

Lake County FSA Office
64352 US Hiway 93
Ronan, MT 59864
406-676-2811



Lake County FSA
January 2010

County Committee Members

Oliver Dupuis
Shirley Eye
Susan Lake

FSA Office Personnel

Dennis Krantz, PT
Terri Middlemist, PT
Teresa Rader, FLPT
Fred Smith, FLM
Dale Neiman, CED

Agricultural Lending Opportunities

*Questions regarding obtaining credit to start or enlarge a farming or ranching operation; financing agricultural operating expenses; disaster/emergency loans; or livestock, machinery purchases call:
Fred Smith, FLM
406-676-2811*

Dates to Remember:

January 4, 2010 – sign-up for 2008 SURE program begins

2010 DCP/ACRE program has started and will run thru June 1, 2010

2010 DCP and ACRE Signup Begins

Signup for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program has begun and will continue through June 1, 2010. No late-filed applications will be accepted.

DCP payments are computed using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. For 2010, eligible producers may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment. Advance direct payments will be issued beginning Dec. 1, 2009.

The optional ACRE Program provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity. For the 2010 crop, the 2-year price average will be based on the 2008 and 2009 crop years. The decision to enroll in ACRE is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.

Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP)

BCAP was authorized by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002. BCAP assists agricultural and forest land owners and operators with matching payments for the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) of eligible material to a qualified Biomass Conversion Facility (BCF). As an example, a timber owner delivering logs or wood chips to an eligible facility to produce heat, power, or biofuels could receive payment for the delivered material. These payments will be made to the material owner at the rate of \$1 for each \$1 per dry ton by the qualified BCF, limited to a maximum of \$45 per ton and limited to a 2 year payment duration.

For more information on BCAP, please contact this office or visit FSA's BCAP website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/energy>.

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2009 Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) Deadline

Livestock owners or contract growers who suffered livestock losses from July 13, 2009, through December 31, 2009, shall file a notice of loss no later than 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent to the participant. Eligible livestock owners or contract growers also must file an application for payment for 2009 calendar year losses no later than **February 1, 2010**.

LIP provides assistance to eligible producers for livestock deaths that result from a natural disaster. Livestock owners and contract growers are compensated for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather including losses due to floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat, and extreme cold.

New Adjusted Gross Income Compliance Process

USDA has finalized a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income provisions for programs administered by USDA's FSA and Natural Resources Conservation Service. This agreement will ensure that payments are not issued to producers whose adjusted gross income (AGI) exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

The electronic process that USDA developed with IRS reviews data from tax returns, performs a series of calculations, and compares these values to the AGI limitations from the 2008 Farm Bill FSA and NRCS will receive a record that indicates whether or not the program participant appears to meet the income limits. Written consent will be required from each producer or payment recipient for this process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to USDA. As part of the review and evaluation process, participants whose AGI may exceed the limits will be offered an opportunity to provide third party verification or other information to validate their income.

Any individual or entity that is required to file CCC-926 (Average Adjusted Gross Income Statement) as a condition of eligibility for FSA or NRCS programs for 2009 or 2010 must submit CCC-927 (for an individual) or CCC-928 (for an entity) directly to the IRS to authorize them to release data to the agency indicating compliance or possible non-compliance with the income limitations. It is important that the name and address you enter on the form exactly match what appears on your tax returns. Forms and a fact sheet explaining the process are available on our national website: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/> or from your local County FSA office.

Sign-up Begins for 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE)

This office has received training to administer the 2008 SURE program which will address crop losses sustained in 2008 due to natural disasters. The announced sign-up date is January 4th, 2010. An ending date has not been established at this time. SURE is available on any farm which had actual production of 50% or less than the normal production for that farm in 2008. Please contact this office prior to coming in to sign up. We can answer your eligibility questions before you make a trip to the office.

Disaster Designation for Lake and Sanders County

Lake County and Sanders County have received a Secretarial Disaster Designation due to the combined effects of drought and grasshopper damage during the 2009 crop year. Farmers and ranchers are eligible to apply for emergency loans thru this office to cover losses caused by the drought and insects.

To be eligible, applicants must be unable to obtain credit from other sources, be able to repay the loan and any other loans, and have adequate security. For more information, contact our Farm Loan Program manager, Fred Smith at 676-2811.

County Committee Election

Oliver Dupuis was recently re-elected to a three year term on the Lake County FSA Committee to represent the northern third of Lake County. Jolene Jacobson was elected as the alternate for this community. Oliver will join Susan Lake and Shirley Eye on the farmer elected committee.

NAP Deadline Approaching

The deadline to purchase 2010 Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on all crops except value loss and honey is **March 15, 2010**. Producers wishing to request coverage may do so by filing form CCC-471, "Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Application for Coverage" and pay the applicable administrative service fee.

For the 2010 crop year it is imperative to purchase NAP and catastrophic (CAT) level of crop insurance for all insurable and non-insurable crops. This is not only for production coverage, but also for eligibility for the new permanent disaster programs created in the 2008 Farm Bill.

In order for producers to be eligible for assistance under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance (**SURE**) Program and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, and Honey Bees, (**ELAP**), and the Tree Assistance Program (**TAP**), producers must obtain a plan of insurance for each insurable and non-insurable commodity on the farm, **excluding grazing**. To be eligible for assistance under the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (**LFP**), producers must obtain either coverage under the Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage Rainfall Index Pilot Program offered through crop insurance, or NAP coverage, or both on their grazing.

Please contact the office by March 15, 2010, to ensure your eligibility for the new disaster assistance programs.

Deadline for Calendar Year 2009 Losses for ELAP

Applications for 2009 calendar year losses for the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) must be filed by **February 1, 2010**. For 2010 and subsequent years signup, applications must be filed no later than 30 calendar days after the end the calendar year in which the losses occurred. The losses must occur in the calendar year the application is being filed.

For this program, producers must have suffered losses that occurred on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011. Please contact the office for additional eligibility requirements. A list of eligible livestock is available at www.fsa.usda.gov/mt

Important Dates to Remember

January 18 – Holiday – Office closed

February 1 – Deadline to file 2009 application for LFP

February 1 – Deadline to file 2009 application for payment for ELAP and LIP

January 31 – Final loan/LDP availability date for wool/mohair shorn in 2009

January 31 – Final LDP availability date for 2009 unshorn pelts

Feb 1 - Final date to sign up for 2009 LIP, LFP, and ELAP

March 15 – Crop Insurance sales closing date for 2010 spring seeded crops

June 1 – DCP & ACRE signup deadline

June 15 – IRS consent form for AGI compliance due

July 15 – Production reporting deadline for ACRE farms

July 15 – Acreage Reporting Deadline

July 15 - Deadline to file 2009 NAP Application for Payment. **August 2** – Deadline to request farm reconstitution.

Notice of Loss for LIP File within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent

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