Deliveries of residues for approved contracts may be made through Sept. 26, 2014. **The selected BCAP energy facilities in Montana are Eureka Pellet Mills Inc. and F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Co. Questions?** Visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/bcap](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/bcap) or a local FSA county office to learn more about BCAP.

---

## Agricultural Producers in Montana Still Have Time to Apply for Direct Farm Ownership Loan Program

### *Low-Interest Loans Can Help Producers Start or Expand Farms*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) today announced that farmers and ranchers still have time to apply for low interest 2014 loans available through FSA's direct farm ownership program. Eligible producers can borrow up to \$300,000 in direct farm ownership loans to buy or enlarge a farm, construct new farm buildings or improve structures, pay closing costs, or promote soil and water conservation and protection. The interest rate on select loans can be as low as 1.5 percent with up to 20 to 40 years to repay. FSA encourages all interested applicants to apply for direct farm ownership loans. For more information about the program and other loans administered by FSA, visit any FSA county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov). For local FSA Service Center contact information, visit <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>.

## Emergency Loan Program available in Montana disaster counties

FSA's Emergency Loan Program is available for agricultural producers in counties designated as primary or contiguous natural disaster areas. [Click here for 2014 Montana Disaster Designations To Date](#). Contact your

local FSA office for specific designations in your area and time frames to apply. Eligible producers have eight months from the date of the disaster designation to apply for low-interest emergency loans to 1.) restore or replace essential property; 2.) pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year; 3.) pay essential family living expenses; or 4.) refinance certain debts, excluding real estate.

**Interested in an FSA Farm Loan?:** Producers interested in applying for an emergency loan, or other FLP loans, should contact their local FSA office to set up an appointment with the Farm Loan Program staff serving their area.

---

## HELP WANTED: Montana FSA is Seeking Applicants for Several Positions Across Montana

- **FULL-TIME PERMANENT COUNTY OPERATIONS TRAINEE VACANCIES:** The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Montana is seeking to fill five (5) full-time permanent County Operations Trainee positions. These positions are a 12 month training program on the policy, program and operation of FSA. The location of these positions will be determined upon selection of the candidates. Depending upon the needs of the agency, candidates will be expected to relocate when the training program is complete. Benefits include health insurance, life insurance, leave and a retirement program. **This announcement is open from Aug. 5 to Aug. 25, 2014.** Apply by visiting this link, <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/377408000>. Please read all the instructions under "How to Apply" before you begin.

**Questions on Trainee Positions?** Please contact Holly Johnson at 406-587-6936 for additional information.

- **TEMPORARY PROGRAM TECHNICIAN POSITIONS:** USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Montana is advertising for temporary program technician positions in several counties listed below. The program technician will be responsible for carrying out office activities and functions pertaining to one or more of the federal farm program areas. Contact the local FSA county office if you are interested in applying. A directory of FSA offices in Montana is available [here](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/mt_fsa_directory.pdf) or via the following link: [http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/mt\\_fsa\\_directory.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/mt_fsa_directory.pdf). Temporary Positions Locations: Baker (Fallon County); Chester (Liberty County), Choteau (Teton County), Circle (McCone County), Culbertson (Roosevelt County), Cut Bank (Glacier County), Ekalaka (Carter County), Forsyth (Rosebud County), Fort Benton (Chouteau County), Glendive (Dawson County), Great Falls (Cascade County), Havre (Hill County), Miles City (Custer County), Plentywood (Sheridan County), Scobey (Daniels County), Shelby (Toole County) and Sidney (Richland County).

**Questions on Temporary Positions?** Please contact the local FSA office. For a Montana FSA office directory, click [here](#).

---

## Register now for Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium in Billings Sept. 23-25

Registration has opened for the 14th annual Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium in Billings on Sept. 23-25. The annual symposium will give women involved in promoting Montana's agriculture the opportunity to learn about issues affecting Montana's rural agricultural communities, promote leadership development and further support women's leadership roles within those communities. Topics for discussion include Farm & Ranch Transition, Soil Health Record Management, Technology in Ag-Apps, Key Agriculture & Inspiring Speakers, Local & Fresh Food Preparation, Farm Bill Updates & much more.

