

Yellowstone County FSA
1629 Ave. D, Bldg. A
Billings, MT 59102

County Committee Members

Bart Erickson, Chairman
Ken Uffelman, Vice-Chairman
Forrest Ewen, Regular Member
Channis Whiteman, Minority Adv.
Juanita Stovall, Minority Adv.

FSA Office Personnel

Nina Gonzalez, PT
Jackie Gaglia, PT
Lisa Pederson, PT
Karen Sims, Farm Loan PT
Mike Turley, Farm Loan Mgr.
William Ballard, Farm Loan Mgr.
Kevin Johnson, CED

Dates to Remember:

May 18 – Final day to “buy-in” on 2008 crops.

May 25 – Holiday, office closed

June 15 – COC nominating petitions accepted (area North of Yellowstone River Valley)

July 3 – Holiday, office closed

July 15 – Final day to report 2009 crop acreages.

August 2 through September 1 – CRP management activities (ground disturbing option)

August 14 - Final day to return signed 2009 DCP and/or ACRE contracts and add pulse crop base acres.

CCC-633 EZ Form (Page 1) –

Loan Deficiency Payment Request form must be on file prior to harvest/losing beneficial interest in the crop.

Notice of Loss – filed within 15 calendar days of the natural disaster occurrence or the date the damage to the crop or loss of production was apparent.

Special accommodations will be made for the physically handicapped, vision or hearing impaired upon request. If accommodation is required, please contact Kevin Johnson, CED at (406) 657-6135.



Yellowstone County FSA

April/May 2009

SECOND 2008 BUY-IN FOR INSURABLE AND NONINSURABLE CROPS

Sales closing dates for Federal Crop's CAT policies and FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) have passed for the 2008 crop year, for all insurable and noninsurable crops. A waiver was authorized in the 2008 ACT to allow producers to pay by close of business on May 18, 2009, a buy-in fee (\$100 per uninsured crop) in order to be eligible for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) i.e. crop disaster, Tree Assistance Program (TAP), and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP). Since the trigger for SURE in Yellowstone County is met for 2008, i.e. Yellowstone County is contiguous to counties with 2008 Secretarial Disaster designations, producers with at least one crop of economic significance with a 10% production loss in 2008 would be eligible for SURE, assuming all 2008 crops were either insured or the buy-in fee paid by COB May 18, 2009. Please note you will be required to insure, at or above the 70/100 coverage level, the “buy-in crops” in 2010. Contact Jackie Gaglia at (406) 657-6135 Ext. 106.

2009 DIRECT AND COUNTER CYCLICAL PROGRAM (DCP) AND AVERAGE CROP REVENUE ELECTION (ACRE)

The 2009 DCP/ACRE signup has started and continues now until COB August 14, 2009. (DCP contracts were mailed to operators the second and third weeks of February.) These voluntary programs provide for guaranteed or direct payments that are based on 83.3 percent of the farms base acreage (wheat/barley/corn/oats) times the crop payment yield, times the producer share, times the payment rate. In addition, counter-cyclical payments (non-guaranteed payments, DCP contracts only), based on 85% of the base, are paid when market prices decline. Producers are eligible for DCP/ACRE payments if they are at risk in producing a crop and comply with program provisions. (An owner who cash leases land to an operator is ineligible to share in direct / counter cyclical or ACRE payments.) Please note that pulse crop (dry peas, lentils, small and large chick peas) bases can also be established through August 14, 2009, for counter-cyclical payment purposes only, provided there were plantings during 1998 through 2001 crop years.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Yellowstone County FSA Office
1629 Ave. D, Bldg. A
Billings, MT 59102

PRESORT STANDARD
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
BOZEMAN MT 59715
PERMIT #54

2009 CROP REPORTS

Maps have been mailed to operators for crop reporting purposes. Crop reports are required for many of the FSA programs. Please mail or drop off the completed maps to this office as soon as possible and prior to June 1, 2009. We will load the crop information, generate a crop report form, and mail the report(s) to you for your signature(s). **Note:** You must sign/date and return the crop report form by July 15, 2009, to not incur late filing fees. Late filing fees at a minimum are **\$46 per farm**.

Conservation Compliance

Federal regulations discourage the production of crops on highly erodible cropland unless the land is protected from erosion by an approved conservation system. Status reviews are conducted to ensure producers follow a conservation plan on highly erodible land. In addition to the highly erodible land, a person may not plant an agricultural commodity on wetlands converted after Dec. 23, 1985, or convert a wetland to make agricultural production possible after Nov. 28, 1990. Failure to comply with these provisions will cause a person to be ineligible for USDA benefits. County Committees may review noncompliance situations for good faith and provide relief in approved cases.

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

Beginning June 15, 2009, nominations are being accepted for candidates for the Yellowstone County FSA Committee position. This year the election in Yellowstone County will be the area north of the Yellowstone River Valley. Bart Erickson currently serves this area.

The nominee must sign the nomination form in order to be nominated as a COC member. Nomination forms will be mailed in the near future to the applicable voters. Nomination forms must be submitted to this office by August 3, 2009. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning November 6, 2009. The final day for voters to submit their ballots is December 7, 2009.

FRUIT & VEGETABLE PLANTING RESTRICTIONS

Producers are prohibited from planting crops considered to be fruits and vegetables (FAV) on their enrolled base acres under DCP/ACRE unless the farm has planted FAV history or the producer has an established history of planting a specific FAV. (Each exception {i.e. farm and or producer history} does have specific criteria that must be met.) Sweet corn and pinto beans are some of the crops considered FAV. Please contact the office prior to planting FAV. Violations in the past resulted in DCP contract termination or a reduction in DCP payments.

