

**Jefferson-Madison-Silver
Bow FSA County Office
3 Whitetail Rd
Whitehall, MT 59759**

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

County Committee Members

Janet Endecott, Chair
Heath Rieder, Vice Chair
Charlene Berryman, Member
Dan High, Member
Janice Carmody, Member

FSA Office Personnel

Bonita Kober, CED
Kathleen Ballard, PT
Amanda Lucas, PT
Terrie Casagrande, TF

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:*

**Alan Jenne, FLM
406-683-3830**

Dates to Remember:

Aug. 2 – Sept. 30 – Managed
Haying Period (New Rules)
Aug. 2 – Sept. 30 – Summer/Fall
Managed Grazing Period
Sept. 17 – CRP public meeting
Sept. 30 – NAP acreage reporting
deadline for value loss crops
Sept. 30 – All bales and livestock
must be removed from CRP
acreage
Oct. – CRP payments issued
Oct. – DCP payments issued
Oct. 7 & 8 – Women Stepping
Forward for Agriculture
Symposium



Jefferson/Madison/
Silver Bow Counties
September 2009

BEFORE SELLING WOOL, GRAIN OR GRAIN HAY...

If you haven't signed a CCC-633EZ, page 1 (Loan Deficiency Payment Agreement and Request) and want to be eligible for potential Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs), you need to sign this before any of the eligible commodities are sold. Even though there might not be a Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) rate in effect at the time of harvest, does not mean the market 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 loan or LDP even if the producer regains control, risk of loss, and title. There are currently LDP rates for barley and spring wheat, so this is IMPORTANT!! Don't Miss Out.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program Undergoes Changes

The 2008 Farm Bill provided changes to the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL). FSFL provides low-interest financing for producers of eligible commodities to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment.

Loan terms of seven, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Partial funding can be made after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans: (Continued on Page 3)

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program 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."

Loan Commodity Quality for 2009

Due to excessive moisture in some areas of the state and lack of moisture in other areas, the quality of harvested grains was affected in 2009. When selling these commodities, quality discounts reduce the value received. These same quality discounts will apply to USDA commodity loans if delivered to Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) at the maturity of the 9 month loan. These quality discounts could result in insufficient funds to cover the amount of the loan. This would result in a debt to CCC. Producers considering obtaining grain loans through the FSA commodity loan program are certifying not only to the quantity being placed under loan but also to the quality of the commodity. County loan rates are based on Grade 1 and 2 provisions of the Uniform Grain Standards.



Women Stepping Forward For Agriculture Symposium

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

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.

Farm Loans for Minority Groups

FSA can make direct and guarantee loans to those considered as minorities under USDA definition. These groups include women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Funds can be used to buy and operate family-sized farms and ranches.

Individuals and entities primarily and directly engaged in farming and ranching on family-sized operations may apply. A family-sized farm is considered to be one that a family can operate and manage itself. Applicants must meet all requirements for FSA's regular farm loan program assistance. Contact the FSA office for exact criteria.

Repayment terms for direct operating loans depend on the collateral securing the loan and usually run from 1 to 7 years. Interest rates for direct loans are set periodically according to the Government's cost of borrowing. Repayment terms for direct farm ownership loans are up to 40 years. Interest rates for guaranteed loans are established by the lender. Applications for direct loans are made through the local FSA office. Applications for guaranteed loans are made with the lender.

CRP Managed Haying & Grazing Ends September 30.

Managed Grazing on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres began 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 removed by September 30th.

NRCS Offers Conservation Stewardship Program

A continuous signup for the new Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Stewardship Program began August 10, 2009. The first ranking cutoff date is September 30, 2009.

The Conservation Stewardship Program encourages producers to address resource concerns by installing and adopting additional conservation activities or improving, maintaining, and managing existing activities. Contact your local NRCS office for further details on eligibility requirements for the Conservation Stewardship Program.

