

Glacier County FSA Office
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Tribal Headquarters Bldg
Browning, MT 59417
Phone: 406-338-2251/Fax: 3529

County Committee Members

Keven Bradley - Chairman
Billiette Brooks - Vice Chairman
G G Kipp III - Regular Member

*The Glacier County Committee's
regularly scheduled meeting day is the
third Thursday of each month.*

FSA Office Personnel

Ed Daugherty – FLM
Debra Duke – FLPT
Michelle Edwards – CED
Nanna Flesch – PT
Mike Higgins – FLM
Sheila Koepke – PT
Nita Tomscheck – PT

Dates to Remember:

February 2 – Final loan/LDP
availability date for wool/mohair
shorn in 2008

February 2 – Final LDP
availability date for 2008 unshorn
pelts

February 16 – Presidents Day
Office Closed

February 27 – CDP deadline

March 1 – New Loss Adjuster
hiring deadline

March 16 – NAP Sales closing
date for all crops except value loss
crops and honey

March 16 – Crop insurance sales
closing date for 2008 spring-
seeded crops

March 25-28 – FFA Convention –
Great Falls.

March 31 – Final loan/LDP
availability date for various crops
harvested in 2008



Glacier County February 2009



**FROM
MICHELLE'S
DESK**

Wow! What a winter so far! Hopefully we get lots of moisture this spring and summer. Here are a few very important reminders for you!

- If you want to participate in ANY of the livestock disaster programs YOU MUST have your grazing insured through our NAP Program (explained in full on the next page) or through crop insurance. Failure to do so will automatically disqualify you from participating. DON'T MISS THE March 16, 2009 NAP deadline!!!!*
- If you want to participate in the SURE (crop disaster program - explained in full on the next page) YOU MUST have coverage on ALL of your crops (other than grazing), including grass hay either through Crop Insurance or NAP, whichever is applicable. Failure to do so will automatically disqualify you from participating. DON'T MISS THE March 16, 2009 NAP/Crop Insurance deadline!!!!*

I cannot stress enough the importance of getting coverage on your crops, forage & grazing. If you have ANY questions on anything, please contact our office. Thanks and have a wonderful day!

Eligibility for SURE Disaster Program

A disaster designation has an important significance in counties as it allows eligible producers within those counties and contiguous counties to participate in the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE). SURE was one of the disaster programs created under the 2008 Farm Bill. It provides financial assistance for crop production and or quality losses due to a natural disaster. Two triggers make the program available:

- A Secretarial Disaster designation **and** at least a 10 percent crop production loss on at least one crop of economic significance which is defined as a crop which is expected to contribute at least 5 percent of the farm's income (Nationwide); **OR**
- In the absence of a secretarial disaster declaration, farms in which the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm. Producers in counties that did not receive a secretarial declaration or contiguous county declaration have only this option available to qualify for SURE.

SURE requires that all crops in all counties in the nation be included on one application regardless if only one county received a secretarial declaration.

In addition, producers must have crop insurance of Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for all crops excluding grazing lands. SURE does not pay for losses on crops intended for grazing. **Signup for SURE is unknown at this time.**

NAP Deadline March 16

For the 2009 crop year it is imperative to purchase Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and catastrophic (CAT) level of crop insurance for all insurable and non-insurable crops. This is not only for production coverage but also for eligibility for the new permanent disaster programs created in the 2008 Farm Bill.

In order for producers to be **eligible** for assistance under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance (**SURE**) Program and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, and Honey Bees, (**ELAP**), producers must obtain a plan of insurance for each insurable and non-insurable commodity on the farm, **excluding grazing**. To be eligible for assistance under the Tree Assistance Program (**TAP**), producers must obtain a plan of insurance for each insurable and non-insurable commodity on the farm, **including grazing**. To be eligible for assistance under the Livestock Forage Program (**LFP**) producers must obtain either coverage under the Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage Rainfall Index Pilot Program through crop insurance, or NAP coverage, or both on their grazing land.

Producers must file the required paperwork and pay the administrative fee by the NAP closing date of **March 16, 2009** for all crops except value-loss and honey. The deadline for value-loss and honey for 2009 has passed.

Please contact the office to ensure your eligibility for the new disaster assistance programs by March 16th.

Here's What's New With the Farm Loan Programs

- Direct Farm Ownership or Operating Loans increased to a maximum of \$300,000.
- Beginning Farmer and Rancher applicants may obtain a direct loan for up to 45% of the purchase price of a family-sized farm.
- Beginning Farmer or Rancher term increased to a maximum of 20 years.
- Beginning Farmer and Rancher interest rate has changed to the farm ownership rate less 4% with a floor of 1.5 percent.

Changes to FSA Payment Processing

FSA will be deploying a new payment processing system the first part of December.

