

**FSA County Office
Golden Valley County**
206 1st N, PO Box 5
Ryegate, MT 59074
406-568-2221

County Committee Members

John E Stoican, Chairman
Kerry Schaff, Vice Chairman
Gary Heiken, Reg Member
Martha Sargent, Minority
Advisor

FSA Office Personnel

Karen Schanz, CED
Darlene Weenum, PT
Kathi Horpestad, PT

Agricultural Lending Opportunities

*Questions regarding obtaining
credit to start or enlarge a
farming or ranching operation;
financing agricultural operating
expenses; or livestock,
machinery purchases call:
Mike Turley-406-657-6135*

Dates to Remember:

May 15 – Beginning date of
Primary Nesting Season
June 10-13 – Stockgrowers 125th
Anniversary, Miles City
June 15-17 – Montana Range
Days, Miles City
June 15 – COC nominations begin
July 15 – Acreage Report
deadline
July 15 – Final NAP production
reports due for 2008
July 15 – Final date to file 2008
crop application for NAP payment
July 27-31 – Youth Range Camp,
Lincoln, MT
August 3 – COC nomination end
August 14 – DCP, ACRE and
pulse crops base deadline



Golden Valley County
June 2009

Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE)

ACRE is a new farm revenue based program authorized under the 2008 Farm Bill that provides producers an alternative to the counter-cyclical payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (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%. 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.

Preliminary farm benchmark yields will be established for participating farms based on county average yields, however, participants may provide their actual production to increase their farm benchmark yield that is used in determining the historical farm revenue.

The 2009 preliminary State Revenue Guarantees, Market Year Average Prices, ACRE County yields along with more detailed information including an ACRE calculator can be found by visiting the Montana FSA website www.fsa.usda.gov/mt and clicking on the 2008 Farm Bill under the Hot Links section and then selecting National DCP Website. Contact the office for additional information.

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)

For 2009 through 2012 crop years, to be eligible to receive a marketing loan gain (MLG) or Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP), an entity or individual's average adjusted gross **nonfarm** income cannot exceed \$500,000. A person or legal entity with average adjusted gross **nonfarm** income that exceeds \$500,000 is **not** eligible for MLG's and LDP payments. However, the person or entity is eligible for a marketing assistance loan if requested before the final loan availability date, but the Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) **must** be repaid at principal plus interest or a commodity certificate may be exchanged for the loan collateral. Commodity certificates are available until the end of the 2009 crop year.

Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP)

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.

**August 14 – Deadline to Signup DCP, ACRE, and add
Pulse Crop Base**

FSA-669A (04-17-09) Page 2 U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency Form Approved - OMB No. 0560-0229

NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

1. NAME OF NOMINEE (Type or print Nominee's Full Name)		TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE																
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE																		
3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION <i>I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee. <input type="checkbox"/> I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.		5. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE (MM-DD-YYYY)																
4A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE		4B. DATE (MM-DD-YYYY)																
8. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE																		
<p>VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES: The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>ETHNICITY</td> <td colspan="2">RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)</td> <td>GENDER</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> America Indian or Alaska Native</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Male</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Asian</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Female</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> White</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			ETHNICITY	RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)		GENDER	<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino	<input type="checkbox"/> America Indian or Alaska Native	<input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian	<input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	<input type="checkbox"/> Female		<input type="checkbox"/> White		
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	<input type="checkbox"/> White																	
INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM																		
Complete the form as follows:																		
<p>ITEM 1 Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be:</p> <p>A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election. B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member. C. Willing to serve if elected.</p> <p>ITEM 2 Enter the nominee's current address.</p> <p>ITEM 3 The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.</p> <p>ITEM 4 The nominee must sign and date.</p> <p>ITEM 8 Completing this item is voluntary.</p> <p>ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 3.</p>																		
<p>NOTE: The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a) and the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, as amended. The authority for requesting the following information is 7 CFR Part 7. The information will be used to obtain nominees for County FSA Committee.</p> <p>According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.</p>																		

COC Nominations Open June 15

Nominations for candidates to run for the County Committee Election representing producers in a Local Administrative Area (LAA) will be accepted from June 15 through 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 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 included in this newsletter. Additional forms and details are 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/ 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
-

Kerry Schaff's position in LAA#3 is up for election for 2010.

