

McCone County FSA Office
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Circle, MT 59215
406-485-2744 Ext. 2

County Committee Members

Elliot Haynie, Chairman
David Schumacher, Vice-Chair
Duane White, Regular Member
Irene Rathert, Minority Advisor

FSA Office Personnel

Valerie Dekker, PT
Avis Miles, PT
Sue Wittkopp, PT
Laurie Massar, Temporary
Gregg Heide, Field Personnel
Julie Trower, CED

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:

Richland –406-433-2103 Ext. 2
Patrick Turner, Farm Loan Mgr
Bruce Johnson, Farm Loan Ofcr
Lacy Patterson, Farm Loan Ofcr
Valley – 406-228-4321 Ext. 2
Sharon Baillargeon, Farm Loan Mgr
Jaylien Nickels, Farm Loan Ofcr

Dates to Remember:

April 27 – ACRE signup begins
May 1 – Livestock pull-off date for NAP acres
May 14 – CRP Spring Management Activities Deadline
May 15 – Beginning date of Primary Nesting Season
May 18 – Buy-in waiver deadline
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 crops
July 15 – Final date to file 2008 application for NAP payment
August 3 – COC nomination end
August 14 – DCP & ACRE signup deadline



McCone County
May 2009

Deadline Extended for CRP Spring Management Activities

Due to the weather and the lateness of spring coming to Montana, the deadline to complete management activities on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage is extended through May 14, 2009.

Management activities are site specific and are used to enhance wildlife habitat and benefits for the site. The activities are designed to ensure: 1) plant diversity; 2) wildlife benefits; and 3) protection of soil and water resources. The following are management activities established for specific CRP practices to enhance the wildlife benefits:

• Residue Management Activities	• Fabric Management
• Ground Disturbing Activities	• Fertilization
• Interseeding Legumes	• Prescribed Burn

Beginning with CRP Signup 26 in 2003, all new CRP contracts were required to have a management activity included in the Conservation Plan of Operations (CPOs). Management activities must be completed before the end of year 6 for contracts with a 10 year contract length or before the end of year 9 for contracts with a 15 year contract length. In addition to the above requirements, re-enrolled contracts with CP-18, Establishment of Permanent Vegetation to Reduce Salinity, practices are also required to complete management activities in the first 2 years of the contract. Participants with contracts in effect prior to 2003 may voluntarily request to revise their CPOs to include management activities and receive cost share if the activity accomplishes the goals listed above. CRP contracts extended 2 to 5 years under the Re-enrollment and Extension (REX) process may revise the CPO to include management activities but must complete the activity before the final 2 years of the contract. Management activities may not be conducted during the primary nesting season which begins May 15th.

If participants fail to complete their mandatory management activities, it can result in contract violations. Participants are eligible to receive cost share for management activities even if they declined cost share for cover establishment.

Assistance Provided for Livestock Losses

If you suffered livestock death losses in 2008 and/or 2009 due to eligible adverse weather events, you may be eligible to receive payments from the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Although forms and procedures to apply for the program are not available at this time, please contact the county office to learn more about the eligibility requirements to apply for LIP.

2009 Acreage Reports

The deadline to file 2009 acreage reports is July 15, 2009. The farm maps will be mailed or made available at the FSA county office for producers. There are new requirements for reporting all cropland and rangeland for various program eligibility. Please follow the instructions closely for completing the maps.

Pulse Crops

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 provided for eligible pulse crop acreage to be added as base acres and yields for commodities eligible for the 2009 through 2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) and for the Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE). Pulse crops are defined as dry peas, lentils, Desi garbanzo beans (small chickpeas), and Kabuli garbanzo beans (large chickpeas). Pulse crops will be eligible for counter-cyclical payments under DCP, but not eligible for direct payments.

Producers with farms identified as having pulse crops planted during the 1998 through 2001 crop years will soon be receiving a letter notifying them of available options to add pulse crop bases to their farm. Included with the letter will be a Summary Acreage History and Yield Report that shows pulse crop acreage reported to FSA during those years and 75% of the county average yield. Late-filed acreage reports, with supporting evidence, may be filed for history purposes if acreage reports were not filed with FSA in 1998 through 2001. Producers with planting history will have three options; 1) do not add pulse base – retain current base acres, 2) add eligible pulse base **without** an offset of existing base, or 3) add eligible pulse crop base **with** an offset of existing base. Yields will be set at 75% of the county average unless producers elect to update the yield by using the farm's actual yields for the crop years 1998-2001. Production evidence will be required to support the request to update yields. Contact this office for further 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.

ACRE Signup Began April 27

Signup for the 2009 Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program began April 27. Producers have until Aug. 14th to make their decision for the 2009 crop. Late-filed applications will **not** be accepted.

Eligible commodities for ACRE payments are wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, soybeans, sunflower seed, canola, flaxseed, safflower, mustard seed, rapeseed, sesame seed, crambe, dry peas, lentils, small and large chickpeas.

CCC-509 (ACRE Election) must be completed to enroll in ACRE.