Farmland Wetlands Program (FWP) Begins

Signup for the new Farmland Wetlands Program began Aug. 3. The program provides a resource to restore wetlands and reduce downstream flood damage, improve surface and groundwater quality and recharge groundwater supplies. The 2008 Farm Bill provided additional incentives for land enrolled in FWP. All new signups for FWP will be eligible for a \$100 per acre Signing Incentive Payment, a Practice Incentive Payment of 40 percent of the cost of installing the practice in addition to the 50 percent cost-share payment for the cost of installing the practice, and a per acre Payment Rate of 120 percent of the calculated rental rate. Eligible acreage includes farmed and prior converted wetlands that have been impacted by farming activities. The maximum acreage for enrollment of wetlands is 40 acres per tract. Multiple wetlands and associated buffers may be enrolled on a tract as long as the total wetland acreage does not exceed 40 acres.

FWP contracts are from 10 to 15 years in exchange for annual rental payments, one-time incentive payments, and cost-share for installing necessary practices.

Farm Storage Facility Changes (cont. from Page 1)

- Corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, oats, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- **Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain**
- **Pulse crops – lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas**
- **Hay**
- **Renewable biomass**
- **Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables – cold storage facilities.**

Contact the office if you are interested in receiving further information about the changes to FSFL.

Crop Insurance and NAP Coverage Required for 2010 Disaster Eligibility

For the 2010 crop year, it is imperative to purchase a catastrophic (CAT) level of crop insurance for all insurable crops and Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for all non-insurable crops. This is for production coverage and for eligibility for the disaster assistance programs authorized under the recent farm bill. For producers to be **eligible** for assistance under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) for crop losses, Tree Assistance Program (TAP) or the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, and Honey Bees (ELAP), producers must obtain a plan of insurance for each insurable commodity on the farm and, NAP coverage for each non-insurable commodity. Coverage must be provided on all crops. **The deadline to purchase crop insurance coverage for fall seeded crops (winter wheat) or forage crops (alfalfa or alfalfa/grass) is September 30, 2009.**

Please contact your insurance agent and the FSA office to ensure you apply for 2010 crop insurance and NAP coverage by the application closing dates.

Jefferson/Madison/Silver Bow County
3 Whitetail RD
Whitehall, MT 59759

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Important Dates to Remember

Aug. 2 – Sept. 30 – Managed Haying Period (New Rules)
Aug. 2 – Sept. 30 – Summer/Fall Managed Grazing Period
Sept. 30 – NAP important deadlines
Sept. 17 – CRP public meeting, Hampton Inn, Great Falls
Oct. – CRP payments issued
Oct. – DCP payments issued
Oct. 7 & 8 – Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium

FSA Implements New Payment Process for CRP and DCP Payments

In October, FSA will be implementing a new payment processing system beginning with the annual Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) payments and final direct payments under the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP). FSA will be doing their best to ensure delays are minimized with the new system however, some of the payment processing that used to occur behind the scenes within the software will now be more evident and may be confusing. In addition, all payments issued by FSA will be routed to the Department of Treasury to comply with the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996. What this means is that any delinquent Federal debt may also be offset from payments due you from FSA/CCC.

Annual CRP payments and final direct DCP payments may be reduced for:

- payment reductions for haying and grazing
- existing FSA/CCC debt
- advance direct payments
- eligibility determinations implemented with the 2008 Farm Bill (direct attribution, member contribution of labor and management, etc.)
- delinquent Federal debt

Payments will be processed automatically without local FSA intervention and deposited directly into accounts signed up for direct deposit. Paper payment checks will still be mailed by Kansas City. A transaction statement will be mailed to payment recipients explaining the payment issued and any offsets applied. The Department of Treasury will notify the payment recipient of any offset taken. Local FSA offices will not receive a copy of the transaction statement or notification of the Treasury offset. Please retain the transaction statement tax purposes and reconciling the FSA-1099s issued in January. Questions regarding Treasury offsets may be directed to the Treasury Offset Program (TOP) Call Center at 1-800-304-3107.