Beneficial Interest

The CCC-633 EZ, page 1 indicates the producers' intent to request Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs) benefits and must be received in the FSA office before the producer loses beneficial interest in the commodity. For LDPs, the producer must retain beneficial interest in the commodity from the time of planting through the date the form CCC-633EZ, page 1 is filed. For Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs) the producer must retain beneficial interest from the time of planting through the date the loan collateral is repaid or forfeited to CCC. To be eligible for LDPs, producers must be in compliance with all annual eligibility requirements for marketing assistance loans. Producers are encouraged to complete a CCC-633 EZ, page 1 at their earliest convenience before beneficial interest is lost in the commodity.

Commodity Loan Payment Limitations

The 2008 payment limitation on marketing loan gains and loan deficiency payments is \$75,000 per person, per crop year. Outstanding loans repaid by the use of commodity certificates do not affect the \$75,000 payment limitation. For 2008, producers with adjusted gross income over \$2.5 million averaged over three years are not eligible for payments, unless more than 75% of adjusted gross income is from agriculture.

The 2009 payment limitation has been removed. There is no limit to the amount of marketing loan gains a producer can receive via Loan Deficiency Payment (LDPs) of market gain repayments.

Loans rates for Golden Valley are:

Wheat-HRW-\$2.36/bushels

Wheat-HRS-\$3.31/bushels

Barley-\$1.76/bushels

Oats-\$1.25/bushels

File Your Acreage Reports by July 15

Yearly acreage reports are required for producers to be eligible for specific programs. Please review the chart below for program benefits and crop acreage reporting requirements.

Benefit	Acreage Reporting Requirement
MAL's and LDP's	All cropland on the farm. Note: Farms that have zero cropland will have the flag set to "Y" in the cropland comparison file. No producer or County Office action will be necessary.
Direct and counter-cyclical payments under DCP	All cropland on the farm. Note: Farms that have zero cropland will have the flag set to "Y" in the cropland comparison file. No producer or County Office action will be necessary.
CRP annual rental payment	CRP acreage according to CRP-1 Appendix.
NAP	Crop acreage for which NAP benefits maybe requested.
SURE	All crops, in all counties. Note: This includes crops on cropland and/or non-cropland, including native or improved grass that will be hayed or grazed.
ACRE Program	All cropland on the farm. Note: Emphasis must be placed on accurate reporting of irrigated status and intended use of a crop.
LFP Program	Pastureland or grazing land acreage for which LFP benefits may be requested.

Acreage reports will be accepted from an owner, operator or tenant as well as those with power of attorney for these individuals. The deadline for reporting acreage is July 15. Reports filed after that 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.

Golden Valley County
FSA
PO Box 5
Ryegate, MT 59074

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Important Dates to Remember

May 15 – Beginning date of Primary Nesting Season
June 10-13 – Stockgrowers 125th Anniversary
June 15 – COC Nominations Open
June 15-17 – Montana Range Days, Miles City
July 15 – Acreage Reporting Deadline
Aug. 3 – COC Nomination Form Deadline
Aug. 14 – DCP & ACRE Signup Deadline

Filing a Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Notice-of-Loss

To qualify for assistance under NAP, production losses or prevented planting must have occurred as a result of an eligible cause of loss. An eligible cause of loss is any of the following:

- damaging weather, such as drought, freeze, hail, excessive moisture, or excessive wind; or
- adverse natural occurrences, such as earthquake or flood; or
- a condition related to damaging weather or an adverse natural occurrence, such as excessive heat, disease or insect infestation.

Wildlife damage and weeds are **not** considered eligible causes of loss under NAP.

A notice of loss must be provided within 15 calendar days after the:

- disaster occurrence or date damage to the specific crop acreage is apparent to the producer for yield losses;
- final planting date for prevented planting.

If a Notice-of-Loss is filed prior to the final planting date established for the specific crop, the producer is expected to replant the crop. If the Notice-of-Loss is filed after the established final planting date and the intent is to reseed to another crop intended for harvest, such as barley for grain, which is covered under crop insurance, a NAP payment cannot be received on the original failed crop.

Montana is not a double cropping state. If the intent is to destroy the crop, summer fallow it, or reseed to another crop **not** intended for harvest, representative strips must be left in the field so that a loss adjuster can be sent out closer to normal harvest time to appraise the original seeded crop. In this situation, the original seeded crop would still be eligible for a payment.