

August 2009
Fallon County FSA Office
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FALLON COUNTY FSA
AUGUST 2009

County Committee Members

Maralee Burdick, Chair
Brian Rustad, Vice Chair
Robert Wenz, Regular Member

FSA Office Personnel

Maria L. Braun, CED - Ext. 102
Kay Varner, PT - Ext. 104
Sonja Wiseman, PT - Ext. 100
Sharon Gookin, Temp. – Ext. 105
Ray Allerdings, Field - Ext. 108
Robin Markuson – Farm Loan
Officer (406) 775-6359 Ext. 110

Dates to Remember:

NAP Pull off date – May 1
July 15 – Final NAP production reports due for 2008
July 15 – Final date to file 2008 crop application for NAP payment
July 16 – Sept. 30 – Managed Haying Period (Old Rules)
July 27-31 – Youth Range Camp, Lincoln, MT
Aug. 1 – Deadline to request a reconstitution
Aug. 1 – Deadline for EQIP Program – contact NRCS
Aug. 2 – Sept. 30 – Managed Haying Period (New Rules)
Aug. 2 – Sept. 30 – Summer/Fall Managed Grazing Period
August 3 – COC nomination end
August 13 – Montana SED, Bruce Nelson in Fallon County office
August 13 – 16 – Fallon County Fair
August 14 – DCP, ACRE and pulse crops base deadline
Aug. 14 – Acreage Report deadline
September 30 – Deadline for MCPI forage and winter wheat – see you MPCIA Agent
October 7-8 – Women Stepping Forward in Agriculture -

Acreage Report Deadline Extended to August 14

Yearly acreage reports are required for producers to be eligible for specific programs. Acreage reports will be accepted from an owner, operator or tenant as well as those with power of attorney for these individuals. For 2009, the final crop reporting dates are extended to **August 14**. Late fees will not apply if acreage reports are filed by **August 14** and all crop reporting requirements are met. Reports filed after the **August 14th** date are subject to late-filed fees and a visual farm inspection unless the County Committee determines the late filing was beyond the producer's control. Farms with late filed reports are subject to mandatory spot checks unless the County Committee determines it was beyond the producer's control.

Failure to report accurately may result in loss of program and price support benefits.

DCP, ACRE & Pulse-crop Deadline – August 14

The deadline for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP), Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) and adding pulse crop bases and yields is **August 14**.

Signup for the 2009 DCP program continues through August 14. Participants may request an advance direct payment at 22% of the final payment rate with the final direct payments to be issued in October. All signatures to a share of the base acres must be received in the county office on or before August 14.

ACRE is a new farm revenue based program that provides producers an alternative to the counter-cyclical payment under DCP. Participants in ACRE will receive a reduced direct payment of 80% determined on the farm's base acreage and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30%. ACRE participants may request an advance direct payment at 22% with final direct payments to be issued in October. If both the state and farm's actual revenue is less than the historical revenue for the crop, an ACRE payment may be made on the planted acreage of eligible commodities. National market year average prices and actual state and farm yields are used in determining whether an ACRE payment is triggered. Owners have until **August 14th** to submit a CCC-524 to the office.

Producers with farms identified as having pulse crops planted during the 1998 through 2001 crop years will receive a letter notifying them of available options to add pulse crop bases and yields to their farm. Pulse crop are defined as dry peas, lentils, Desi garbanzo beans (small chickpeas), and Kabuli garbanzo beans (large chickpeas). Pulse crops may be eligible for counter-cyclical payments under DCP and are eligible commodities under the ACRE program. Counter-cyclical yields will be set at 75% of the county average unless growers elect to update the yield by using the farm's actual yields for the crop years 1998-2001. All owners on the farm must agree to the election **no later than August 14, 2009**.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

COC Nominations Close August 3

Nominations for candidates to run for the County Committee Election representing producers in a Local Administrative Area (LAA) close **August 3, 2009**.

For FSA County Committee election purposes, counties are divided into local administrative areas, or LAA's. Each LAA contributes one producer to serve a three-year term on the FSA county committee. Most counties are divided into three (3) LAA's.

Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. In counties with three LAAs, one seat is up for election.

Producers who are residents in the LAA holding the election; who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates.

A nomination form, FSA-669A, is available at the Fallon County FSA office. Additional forms and details are also available at any local FSA county office or by logging on to the Montana FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.

Eligible voters may nominate as many candidates as they wish. To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated indicating agreement to serve if elected, and returned to the FSA county office by the close of business on August 3, or postmarked by midnight August 3, 2009.

To Hold Office a Person Must:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate

Eighth Annual Women Stepping Forward For Agriculture Symposium

The eighth annual Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium will be held October 7 and 8, 2009 at the Eagles in Lewistown, Montana. The event is hosted by USDA, in conjunction with the Montana Agri-Women, Montana Farm Bureau Women, Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE) and the Montana Cattlewomen. Please mark these dates on your calendar. Further information on registration costs and a detailed agenda is available on the Montana FSA website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt> or at the local FSA office.

Who Can Vote in the COC Election

Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote in the County Committee election if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm can also vote.

No one can be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

2009 Large Chickpea Loan Rates Revised

The statutory large chickpea marketing assistance loan rate of \$11.28 per cwt will apply for the entire country, modifying the previous announcement which specified separate loan rates for the eastern and western region.

