

**Valley County FSA Office**  
**54062 Hwy 2 W, Suite 1**  
**Glasgow, MT 59230-2846**  
Phone (406)228-4321  
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### **County Committee Members**

Richard Fulton, Chairman  
Arden Unrau, Member  
Mike Wesen, Member  
Theresa Shipp, Advisor

### **FSA Office Personnel**

Mike Hagfeldt, CED  
Stephanie Meier, PT  
Roberta Hopstad, PT  
Sheri Daggett, PT  
Darlene Otten, PT  
Jodie Berg, PT  
Sharon Baillargeon, FLM  
Jaylein Nickels, FLO  
Britney Cornwell, TO

### **Dates to Remember:**

**August 4 - September 28** – DCP late filed fee of \$100 will be assessed  
**September 10** – Signup begins for LCP and LIP  
**September 28** – Final date for 2007 DCP contracts  
**October 13** – Deadline for removal of hay from CRP Managed Haying  
**November 12** – Deadline for removal of livestock from CRP Managed Grazing  
**October 15** – CDP Signup Begins  
**November 2** – COC ballots will be mailed to eligible voters  
**December 1** – NAP application closing date for Honey  
**December 3** – Final date to return voted COC ballots to FSA office



# **Valley County FSA**

## **September Newsletter**

### **DCP Signature Deadline is September 28, 2007!**

*Contact Person: Darlene Otten*

Producers enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) have until **September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007** to provide **all required contract signatures**. Contracts not completed by this date will not be eligible to receive 2007 DCP Payments. Any contracts signed between August 4, 2007 and September 28, 2007 will be assessed a late-filed fee.

**NOTE:** *A number of questions have been received regarding the restoration of DCP base acreage from CRP contracts expiring on September 30, 2007. Currently, the 2002 Farm Bill provides for restoration of lost base acres when a CRP contract expires. This provision ends September 30, 2007. When a new Farm Bill is passed by Congress, FSA will provide details as they become available.*

### **Crop Disaster Program Signup Begins**

*Contact Person: Sheri Daggett*

Signup for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) will **begin October 15, 2007**. CDP does not require a disaster declaration.

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from natural disasters if the crop was planted before February 28, 2007, or in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before February 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006, or 2007 must choose only one year to apply for benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple commodities 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 quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP. The payment rate is set at 42 percent of the established price.

Assistance, together with any crop insurance or NAP payment received for the same crop and including the value of the crop production not lost, must not exceed 95 percent of the total value of the crop absent the disaster.

Farmers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in CDP benefits.

## Changing Financial Institutions

*Contact Person: Darlene Otten*

Please keep the Valley County FSA Office informed if you make any changes to your financial institutions regarding direct deposits.

*Final payments and CRP payments will be coming out soon and an incorrect direct deposit will delay processing of these payments.*

## Beneficial Interest

*Contact Person: Sheri Daggett*

For a producer to have Beneficial Interest in a commodity, the producer must have had ownership and control of the commodity at the time the producer requests a Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP); or for Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL's), from the time of planting through the maturity of the loan or the date of repayment, whichever is earlier.

Beneficial interest is retained in the commodity if all of the following remain with the producer:

- Control of the commodity, the commodity must be within their possession;
- Risk of loss;
- Title to the commodity.

For LDP's, beneficial interest must be retained in the commodity from the time of planting through the date form CCC-633EZ, page 1 is filed.

*For loans, beneficial interest must be retained in the commodity from the time of planting through the date the loan is redeemed or the crop is sold.*

*Once beneficial interest in the commodity is lost, the commodity remains ineligible for a loan or an LDP even if the producer regains control, risk of loss, and title.*

## 2007 Tribal Outreach Forum

The USDA State FAC in cooperation with the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), 1994 Land Grant Tribal Colleges and Universities, Tribal Governments and Tribal organizations from across Montana will host a Tribal Outreach Forum at the Gran Tree Inn, in Bozeman, MT September 24-27, 2007.

The conference registration fee is \$35 which will be waived for individual Tribal producers who attend. A limited amount of scholarship funds is available.

If interested in applying for a scholarship, a registration form or an agenda, contact the FSA office for further details.



## County Committee Election

*Contact Person: Darlene Otten*

Ballots for the county committee (COC) election will be mailed to eligible voters by November 2. The final date to submit ballots to the FSA county office is December 3. Please vote and have your voice be heard for USDA programs to fit the needs of the local community.

