

Prairie County FSA Office
PO Box 626
Terry, MT 59349-0626
406/635-5791



Prairie County FSA
October 2009

County Committee Members

Tim Ehman, Chair
Brady Liles, Vice Chair
Darren Dukart, Member
Carol Lachenmaier, Advisor

FSA Office Personnel

Tim Krebsbach, CED
Connie Jo Hjorth, PT
Holly Eaton, 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:
Jeff Janshen, FLM
Colette Butcher, FLPT
406/232-3965 x. 127

Dates to Remember:

Oct. – CRP payments issued
Oct. – DCP payments issued
Oct. 7 & 8 – Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium – Lewistown
Oct. 26 – Financial Management Workshop – Goals & Assessments
Nov. 2 – Financial Management Workshop - Family Business Issues
Nov. 6 – COC ballots mailed
Nov. 9 – Financial Management Workshop - Production Records
Nov. 23 - Financial Management Workshop – Crop and Livestock marketing
Dec. 1 - NAP Application closing date for 2010 honey
Dec. 10 – 2008 calendar year LFP losses deadline

Signup Began for LFP and ELAP

Signup for the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) began Sept. 14, 2009.

LFP provides financial assistance to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses due to qualifying drought or fire. For drought the losses must have occurred on land that is native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or a crop planted specifically for grazing for covered livestock due to a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the specific type of grazing land in the county. In order for a county to be eligible for LFP, they must meet a qualifying drought rating as determined by the U.S. Drought Monitor. County offices will be notified by the National FSA Office when they have qualified for a drought according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. For fire, LFP provides payments to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses on rangeland managed by a federal agency if the eligible livestock producer is prohibited by the federal agency from grazing the normal permitted livestock on the managed rangeland due to a qualifying fire.

ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees, and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather or other conditions, including losses due to blizzards and wildfires. ELAP assistance is for losses not covered under other Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance programs established by the 2008 Farm Bill, specifically LFP, the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE). ELAP is being implemented to fill in the gap and provide assistance under other conditions determined to be appropriate.

For both programs, producers must have suffered losses that occurred on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011. Producers are also required to meet a Risk Management Purchase Requirement in order to be eligible for these programs. Producers must have timely applied for and obtained either crop insurance; or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance (NAP) coverage.

For 2008 calendar year losses, applications must be filed by Dec. 10, 2009. Prairie County producers are eligible for 1 month's payment for 2008. To qualify, producers needed to purchase either a GRP rangeland policy or CAT buy-in last fall. To make an appointment, please call the office @ 406/635-5791 x.2. The office requires a copy of your GRP rangeland policy at the time of appointment.

The eligible livestock list is available at www.fsa.usda.gov/mt.

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More Than 900 Farms Enrolled in ACRE

FSA approved 911 farms across Montana for the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program for 2009. Chouteau County led Montana with 258 approved farms.

ACRE is provided through the 2008 Farm Bill and offers producers an alternative to Counter-Cyclical payments under the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) beginning with the 2009 crop year. The ACRE alternative provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price. ACRE payments are made when both state- and farm-level triggers are met. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments, receive a 20-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates. A decision to elect ACRE binds the producer to the program through the 2012 crop year, the last crop year covered by the 2008 Farm Bill. ACRE's revenue-based approach makes payments based on price and yield movements relative to the guarantee.

Following is a list of counties and the number of farms approved for 2009 ACRE:

2009 ACRE Election			
County	Farms Approved	County	Farms Approved
Beaverhead	1	McCone	19
Big Horn	3	Meagher	0
Blaine	32	Mineral	0
Broadwater	2	Missoula	1
Carbon	0	Musselshell	0
Carter	4	Park	4
Cascade	35	Petroleum	0
Chouteau	258	Phillips	18
Custer	1	Pondera	79
Daniels	17	Powder River	0
Dawson	2	Powell	0
Deer Lodge	0	Prairie	0
Fallon	10	Ravalli	0
Fergus	16	Richland	6
Flathead	16	Roosevelt	70
Gallatin	3	Rosebud	7
Garfield	2	Sanders	0
Glacier	3	Sheridan	61
Golden Valley	6	Silver Bow	0
Granite	0	Stillwater	2
Hill	42	Sweet Grass	0
Jefferson	0	Teton	102
Judith Basin	0	Toole	20
Lake	6	Treasure	0
Lewis & Clark	6	Valley	33
Liberty	16	Wheatland	0
Lincoln	0	Wibaux	0
Madison	4	Yellowstone	4