Preliminary estimates on the program revenue guarantee are available on the Montana FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>. There is also an ACRE decision tool from MSU available to assist in evaluating the choices. The MSU ACRE Analyzer is located at www.montana.edu/softwaredownloads/.

Base Acreage on Federally-Owned Land

The rule terminating base acres on federal land has been rescinded. This allows farmers and ranchers who lease federal land to be considered eligible to receive payments under the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) on federal land with base acres.

New Provisions for Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments

The 2008 Farm Bill included several changes to the Marketing Assistance Loan and Loan Deficiency Payment program. Some of the changes include:

- Adding Large chickpeas as an eligible pulse crop beginning with the 2009 crop year;
- Beginning with the 2009 crop year, marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments will no longer be subject to a per person payment limit;
- Loan rates will no longer be adjusted on warehouse-stored loans by premiums and discounts at loan making time;
- Beginning with the 2009 crop year, warehouse-stored loans will be adjusted by premiums and discounts only at loan settlement, if the commodity is either farm-stored delivered or warehouse-stored forfeited;
- The Commodity Credit Corporation will no longer require the execution of a storage agreement in storage facilities that are either 1) federally-licensed or 2) in compliance with applicable state laws and issue warehouse receipts. This provision also begins with the 2009 crop year.

Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments provide financing and marketing assistance for wheat, feed grains, soybeans, other oilseeds, peanuts, pulse crops, honey, wool and mohair. This assistance is available to eligible producers beginning with harvest or shearing season and extending through the program year.

New Methods for Loan Repayment for Marketing Assistance Loans

Beginning April 15, FSA will begin using an improved and more stable system for determining loan repayment rates for non-recourse marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payment rates for wheat, feed grains, pulse crops, oilseeds, wool, mohair and honey.

Loan Repayment Methods for Marketing Assistance Loans (cont.)

The 2008 Farm Bill provides the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to establish a loan repayment rate that may be determined as the lesser of the loan rate plus interest and a rate based on: 1) average market prices during the previous 30 days, or 2) an alternative method the secretary of agriculture may develop.

Starting April 15th, the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) will determine and publish daily loan repayment rates based on the average market prices during the preceding 30 days for wheat, corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, barley, oats, canola, flaxseed and sunflower seed. At the same time, CCC will begin announcing each day a repayment rate based on the preceding five days. The effective alternative repayment rate will be the lower of either the 30-day average or the 5-day average.

The 30-day method will reflect a 30-day moving average of all terminal market prices for the crop, adjusted by the difference between the applicable national loan rate and the county loan rate. The 5-day method will reflect a 5-day moving average of applicable terminal market prices adjusted by applicable county differential and terminal adjustments.

The repayment rate for pulse crops (lentils, dry peas, small chickpeas – and starting with the 2009-crop year, large chickpeas), crambe, mustard seed, rapeseed, safflower, sesame seed, wool, mohair and honey will also change starting on or after April 15th. CCC will determine and publish loan repayment rates once a week based on average market prices during the preceding 30 days. CCC will also announce an alternative repayment rate using current methodology each week. The effective repayment rate will be the lower of either the 30-day average or the alternative repayment rate. An alternative repayment rate will not be available for honey. Loan repayment rates for 2008-crop pulse marketing assistance loans will be based on U.S. grade #1.

Information on programs administered by FSA in MT and individual county office newsletters are available at:

www.fsa.usda.gov/mt

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

McCone County
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PRESORT STANDARD
U.S.POSTAGE
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BOZEMAN, MT 59715
PERMIT #54

Inside this Issue

**Deadline Extended for CRP
Spring Management Activities
Loan Payment Limitations
2009 Acreage Reports
Pulse Crops
AGI
ACRE Signup
Provisions for Loans & LDPs
Loan Repayment Methods for
MAL**

Important Dates to Remember

April 27 – ACRE signup began
May 1 - NAP pull-off Date
May 14 – Spring grazing on CRP acres ends
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Aug. 14 – DCP & ACRE Signup Deadline

Buy-In Waiver Extension Approved

If you did not obtain crop insurance or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for 2008 for three of the disaster assistance programs authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill you can pay a buy-in fee to become eligible. The three programs are: the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, (ELAP), and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP). The deadline to purchase the buy-in fee is **May 18, 2009**. Contact the office for further details.

2009 Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Managed Grazing Period

The 2009 Spring Managed Grazing Period is **March 15th - May 14th**. Livestock must be removed when the calculated AUMs have been utilized but no later than May 14th.

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 Summer/Fall managed grazing period has been changed this year. In 2008 it was July 16th -September 13th. The beginning date was changed in 2009 to allow all livestock producers who did managed grazing on CRP to have the opportunity to graze up to the maximum of 60 days. Because of the July 16th start date in 2008, CRP contracts under the "New Provisions" for managed grazing were limited to 43 days of grazing – July 16 through September 13.

2009 Managed Haying Periods

The 2009 Managed Haying Periods are:

July 16th - September 30th for CRP contracts that included managed haying in the conservation plan of operations (CPO) 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.