## **REMINDER! CRP Haying & Grazing Reports**

CRP acres cut for hay must have the bales removed by October 13, 2007. Livestock must be removed from CRP grazing the earlier of when the AUM calculation ends or November 12, 2007. *As a reminder, your certification report of using managed CRP haying or grazing must be received before the annual CRP payments can be paid.*

**No Final 2006 Counter-cyclical Payments for Wheat, Barley and Oats, etc.**

*Contact Person: Darlene Otten*

FSA will not issue final 2006-crop counter-cyclical payments to farmers enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP) for wheat, barley, oats, corn, rice, sorghum and soybeans.

The decision was made due to the fact that prices for these commodities have averaged well above levels that trigger counter-cyclical payments.

Counter-cyclical payments are made at the end of an eligible crop's 12-month marketing year. The 2002 Farm Bill provides for the availability of two partial counter-cyclical payments. USDA did not issue a first or second partial payment for the 2006 crop of wheat, barley or oats due to strong markets.

The counter-cyclical payment rate is the amount by which the "target price" of each commodity, specified by the 2002 Farm Bill, exceeds its effective price. The effective price equals the direct payment rate plus the higher of either: 1) the national average market price received by producers during the marketing year; or 2) the national average loan rate for the commodity.

**Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)**

*Contact Person: Stephanie Meier*

The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered feed losses directly resulting from natural disasters occurring between Jan 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007. Eligible counties (or contiguous counties) are those which were declared secretarial disaster areas or counties declared presidential disaster areas. Valley County is eligible for LCP for the 2006 year. The sign up began September 10, 2007. Additional information is available online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

Eligible livestock are cattle, buffalo, equine, poultry, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, deer or swine. Livestock must have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation on the beginning date of the disaster period. Animals used for recreational purposes such as pleasure, hunting, pets, roping, or for show are not eligible. Producers will not be penalized if they reduced their average livestock numbers for grazing due to the disaster.

LCP payments will be calculated by multiplying the national payment rate for each livestock category by the number of eligible livestock in each category. The national payment rate represents 61 percent of the cost for corn needed to maintain the specific livestock for 30 days. The payment will be the smaller of the calculated payment based on the livestock or the value of the feed loss as determined by FSA. The maximum is \$80,000.00.

Additional information is on a fact sheet which is available from the office. Producers must call the office to schedule an appointment for submitting their application for LCP. The minimum information needed for submitting an application is:

- livestock numbers maintained on the beginning date of the disaster period
- non-irrigated native and tame grazing acres
- percent of loss on those acres.

**Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)**

*Contact Person: Stephanie Meier*

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) compensates livestock producers for livestock losses between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007. The death loss must have resulted from a natural disaster during the period. Eligible livestock are the same as for LCP. The payment rate will be 26 percent of the market value of the livestock on the day before the date of death, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. The rates will be available during the sign up period which began September 10, 2007.

***Contact the office to schedule an appointment for signing up.***

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Postage Block

**New Features on the Web!**

*USDA provides their customers an opportunity to do business electronically 24 hours a day seven days a week over the Internet.*

*With a Level 2 access, USDA customers may receive their 1099-G form, review any collections or debts they may have with USDA and also review an itemized listing of their USDA payments.*

*Receiving a Level 2 account is a simple process. By entering your name, address and answering a few questions, customers may have access to the above mentioned items.*

*In addition to receiving payment information, USDA customers may also send forms from the comfort of their home and signup for programs without visiting a USDA service Center.*

*Complete step-by-step instructions for obtaining a Level 2 access, retrieving payment information, submitting forms and signing up for certain programs is available by logging on to the Montana FSA Internet site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.*

**2008 NAP Important Dates**

<b>Crop</b>	<b>Application Closing Date</b>
Perennial Forage, Mint, Mixed Forage, All Types	March 15, 2008
Annual Crops – Both Fall & Spring Seeded Crops: Winter Peas & Rye; Garlic; Wheat Forage; Millet; Buckwheat; Sorghum Forages	March 15, 2008
Perennial Fruit (Apples, Cherries, etc.)	March 15, 2008
Honey	December 1, 2007

***Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to participate in FSA programs should contact Mike Hagfeldt, Valley County FSA Office, 54062 Hwy 2 W, Suite 1, Glasgow, MT 59230 or telephone (406) 228-4321.***