Linkage Requirements for SURE

According to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act 2009 (stimulus package) any producers that did "buy-in 2" (2/17/09 - 5/18/09), to become eligible for 2008 SURE, are required to meet linkage by purchasing coverage in the next available year at a level of coverage equal to 70% of the yield and 100% of the price for insurable crops or NAP coverage for NAP crops.

COC Ballots Received in Nov.

FSA will mail County Committee Election ballots to producers beginning Nov. 6th. The signature on the ballot must be that of the producer to whom the ballot was issued. Signatures by mark must be witnessed. ***The voted ballots are due back to the local county office either via mail or in person by Dec. 7, 2009.***

FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms. Nationwide, there are more than 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees. Committees consist of three to five members who are elected by eligible local producers.

Agricultural Financial and Production Management Workshops to be Held

FSA, in conjunction with Montana State University (MSU) Extension Service will be conducting Financial and Production Management training beginning October 26th.

The cost of the training is \$100.00 for the six week training. A registration fee of \$20.00 will be charged for anyone interested in attending a single session.

This continuing education class is available to anyone interested in learning more about managing their operation. This course also meets the requirements for production and financial management training for FSA loan recipients. In order to qualify for a certificate, all six sessions must be attended. Participants will be asked to pay a registration fee to cover the cost of the video conferencing at the first session they attend. Contact the location of your choice for further information. Workshop locations are:

Location	Phone
NTDA Office, Stone Child Campus	395-4095
Blaine Co. Extension Service	357-3200
Fort Belknap Extension Service	353-2205, ext. 484
Little Big Horn College, Contact - Fredrica Lefthand	638-3131
Great Falls USDA Service Center	727-7580 ext. 2
Blackfeet Community College, contact-Terry Tatsey	338-5441 ext 760
Ekalaka USDA Service Center	775-6359 ext. 2
Miles City USDA Service Center	232-7905 ext. 2
Choteau, MT USDA Service Center	466-5351 ext. 2
Lewistown USDA Service Center	538-3489 ext. 2
Dillon USDA Service Center	683-3830 ext. 2
Ronan USDA Service Center	676-2811 ext. 2
Fort Peck Community College, Contact -Tom Black Eagle	653-3900
Bozeman USDA Service Center	522-4000 ext. 2

Financial Workshop Locations (cont.)

Location	Phone Contact
Culbertson USDA Service Center	787-6262, ext. 2
Sidney USDA Service Center	433-2103 ext. 108
Glendive USDA Service Center	377-5566 ext. 2
Billings Location to be determined	656-6135 ext.100

The sessions will be held from 10:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. The sessions are as follows:

Date	Topic	Instructor
10/26	Goals & Assessments/Communicating Estate Planning	George Haynes/ Marsha Goetting, MSU
11/02	Family Business Issues/Tools for Estate Planning	George Haynes/ Marsha Goetting, MSU
11/09	Production Records/Financial Analysis I (Production Records Session will discuss mandatory and adequate recordkeeping for FSA and other government livestock and crop programs)	Marty Frick/ Duane Griffith/George Haynes, MSU
11/23	Crop & Livestock Marketing/Risk Management	Gary Brester/ Duane Griffith/George Haynes, MSU
11/30	Retirement Planning	Joel Schumacher, MSU
1/11	Intro. & Advanced Quicken	Duane Griffith, MSU

The office is now taking applications for the 2008 Livestock Forage Program (LFP). Please call the office for an appointment (406) 635-5791 x. 2. Please also remember to bring a copy of your GRP rangeland insurance policy!

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Dec. 10 – Deadline for LFP 2008 calendar year losses

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.