

Valley County FSA Office
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County Committee Members

Mike Wesen, Chairman
Richard Fulton, Vice-Chairman
Arden Unrau, Member
Theresa Shipp, Advisor

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Mike Hagfeldt, County
Executive Director
Stephanie Meier, Program
Technician
Roberta Hopstad, Program
Technician
Sheri Daggett, Program
Technician
Darlene Otten, Program
Technician
Britney Cornwell, Program
Technician
Sharon Baillargeon, Farm Loan
Manager
Jaylein Nickels, Farm Loan
Officer
Jodie Berg, Farm Loan
Program Technician

Dates to Remember:

January – April – Continuation of
Brand Liens

January 18 – Holiday – Office
closed

February 1 – Deadline to file 2009
application for LFP, 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

February 15 – Holiday – Office
closed

March 15 – NAP sales closing
date for all crops



Valley County January Newsletter

SURE Signup begins *Contact Person: Sheri Daggett*

Signup for the 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program (SURE) began on January 4, 2010. SURE 2008 is for those who suffered crop production losses during crop year 2008. SURE is an important component of the disaster portion of the 2008 Farm Bill and will provide financial assistance to producers who have suffered crop losses due to natural disaster.

SURE provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred crop production or crop quality losses. *For SURE, a farm is defined as all crops in which a producer had an interest nationwide.* SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE farm guarantee and total farm revenue. The farm guarantee is based on the amount of crop insurance and Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on the farm. Total farm revenue takes into account the actual value of production on the farm as well as insurance indemnities and certain farm program payments.

To be eligible for SURE, producers must meet the risk management purchase requirement by either obtaining a policy or plan of insurance, under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, for all economically significant crops (more than 5% of the total value of all the crops nationwide). For 2008 crops, producers had the opportunity to obtain a waiver of the risk management purchase requirement through a buy-in provision. In addition, producers must have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on at least one crop of economic significance.

Producers may be eligible for SURE if they have a farming interest physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Agriculture Secretary under a Secretarial Disaster Designation. In the absence of a Secretarial Disaster Designation, *individual producers may also be eligible for SURE if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster.*

Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage.

All grazing acres must be certified to be eligible for SURE.

For more information on the new SURE program, please visit your local FSA county office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.

Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE)

Contact Person: Darlene Otten

Signup for the 2010 crop year for both DCP and ACRE is currently underway and ends June 1, 2010. Late-filed applications will not be accepted. DCP and ACRE provide producers an income safety net in the form of annual direct payments. DCP also offers assistance through counter-cyclical payments when commodity prices are below certain levels. ACRE protects against crop revenue shortfalls resulting from price and/or production declines at the State and farm levels. *Counter-cyclical payments are not available under ACRE.*

Participants may elect to receive a 22% advance direct payment in any month prior to the end of the contract period. The ACRE direct payments have an additional reduction of 20%. All final direct payments for DCP and ACRE will be issued beginning in October of the crop year. If a crop meets the revenue triggers under ACRE, the ACRE payment will be issued after the end of the marketing year.

All supporting documentation, such as CCC-902, AD-1026, and CCC-926, must be submitted before payments can be issued. Both programs require annual acreage reports indicating uses of all cropland on the farm. In addition, farms enrolled in ACRE must provide annual production reports. Land enrolled in the programs must be devoted to agricultural uses and protected from weeds and erosion. Fruit and vegetable planting restrictions are applicable. Contact FSA for more information or visit www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp.



NAP Deadline is March 15, 2010

Contact Person: Roberta Hopstad

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), *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.

NAP coverage is not available on crops for which Federal Crop Insurance is available.

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

Remember to submit to the Valley County FSA office any changes in your farming operation. Also, all leases including grazing, need to be on file to determine the correct shares. Please be prepared to submit shares on BLM allotments or grazing acres if shared with other producers. Any land purchased requires a recorded deed to be submitted by the purchaser in order for Valley County to keep ownership records correct. Changes need to be filed timely so the county office can make these changes prior to signing up for DCP and reviewing eligibility forms for 2010.

New Adjusted Gross Income Compliance Process *Contact Person: Stephanie Meier*

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.

Deadline for Calendar Year 2009 Losses for LFP and ELAP *Contact Person: Stephanie Meier*

Valley County IS NOT eligible for Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) for the 2009 calendar year.

Applications for Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) must be filed by **February 1, 2010**. ELAP provides emergency relief to eligible producers of livestock, honey bees and farm-raised fish to aid in the reduction of losses not covered under SURE, LIP AND LFP. Losses may occur due to disease, adverse weather and other conditions such as blizzards and wildfires. There are no disaster triggers for ELAP, but insurance is required on all crops of economic significance that are mechanically harvested.

For 2010 and subsequent years signup, applications must be filed no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the losses occurred. The losses must occur in the calendar year the application is being filed.

2009 Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) Deadline *Contact Person: Stephanie Meier*

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.

If you have not received all of your 2009 DCP payments, you may not have returned or completed your 2009 CCC-902 or CCC-926 eligibility forms. Many of these forms have been mailed and have not been returned to the Valley County FSA Office.

FSA Emergency Loans Available in Qualifying Counties *Contact Person: Jodie Berg*

Producers in Valley county may be eligible for the Emergency Loan Program for the following events and dates: Hailstorms that occurred on April 1, 2007 through June 30, 2007; hail damage from several storms and damage from high winds and excessive moisture that occurred on June 7, 2007 through July 31, 2007; and hail damage from several storms, damage from high winds and excessive moisture, drought, and excessive heat that occurred on June 1, 2007 and continuing.

Farmers are eligible to apply for emergency loans through the FSA offices servicing their area until June 2, 2008. Emergency loans are made to farmers/ranchers to cover losses resulting from a designated disaster. 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 your local FSA office.

Farm Loan Program *Contact Person: Jodie Berg*

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides direct and guaranteed loans to assist farmers and ranchers start, enlarge or continue with their farming operations. FSA has special programs designed to assist beginning farmers and ranchers and socially disadvantaged applicants to secure financing. Please stop into the local county office to learn more about all the programs FSA has to offer.

FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE COMMUNITY "C" ELECTION RESULTS

Results of the December Valley County FSA committee election for 2009:

Arden L Unrau, of the Lustre area-County Committee member, 3-yr term

Tracy L Hentges, of the Frazer/Wolf Point area-County Committee 1st alternate, 3-yr term – write in

Walter Ervin Clark III, of the Wolf Point area-County Committee 2nd alternate, 3-yr term – write in

Farmer/rancher committees are in charge of local administration of national farm programs, under the guidance of the State FSA Commiitttee and applicable Federal laws and Regulations.

At least one County Committee member and one alternate are elected each year. The farmer/rancher receiving the largest number of votes is elected to the county committee for a three-year term. The additional farmer(s)/rancher(s) receiving votes are elected to a three-year term as an alternate to the County Committee.