

Hill County FSA Office  
206 25<sup>th</sup> Ave W Ste 2  
Havre MT 59501

County Committee Members  
Clarence "Fritz" Keller, Chair  
Richard Pollington, Vice  
Chair  
Mary Ruth St. Pierre  
Dave Stevenson

#### FSA Office Personnel

Liane Albus	ext. 100
Clint Greytak	ext. 107
Linell Pegar	ext. 101
Rosalie Sather	ext. 105
Lisa Toth	ext. 102
Mike Zook	ext. 111
Sara Crowley	ext. 112

#### Ag. Lending Opportunities

*Questions regarding obtaining credit to start or enlarge a farming or ranching operation; financing ag. operating expenses; or livestock, machinery purchases may call the following at (406)357-2320, ext 2:*

Miranda Skoyen, FLO  
Richard Nicholson, FLOT  
Denise Reynolds, FLPT

#### Dates to Remember:

**June 15** – COC nominations began  
**July 3** – Office Closed; Independence Day  
**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; acreage reporting deadline



# Hill County FSA News

## July 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](http://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.

### Pulse Crop Base Acres

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. The operator and all owners on the farm must agree to the election no later than August 14, 2009.

### 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, and to certify acreage**

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)		<b>TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE</b>
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)
<b>8. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE</b>		
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.		
ETHNICITY <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> America Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> White	GENDER <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
<b>INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM</b>		
Complete the form as follows:		
ITEM 1 Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be: 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.		
ITEM 2 Enter the nominee's current address.		
ITEM 3 The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.		
ITEM 4 The nominee must sign and date.		
ITEM 8 Completing this item is voluntary.		
<b>ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 3.</b>		
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.  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.		

**COC Nominations Opened 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 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

**2009 Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Managed Haying and Grazing Period**

The 2009 Summer/Fall Managed Grazing Period is **August 2nd - September 30th**. Livestock must be removed when the calculated AUMs have been utilized but no later than September 30th.

The 2009 Managed Haying Periods are:

- **July 16th - September 30th** for CRP contracts that included managed haying in the conservation plan of operations (CPO) drafted in or before 2003, but prior to September 26, 2006 ("Old Provisions").
- **August 2nd - September 30th:** for CRP contracts that added managed haying to the CPO on or after September 26, 2006. ("New Provisions").

All managed haying of CRP must end by **September 30th**. All bales must be removed from the CRP by **September 30th**. Producers requesting managed haying and grazing of CRP **must** receive written approval from the County FSA Office before starting.

### Farm Stored Facility Loans

FSA can make loans to help you build or upgrade your farm storage and handling facilities.

Loans can be made for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities.

Eligible facilities include:

- New conventional-type cribs or bins designed and engineered for whole grain storage and having a useful life of at least 10 years;
- New permanently affixed grain handling and drying equipment determined by FSA to be needed and essential to the proper functioning of a grain storage system, with or without a loan for storage structures;
- Existing storage can be renovated according to FSA regulations with or without an increase in storage capacity;
- New electrical equipment, such as lighting and motors integral to the proper operation of grain storage and handling equipment, excluding the installation of electrical service to the electrical meter;
- New equipment to improve, maintain or monitor the quality of stored grain;
- Safety equipment as required by CCC; and,
- New flat-type storage structures, including a permanent concrete floor and bulkheads, designed for and primarily used to store whole grain for the term of the loan.

The maximum loan amount of any farm storage facility loan shall be 85 percent of the net cost of the applicant's needed storage or handling equipment not to exceed \$100,000 for each borrower signing the note and security agreement.

The maximum term of the loan is 7 years.

The interest rate for each loan will remain in effect for the term of the loan. Contact the office for further information.

### File Your Acreage Reports by August 14<sup>th</sup>

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.  <b>Note:</b> 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.  <b>Note:</b> 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.  <b>Note:</b> 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.  <b>Note:</b> 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 has been extended to August 14.

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.

### Inside this Issue

**COC Election**  
**COC Nomination**  
**Form**  
**NAP Notice-of-Loss**  
**Beneficial Interest**  
**Acreage Reporting**  
**Commodity Loan**  
**Payment Limitations**

#### *Important Dates to Remember*

**June 15** – COC Nominations Open  
**July 3** – Office Closed; Independence Day  
**Aug. 3** – COC Nomination Form Deadline  
**Aug. 14** – DCP & ACRE Signup Deadline  
**Aug. 14** – Acreage Reporting 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.