

Pondera County FSA
406 N Main Street
Conrad, MT 59425
406-278-7611

County Committee Members

John Bergstrom
Greg Kellogg
Mark Hitchcock
V Tom Kuka, Advisor
Donna Vanden Bos, Advisor

FSA Office Personnel

Duane Van Dyke, CED
Donna Fowler
Candace Balkenbush
Lacey Patterson
Cheryl Laisnez

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:*
Ed Daugherty
406-873-5618

Dates to Remember:

May 15 – Beginning date of
Primary Nesting Season
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
August 3 – COC nomination end
August 14 – DCP & ACRE signup
deadline



Pondera County FSA
May 2009

2009 Acreage Maps are available to be picked up

Please drop off your completed maps and worksheets as soon as you are done seeding. We need time to enter the data and get signatures. There are new requirements for reporting all cropland and rangeland for various program eligibility. Please follow the instructions on the letter enclosed in your map packets. Required information on your maps is:

- Crop type
- Intended use
- Irrigation or non irrigation

Certification is mandatory for any of the following:

- Receiving DCP or ACRE payments
- Acres enrolled in CRP
- Loans or LDP's will be requested; including wool and mohair
- NAP crops
- Disaster programs

Did you loose livestock in the recent spring storm?

Livestock Indemnity Program

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). Verifiable evidence is required to be eligible. Forms and procedures to apply for the program are not available at this time; please contact the county office for more information.

FSA Farm Loan Programs

The FSA Farm Loan Program for Pondera County is now being administered from Glacier County FSA Office in Cut Bank. The scheduled office day for Pondera County is Wednesday and FLP staff is available by appointment the rest of the week. It is always best to call ahead, in case our schedule changes due to unforeseen circumstances. Ed Daugherty is the Farm Loan Manager and Debi Duke is the Farm Loan Program Technician. Please contact them at 406-873-5618, if you have questions about your current loans or if you would like information about obtaining a loan from FSA.

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.

2009 Loan Rates

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| Hard red spring wheat: | 3.41/bu |
| Hard red winter wheat: | 2.54/bu |
| Durum: | 4.70/bu |
| Barley: | 1.81/bu |
| Canola: | 8.12/cwt |
| Oats: | 1.25/bu |
| Dry peas: | 5.25/cwt |

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

Pondera County will be starting signup in the middle of June. If interested in ACRE, please call for an appointment.

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

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406 N Main Street
Conrad, MT 59425

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Important Dates to Remember

April 27 – ACRE signup began
May 15 – Beginning date of Primary Nesting Season
July 15 – Acreage Reporting Deadline
Aug. 14 – DCP & ACRE Signup Deadline

Seedlings Still Available for Conservation Planting this Spring!

John Justin, Manager, Montana Conservation Seedling Nursery

Seedlings for conservation plantings are still available from the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation's nursery in Missoula. The nursery still has an excellent selection of many popular species including caragana, golden currant, lilac, woods rose, blue spruce, ponderosa pine, Western larch, aspen, cottonwoods, and willows. Although the nursery delivery truck has already visited most counties, seedling orders can still be shipped directly to a landowners' doorstep via Fed Ex.

The nursery will continue to accept seedlings orders for shipment this spring until at least May 23. The minimum order is 250 seedlings for new plantings. Replacement or fill-in seedlings are available in lots of 50 for deciduous seedlings and 25 for evergreen and containerized stock.

To find out more or place an order, contact the nursery directly at 406-542-4244. Additional information including a complete list of species and prices is also available on the nursery website: www.dnrc.mt.gov/forestry/nursery.