Through the new system, all payments made through direct deposit will be processed through the Federal Reserve Bank and will be received in the participants account within 2-3 days of processing.

New Loan Interest Rates Provided

The interest rate for Marketing Assistance Grain loans changed at the beginning of 2009. The interest rate is 1.625%. This rate will stay in effect until the loan is paid in full.

Glacier County Committee (COC) Election Results

The FSA County Committee Election votes have been tallied! George G Kipp III was elected to serve a three year term representing LAA#2. Colleen Gustafson will serve as 1st Alternate. Thanks to those who took the time to vote. After all, the COC Members represent you, the producer!

Assistance Available with Planting and Harvesting

Farm Rescue is a non-profit organization which plants and harvests crops free of charge for farm families that have experienced a major injury, illness or natural disaster. Priority consideration is given to applications received by March 15. Visit <http://www.farmrescue.org> or call 701/252-2017 for further information, to refer a family in need or obtain an application.



Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to participate in FSA programs should contact: Michelle Edwards at One 3rd ST NE – Cut Bank, MT 59427 or (406) 873-5618 X-2 or michelle.edwards@mt.usda.gov.

2009 DCP Signup

The 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) program for farms with base acres began December 22, 2008 and will continue until June 1, 2009. Farms may not be enrolled after June 1 of the applicable contract period. There are no late filed provisions for contract years 2009-2012.

Commodities covered by DCP include: wheat, corn, grain sorghum, including dual purpose varieties that can be harvested as grain; barley, oats, soybeans, canola, flaxseed, mustard seed, safflower, crambe, sesame seed, rapeseed and sunflowers including oil and non-oil varieties. Pulse crops have been added as an eligible commodity for the 2009 crop year for counter-cyclical payments only. Pulse crops include dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas (Garbanzo bean, Desi), and large chickpeas (Garbanzo bean, Kabuli). Base acreage may not exceed the available DCP cropland acreage on the farm. A producer with the sum of the base acreage on the farm with 10 acres or less must be a minority or limited resource farmer or rancher to be eligible for DCP payments.

Reconstitutions of farms with 10 base acres or less are now allowed.

Direct and Counter-cyclical payments for the 2009 year will be made on 83.3 percent of the farm's base acreage. Final direct payments will be issued in October 2009.

Direct payment rates are:

Barley	\$ 0.24/bu
Oats	\$ 0.024/bu
Other Oilseeds	\$ 0.80/cwt
Wheat	\$ 0.52/bu

Planting flexibility is allowed but includes planting restrictions for fruits and vegetables on base acreage without farm or producer history. To maintain eligibility: 1) meet Highly Erodible Land and Wetland provisions requirements; 2) report all cropland acres; 3) meet actively engaged in farming and person determination requirements; and 4) comply with adjusted gross income provisions. Payment limitation amounts are \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments.

Please contact Sheila at the office for an appointment to signup for DCP. Payment Eligibility procedure is still in the works and we are waiting for further instructions, we'll keep you posted.

USDA-FSA of Glacier County
One 3rd ST NE
Cut Bank, MT 59427

2009 DCP Signup
Counties Receive Disaster
Designation
NAP Deadline
New Loan Rates
CDP Signup Deadline

Inside this Issue *Important Dates to Remember*

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February 16 – Holiday – Office closed
February 27 – CDP deadline
March 1 – New Loss Adjuster hiring deadline
March 16 – NAP sales closing date for all crops except value loss crops and honey.

FSA Hiring Additional Loss Adjusters

FSA is currently accepting offers from new individuals interested in providing contracted crop adjusting services for the 2009 crop year. Applications for the 2009 crop year are due March 1 to the Montana State FSA Office.

Loss Adjusters perform loss adjustment and program services as assigned by FSA. Some duties included in those services are: 1) visiting farms to inspect damaged or destroyed crops; 2) appraise potential crop production; 3) determine and verify the cause and time of loss; 4) determine farm-stored production; 5) visit FSA offices and/or farms to perform inspections, reviews or other loss services.

Starting pay for new adjusters is \$10.00/hour. A pay raise will be received after full certification on at least one crop is received. All equipment necessary to perform loss-adjusting activities will be provided by FSA. Mileage and per diem will also be paid by FSA. Contracted adjusters are expected to provide their own mode of transportation.

All applications are to be sent to the Montana Farm Service Agency, Attention Leonard McArthur, P.O. Box 670, Bozeman, MT 59771. All applications postmarked by **March 1, 2009** will be reviewed and selections made based on the need of the area, work experience, agriculture background and availability. Applications may be found at any FSA county office; by logging on to the Montana FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt> or by contacting Leonard McArthur at 587-6882 or Shelly Rolando at 587-6877.