

August 1, 2013



**USDA Montana Farm Service Agency (FSA)  
August eNewsletter and Updates**

---

**Montana FSA  
State Office**  
State Executive  
Director Bruce Nelson  
P.O. Box 670  
Bozeman, MT 59771

**Front Office Phone:**  
(406) 587-6872

**Web:**  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/mt](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt)

**Montana FSA  
Directories:**

[\\*Click here for online  
directory  
of Montana FSA  
county offices.](#)

&

[\\*Click here for  
a pdf of the Montana  
FSA State & County  
Directory.](#)

**Nominations for FSA County Committee  
Elections close COB today, Thurs. Aug. 1st**

If you're interested in running for FSA County Committee, there's still a little time but you must deliver or postmark your nomination form to the FSA County Office by Close of Business today, Thurs. Aug. 1. Nominees must complete and sign [Nomination Form FSA-669A](#) (<-- click on link for form). The form is also available at any FSA county office and online at: [www.fsa.usda.gov/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections). Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated or may nominate themselves for candidacy for the county committee. Positions are three-year terms. Committee members are paid hourly wages plus mileage. If you have any questions about nomination eligibility, contact your local FSA county office.

---

**2013 FSA Crop/Acreage Reporting  
Deadline Extended to Fri., Aug. 2nd  
*If you haven't certified your 2013 crops,  
contact your FSA office right away!***

- **Aug. 2nd - Deadline to report Spring-Seeded Crops and CRP**

Producers are encouraged to contact the local FSA county office right away for an appointment to complete your 2013 acreage report.

Any crop reported after the applicable deadline for the

crop will be considered late-filed:

**Reasonable Accommodations:**  
Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to participate in FSA programs should contact the County Executive Director in the FSA Office in your area or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

- Nov. 15, 2012: Perennial Forage (alfalfa or grass hay), Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage, Native and Tame Pasture, Apiculture and all Fall-Seeded Small Grains
- Jan. 2, 2013 – (or 30 days after placement of colonies): Honey covered under NAP
- Jan. 15, 2013 – Established Stand Alfalfa Seed, Fall Alfalfa Seed, Cherries

Producers are reminded that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. Producers who request prevented planting acreage credit must report the acreage and complete a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, within 15 calendar days after the final planting date for the respective crop as established by Risk Management Agency (RMA) or FSA. Acreage reports must be filed for all cropland on the farm before any 2013 Direct and Counter-Cyclical (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) payments can be made or before eligibility can be established for marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's). Participants of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must report the specific acreage for which benefits are being requested.

---

## **2012 Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Production Evidence & Application for Payment Deadline extended to Fri., Aug. 2**

If you had 2012 NAP Coverage, you must provide acceptable production evidence by the subsequent year's acreage reporting date to calculate the APH yield for the NAP unit. When you make your appointment to report your 2013 acreages to FSA, take your 2012 NAP production evidence for NAP crops with you to the FSA office. The deadline to submit 2012 production evidence to update the APH yield was extended from July 15, 2013 to Aug. 2, 2013. If you suffered a loss in 2012 and filed a Notice of Loss under NAP, the deadline to file an application for payment for 2012 losses is also Aug. 2, 2013.

---

## **Farm Reconstitutions - today, Thurs., Aug. 1st deadline**

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take

place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on changes in the land associated with a farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

---

### **2013 DCP Signup Deadline Extended to Sept. 16**

If you haven't yet enrolled in the 2013 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP), contact the FSA county office right away to schedule an appointment. The sign-up deadline for DCP was extended from Aug. 2 to Sept. 16, 2013. The deadline for ACRE of June 3, 2013 was not extended. The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 had the option to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year, regardless of the previous year's election. Contact your local FSA office for more information or to make an appointment to enroll.

---

### **CRP General Signup Results Announced**

USDA accepted 151,614 acres in Montana under FSA's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general signup 45. Offers with an EBI score of 209 or greater were determined acceptable. Landowners whose offers were rejected or accepted into CRP are being notified by email, if on file, or by regular mail. CRP sign-up 45 contracts will become effective on October 1, 2013. Montana FSA received 976 offers on more than 186,376 acres of land.

---

### **Continuous CRP Signup**

Contact the county office for remaining options available through Continuous CRP.

---

### **CRP Managed Haying and Grazing**

Montana FSA recently announced a revision to the agency's policy on managed haying or managed grazing of acres enrolled in CRP. Producers who enrolled in CRP General Signup 39 (2010); General Signup 41 (2011); General Signup 43 (2012) and the current General Signup 45 (2013) will be able to begin managed haying or grazing of the acres in the first year of the contract, regardless of whether the acres were hayed or grazed prior to the new contract being approved. Managed haying can be done once every five (5) years with a 50 percent set-aside for wildlife, which can be hayed the following year. Managed grazing can be done once every three (3) years. Managed haying and grazing began July 16th following the end of the primary nesting and brood-rearing season. CRP participants who want to perform managed haying or managed grazing on their contracts must contact their FSA county office and receive written approval prior to beginning haying or grazing.

---

## **Emergency Loan Program available in Montana disaster counties**

FSA's Emergency Loan Program is available for agricultural producers in counties designated as primary or contiguous natural disaster areas (link to Montana disaster counties to date is available below). At this time, for FSA, the Secretarial and Presidential designation only triggers the Emergency Loan Program. Eligible producers have eight months from the date of the disaster designation to apply for low-interest emergency loans to 1.) restore or replace essential property; 2.) pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year; 3.) pay essential family living expenses; or 4.) refinance certain debts, excluding real estate. Producers interested in applying for an emergency loan, or other FLP loans, should contact their local FSA office to set up an appointment with the Farm Loan Program staff serving your area.

[MAP OF MONTANA DISASTER COUNTIES TO DATE \(Click to access map\)](#)

---

### **Important Upcoming Deadlines:**

- **Ongoing:** Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Continuous Signup
- **July 16:** CRP Managed Summer/Fall Grazing/ Haying Period Begins (with County Committee Approval of Request)
- **Aug. 1:** Last day to file County Committee Election Nomination Forms at the local FSA county office (Delivered or post-marked)
- **Aug. 2:** 2013 Crop Year Acreage Reporting Deadline for Spring Seeded: Grass, Mixed Forage, Alfalfa, Clover, the year of seeding (annual & perennial types), Barley, Canola, Corn, Dry Beans, Dry Peas, Flax, Mustard, Spring Oats, Potatoes, Safflower, Sugar Beets, Sunflowers, Spring Wheat, CRP and all other crops
- **Aug. 2:** 2012 Crop Year NAP Production Reporting Deadline & 2012 Crop Year NAP Application for Payment Deadline
- **Aug. 2:** 2012 Crop Year ACRE Production Report Deadline
- **Sept. 13:** CRP Managed Summer/Fall Grazing Period Ends
- **Sept. 16:** 2013 DCP Program Signup Deadline
- **Sept. 30:** MILC Contracts Expire & CRP Managed Summer/Fall Haying Ends
- **Nov. 4:** County Committee Election ballots mailed to eligible voters
- **Nov. 12:** All Hay Bales Must be Removed from CRP Acres
- **Nov. 15:** 2014 Crop Year FSA Acreage Reporting Deadline for Fall Seeded: Grass, Mixed Forage, Alfalfa, Clover, the year of seeding (annual and perennial types), Established Grass, Mixed Forage, Alfalfa, Clover in years subsequent to the year of seeding (perennial types), Apiculture, Fall Wheat, and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains
- **Dec. 2:** Last day to return voted ballots to the local FSA County Office

---

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).