

Carter County FSA

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County Committee Members

Troy Harrington, Chairman
Gary Jardee, Vice-Chairman
John O Teigen III, Member
Melinda Richards, Minority Advisor

The Carter County Committee regular scheduled meeting is the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

FSA Office Personnel

Ronelia Parry, Co. Executive Director
Robin Markuson, Farm Loan Officer
Jo Kittelmann, Program Technician
Karen Kreitel, Program Technician
Jitt Schneider, Program Technician
Sally Young, Field Program Technician

Agricultural Lending Opportunities

For questions regarding obtaining credit to start or enlarge a farm or ranch operation, financing agricultural operating expenses; livestock, or machinery purchases, please call:
Farm Loan Program Technician
Karen Kreitel 775-6355 ext 107
Farm Loan Officer
Robin Markuson 775-6355 ext 110
Farm Loan Manager
Jeff Janshen 232-7905 ext 123

Dates to Remember:

Aug. 2 – Sept. 30 – Managed Haying Period (New Rules)
Aug. 2 – Sept. 30 – Summer/Fall Managed Grazing Period
Sept. 1 – NAP application closing date for value loss crops (2010 crop year)
Sept 13 – 2008 LIP Notice of Loss & Application for Payment Deadline
Sept 13 – 2009 LIP Notice of Loss Deadline
Sept. 30 – NAP acreage reporting deadline for value loss crops
Oct. 7 & 8 – Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium

Notices of Loss must be filed for:

NAP – within 15 days of apparent loss
LIP – within 30 days of apparent loss



Carter County August 2009

Message from the State Executive Director - Bruce Nelson

I began as the State Executive Director for the Farm Service Agency on July 13th. After eight years of involvement in other venues, I am excited to assume my duties as the State Executive Director for the Farm Service Agency in Montana.

My most recent position was serving as the Chief of Staff to Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer. I have stepped down from my executive roles at Triangle N Farms since becoming FSA State Executive Director.

In every state the agricultural community is unique and has varied needs and concerns. My role will be to work with USDA to ensure the needs of Montana agricultural producers are met.

Our primary mission at FSA is to assist Montana farmers and ranchers secure the greatest possible benefit from programs administered by FSA such as farm loans, commodity price support, disaster relief, conservation, or other available resources.

The hard working men and women of Montana's 49 FSA county offices are at the forefront of our efforts and remain the primary contact for program participation. We encourage you to speak with the staff at your local FSA office on how we can be of service.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) Has Begun

Signup for LIP began July 13th. If you had livestock losses from storms occurring during calendar year 2008 or 2009, you may be eligible to receive benefits from the LIP program.

- A notice of loss must be filed according to the table on page 2
- Proof of death of livestock must be provided and may include but is not limited to any or a combination of veterinary records, tax assessor records, private insurance documents, FSA measurement service
- Documentation must provide sufficient data that identifies the kind/type weight range of the livestock and the number of livestock. **It is important to keep farm records of livestock on a regular basis** whether you make notes on a calendar, in a log book or on a computer. We use those type records to confirm beginning and ending inventory, death losses, branding, pregnancy checks, sales, purchases, etc...
- A third party certification may be **accepted only when** the participant certifies in writing that no other form of proof of death is available. This should be in limited situations. *The third party providing the verification must be a reliable source and shall not be a relative associated with the operation or a hired man.*

LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have incurred livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality on or after Jan. 1, 2008 and before Oct. 1, 2011 due to adverse weather, such as blizzards, floods and wildfires. The Montana State FSA Committee established the normal mortality rates for each livestock kind/type and weight range. **(cont. page 2)**

LIP (cont.)

The following table provides the final dates to file a notice of loss and/or application for payment for either 2008 or 2009 livestock losses:

Date of Livestock Death	Final Date to File a Notice of Loss	Final Date to Submit an Application for Payment
Calendar Year 2008	Sept. 13, 2009	Sept. 13, 2009
Jan. 1, 2009 to July 12, 2009	Sept. 13, 2009	Jan. 30, 2010
July 13, 2009 to Dec. 31, 2009	30 days after death is apparent	Jan. 30, 2010

CRP Managed Haying & Grazing Ends September 30.

Managed Grazing on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres begins August 2 and ends September 30, 2009. All livestock must be removed by September 30.

Managed Haying on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres ends September 30, 2009. All bales must be

Changes to Payment Eligibility, Payment Limitation and AGI for CRP Participants

The 2008 Farm Bill made specific changes to payment eligibility, payment limitation, and average AGI requirements for participants in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP):

- Annual payments are limited to \$50,000, both directly and indirectly, to a person or legal entity by direct attribution;
- Permitted entity rules no longer apply;
- The average AGI limitation is now a \$1 million average gross nonfarm income limitation.
- The payment eligibility requirements of “actively engaged in farming” and the cash rent tenant rule are no longer applicable for participation in CRP for contracts approved **after** September 30, 2008.

Policy Changed on Dry Peas Intended Use

Producers of dry peas intended for forage for hay (FG), grazing (GZ), and GM (green manure) are now allowed to include acreage of those intended uses in determining pulse crop base history.

Producers with pulse crop history with the additional eligible intended uses are encouraged to make their election of pulse base acreage as soon as possible.

The farm must be enrolled in DCP or elected/enrolled in ACRE by September 30th to be eligible for either program.

Treasury Implementation Project Begins

Beginning August 3, 2009, any FSA/ or Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) payments made by direct deposit will be transmitted to the Department of Treasury through Kansas City.

The Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (DCIA) requires that all Federal payments be offset for delinquent Federal debt. All payments will be matched against debt referred to Treasury, including payments made by a Treasury check. Payments to assignees will be subject to the Treasury Offset Program (TOP) offset if the assignee has a delinquent Federal debt in TOP. If the TOP database finds a match for taxpayer identification number and name, the payment will be offset for the delinquent debt. The Treasury Department will notify the payment recipient of any offsets taken for debts due other agencies.

Currently, the description on the payee's bank statement reads, “USDA_FSAKCMOCDSP”. After August 3, 2009, the description on the bank statement will read, “FSA TREAS 310” for all payments that are disbursed by Treasury.

If there are questions about a TOP offset, the payee may call the TOP Call Center at 1-800-304-3107 to obtain the contact information for the offsetting agency. The TOP Call Center only has access to provide the name of the offsetting agency and their contact information. The payee will need to call the offsetting agency to determine the origination of the debt.

Composting May Be Best Livestock Carcass Disposal Method

- see NRCS for more information

Methods of disposing of dead animals include burning, burying and composting, but burning and burying have drawbacks, according to Chris Augustin, area nutrient management specialist at North Dakota State University's Carrington Research Extension Center.

One of the problems is finding a suitable burial site during flood times, he says. When burying dead animals, you need to avoid areas with sandy soils and shallow water tables.

The site should be nearly level to moderately sloping and at least 200 feet away from surface water, says Karl Rockeman, an environmental engineer with the North Dakota Department of Health. The bottom of the disposal pit should be at least 4 feet above the water table and underlain with loamy, silty, clay soils. Carcasses should be covered by 4 feet of soil.

Burying dead livestock within the water table or in sandy or gravelly soil is unacceptable, Rockeman says. Also, do not locate the burial pit near residences, wells, shallow aquifers or areas that may be flooded, and avoid pipelines, utility easements and historically significant sites. Burning can be difficult because the law requires you to use organic fuels, such as wood, which can make creating enough heat to effectively combust a carcass difficult. Also, the state Department of Health must grant an open-burning variance prior to the burn.

Composting may be the best solution for handling dead animals because it is effective and cost-efficient, Augustin says. Composting carcasses is a simple process that, through time, changes the animal to a soil-like product.

However, the composting pile needs to be managed properly. You need a bulking material high in carbon, such as wood chips or straw. Place about 2 feet of the bulking material in an area that drains well, but where runoff will not reach waters such as rivers, lakes or streams. Place the carcass on the bulking material and add another 2 feet of bulking material on top of the carcass. The animal will undergo thermophilic decomposition.

During this period, temperatures in the pile range from 120 to 160 F as bacteria feed on the animal and bulking material. Temperatures should be monitored with a probe-type thermometer.

The pile also requires adequate moisture and oxygen. The pile should have about 60 percent of the pores filled with water and the remaining pores filled with air. The bulking material helps the pile maintain oxygen.

After about 90 days, the pile should be turned with a front-end loader to incorporate more oxygen. More bulking material and water may need to be added at this time. You should continue to monitor the pile's temperature. When the temperature falls below 120 F, the pile should be turned again. After about six months, and three to five turns, the carcass should be entirely composted.

The benefits of composting include reducing the amount animal carcasses, destroying pathogens and eliminating odor. Also, pests tend to stay away from the pile. "The finished product is an odor-free, soil-like fertilizer that adds a little value to a dead animal," Augustin says.

Information on soil types for selecting suitable disposal sites can be found in each county's soil survey or online at <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>.

Producers' eligibility for Federal Emergency Management Agency assistance for catastrophic losses may depend on showing that livestock were disposed of appropriately, Rockeman says. Producers experiencing catastrophic livestock losses should consult the state Department of Health's guide 14 on emergency waste disposal variances. The guide is available at <http://www.ndhealth.gov/flood>.

For more information about livestock carcass disposal, contact the North Dakota Board of Animal Health or check out the NDSU nutrient management Web site at <http://www.ndsu.edu/nm>.

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Carter County FSA Office
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Important Dates to Remember

Aug. 14 – DCP & ACRE Signup Deadline
Aug. 14 – Acreage Report deadline
Sept. 1 – NAP application closing date for value loss crops (2010 crop year)
Sept. 30 – CRP Managed Haying & Grazing ends
Sept. 30 – NAP acreage reporting deadline for value loss crops
Oct. 7 & 8 – Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium

This newsletter is an official agency record and may be used to establish legal notice of program requirements.

Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium

The 9th Annual Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium will be held at the Eagles in Lewistown, October 7 & 8.

An exciting agenda has been developed for this year's symposium. A few of the highlights include a panel discussing Carbon Credit Options for Agriculture, Horse Processing Issues, Update on Montana's Brucellosis Status, Thoughts from Trent Loos, Agriculture Policy as we see it and Water Rights/Irrigation. Representatives from six of the USDA agencies will be present to provide a short presentation on new programs and issues production agriculture operators should be aware of.

Pre-registration information should be submitted by September 15, 2009. The cost of registration is \$60.00. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Yogo Inn.

For further information or a registration form, logon to the Montana FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>, contact any USDA Service Center or by calling Heidi Brewer at 406/232-7905 ext. 122.

The Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium is sponsored by the State Food and Agriculture Outreach Council and the MT Agri-women; Montana Cattlewomen; MT Farm Bureau Federation Women; and WIFE.