Registration cost \$60 prior to Sept. 5 (postmarked) and \$75 after that date. A registration form is available at any USDA Service Center office and online the [Montana FSA Website](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/2014_wsfa_registration.pdf) at [http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/2014\\_wsfa\\_registration.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/2014_wsfa_registration.pdf). To help sponsor the event, contact Michelle Edwards at [michelle.edwards@mt.usda.gov](mailto:michelle.edwards@mt.usda.gov). A block of rooms is reserved until Aug. 30th under "WSFA" at the Big Horn Resort at 406.839.9300 for a group rate of \$82 for a single and \$97 for a double.

The symposium is hosted by: USDA Food and Agriculture Council, Montana Agri-Women, Montana Cattlewomen, Montana Farm Bureau Women, Montana Woolgrower Women, Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE), Montana Beef Council, Ag in Montana Schools, Intertribal Agriculture Council, Montana Department of Agriculture and Montana Farmers Union. For more information, contact Nikki Rife at [nakaya.rife@mt.usda.gov](mailto:nakaya.rife@mt.usda.gov) or (406) 429-6646.

---

# Rocky Mountain Intertribal Agriculture Council's 3rd Annual Conference in Polson Aug. 21-22

The Rocky Mountain Intertribal Agriculture Council will host the 3rd Annual conference, Aug. 21-22, 2014, at the KwaTaqNuk Resort in Polson, Montana. Several key speakers will provide information on a variety of subjects including: NRCS Programs, FSA Programs, Montana APHIS, Blackfeet 4-H Programs, Montana Department of Agriculture (Youth Record Keeping), Western Montana Food Cooperative, IAC-Marketing Assistance Program, Update on Farm Bill and other natural resources topics. Reservations can be made at local hotels: the KwaTaqNuk Resort (Best Western), (406) 883-3636, the Port Polson Inn 406-883-5385, Flathead Lake Inn (406) 883-6266 and the Bayview Inn (406) 883-3120. Pre-Register by **Aug. 8th**. For more information, contact Anita Matt (406) 871-7074, Kole Fitzpatrick (406) 450-8704 or Verna Billedeaux (406) 338-2650.

---

## Important Montana FSA Dates/Deadlines:

- **Aug. 8:** Deadline to Signup Period for the 1-year CRP Extension
- **Aug. 15:** 2012 and 2013 Emergency Assistance for Livestock and Honeybees (ELAP) Notice of Loss and Application for Payment Deadline
- **Aug. 25:** BCAP Biomass Owners Applications Deadline
- **Sept. 1:** USDA Service Centers Closed for Labor Day Federal Holiday
- **Sept. 13:** 2014 Summer/Fall Managed Grazing Ends
- **Sept. 26:** Deadline to Request a Reconstitution for 2014
- **Sept. 30:** 2015 Crop Year NAP Sales Closing Date for Fall Seeded Annual Crops and Perennial Forage Crops Intended for Hay and Grazing
- **Sept. 30:** 2014 CRP Continuous Signup Deadline
- **Sept. 30:** 2014 Summer/Fall Managed Haying Ends
- **Nov. 1:** 2014 ELAP Notice of Loss and Application for Payment Deadline
- **Nov. 3:** FSA County Committee Election ballots mailed to eligible voters
- **Nov. 12:** All Hay Bales Must be Removed from CRP Acres
- **Nov. 17:** 2015 Crop Year FSA Acreage Reporting Deadline for Fall Seeded: Grass, Mixed Forage, Alfalfa, Clover, the year of seeding (annual and perennial types), Established Grass, Mixed Forage, Alfalfa, Clover in years subsequent to the year of seeding (perennial types), Apiculture, Fall Wheat, and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains
- **Dec. 1:** Last day to return voted ballots to the local FSA County Office
- **Dec. 1:** 2015 Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Sales Closing Date for 2015 Honey Producers
- **Jan. 1:** Newly elected county committee members take office
- **Jan. 30:** 2011, 2012, 2013 & 2014 LFP, LIP Notice of Loss and Application for Payment Deadline
- **Jan 30:** Deadline to submit Tree Assistance Program (TAP) Application for Payment and Supporting Documentation for Loss for 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 (or 90 days after disaster event or loss was apparent)

---

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).