The 2009 crop of large chickpeas is the first time this crop is eligible for marketing assistance loan (MAL) as mandated by the 2008 Farm Bill. It is expected that the 2009 large chickpea crop will be harvested during late summer and into the fall. At this time, 2009 large chickpea loans have not yet been disbursed. USDA will continue to consult with the various segments of the large chickpea industry to assess price data and other information needed to determine the viability of establishing regional loan rates and loan repayment rates for 2010 or subsequent crop years.

Foreign Landowner Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county 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 of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

Signup for the 2009 LIP program began July 13th. The Fallon County FSA office will be sending out information and appointments for those producers that had notified the COF of losses earlier this spring. For those producers that did not turn in losses earlier this year for the 2009 losses of livestock you will have until September 13, 2009 to file a notice of loss. Please contact the Fallon County FSA office with any questions, concerns, or to file a Notice of Loss.

Farmers and Ranchers Qualify for SBA

Loans

Small Business owners including Farmers and ranchers suffering “immediate financial hardship” may apply for loans through the Small Business Administration (SBA) for up to \$35,000 to provide some temporary financial relief. Following are a few of the highlights of the loans:

- 100% Guarantee by SBA
- Interest free to borrowers
- SBA fees waived
- 12- month Deferred Payments
- Funds used to pay Principal and Interest on small business debt including mortgages, term and Line of Credit (LOC), capital leases, credit card obligations, notes to vendors, suppliers and utilities
- Repayment begins 12 months after the final disbursement
- 5 years to repay
- Loan limit \$35,000

Farmers and ranchers qualify if their net worth is under \$8.5 million and average revenue for the past three year of less than \$750,000.00.

For further information about the ARC loan program logon to the SBA website at <http://www.sba.gov>.

REMINDERS FOR PRODUCERS WITH 2009 NAP COVERAGE

A reminder that a Notice of Loss is required to be reported within 15 days of the disaster or within 15 days of when the producer knows that there is a loss. If you have not hayed your forage, or are doing something other than what the certified intent was with a crop, **PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE IMMEDIATELY.** If an appraisal needs to be completed on acreage that is not going to be harvested, it needs to be done during the harvest period, which is now. This does not have to be a paying loss, but a loss in the production or change in intent. Also, do not forget to turn in a Notice of Loss to your Insurance Agent on your Multi-Peril covered crops due to a possible loss or for APH purposes.

An acreage report must be on file before a CCC-576, Notice of Loss can be accepted. The deadline to certify acres for 2009 is August 14th. Production evidence for the 2008 NAP crops must also have been submitted to our office by July 15, 2007. If you have any questions on the NAP program, please contact the FSA office with any questions.

Farm Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary.

The reconstitution – or recon – is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by August 1 for farms enrolled in specific programs.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

Estate Method – the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

Designation of Landowner Method – may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more person; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

DCP Cropland Method – the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

Default Method – the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

ACRE Decision Tools Available

Montana FSA Website under Hot Links section - 2008 Farm Bill – National DCP website

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>:

- **ACRE Calculator**
- **Fact Sheets**
- **Preliminary Price Guarantees**
- **State Benchmark Yields**
- **County Yields**

Before You Sell Your Grain

It is important for producers to come into the office and sign a CCC-633EZ, page 1 (Loan Deficiency Payment Agreement and Request) before any of the eligible loan commodity is sold. Even though there might not be a Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) rate in effect at the time of harvest, does not mean the markets might not support one at a later date. If the CCC-633EZ, page 1 is not on file at the office, the producer must have ownership and control of the commodity at the time the LDP is requested. 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.

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.

Merit Heifer Program Offered at NILE

The NILE is providing youth the opportunity to become involved in the beef industry by awarding heifer calves to project participants. Any youth aged 13-17 who is a member of 4-H or FFA is eligible to enter.

Each program participant will own their calf jointly with NILE until the completion of the program, at which time NILE officials will sign off and the participant will take full ownership of the heifer and her off-spring. During the program duration, participants are responsible for raising the heifer, arranging for breeding, completing the record keeping procedure and bringing the animal to the 2009 NILE stock show as a bred replacement heifer. The program is completed after the heifer is determined bred, all record keeping has been completed and the heifer has been shown at the 2009 NILE.

Applicants will be chosen on their commitment to agriculture, future goals, financial need and the ability to raise the animal in a proper setting. The deadline for the applications is September 15, 2009.

Applications may be obtained at <http://www.meritheifer.com> or <http://www.thenile.org> or by calling 406/256-2495.

FALLON COUNTY FSA OFFICE
PO BOX 1516
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DEADLINE FOR NRCS 2010 CONSERVATION PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

Producers and participating private landowners are reminded the deadline for submitting all Natural Resources Conservation Service conservation program applications is August 1, 2009. Applications submitted after that date will not be considered for 2010 funding. Please contact your local NRCS office for more information on the EQIP program and for projects that may be eligible for cost share. Fallon County NRCS office telephone number is (406) 778-2238 Ext. 3.

Managed Haying and Grazing on CRP

Managed haying and grazing is available after July 16th which is when the FSA State Committee established Primary Nesting Season ends. CRP participants must receive written notification from the FSA county committee before managed haying or grazing can begin. If you have performed either managed haying or grazing on CRP acres, you need to report the number of acres hayed or grazed to the FSA county office.