

September 2013



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USDA Montana Farm Service Agency (FSA) September eNewsletter & Updates

Montana FSA State Office:

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State Office Phone:
(406) 587-6872

Web: www.fsa.usda.gov/mt

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

&

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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.

September 16 Enrollment Deadline for DCP

***More than 90 percent of Montana DCP contracts enrolled as of this
week***

All producers with a share on a 2013 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) contract must sign that contract no later than **Monday, September 16, 2013**. Any contract missing the signature of a producer who has a share on the contract will not be considered to be enrolled, which will result in no payments being issued for that farm. If you have any questions about the enrollment of your farm in the 2013 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program, please contact your County Office as soon as possible.

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.

[CLICK FOR A MAP OF MONTANA DISASTER COUNTIES TO DATE](#)

2013 Managed Haying and/or Grazing of CRP

Producers who did managed haying or grazing in 2013 of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres must report the actual acres that were hayed or grazed to the FSA County Office as soon as possible after haying and grazing has ended by completing form CRP-118, Certification of Participation in Haying or Grazing of CRP Acreage.

Farm Storage Facility Loans Available

FSA's Farm Storage and Facility Loan (FSFL) Program provides low-interest financing for producers of eligible commodities to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The maximum principal amount of a FSFL program is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. Loan terms of seven, ten, or twelve years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different. Partial and final disbursements are available. The final disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin. The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans: corn, grain sorghum, honey, soybeans, oats, wheat, barley, or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain; corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats, or barley harvested as other than whole grain; hay; renewable biomass; fruits (including nuts) and vegetables—cold storage facilities. Contact your local FSA office for more information.

Loan and LDP Programs:

Marketing assistance loans provide producers interim financing at harvest time to meet cash flow needs without having to sell eligible commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows. Marketing assistance loans are 9-month loans with the commodity pledged as collateral for the loan. Producers can settle their loan during the 9-month period by selling the commodity and repaying the principal plus accrued interest or by forfeiting the commodity to the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). Alternatively, a producer who is eligible to receive a marketing assistance loan may agree to forgo the loan and instead obtain a loan deficiency payment (LDP) on their crop. LDPs allow the producer to receive a payment when the alternative repayment rate posted for a commodity is below the loan rate for that commodity. For a commodity to be eligible for a marketing assistance loan or an LDP, the producer must have title to and control in the commodity and meet other eligibility requirements. Producers may obtain marketing assistance loans or receive LDPs on all or part of their eligible production anytime during the loan availability period. The loan availability period runs from when the commodity is normally harvested (or sheared for wool) until specified dates in the following calendar year. Contact your local FSA office for more information.

Cooperation with RMA:

The Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 requires the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to work together to improve program compliance and integrity of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. As a result of the passage of the 2000 Act, RMA and FSA are required to coordinate a plan to identify, address and reconcile discrepancies of all relevant producer-derived information, and to coordinate a monitoring program to include fact finding relative to allegations of program fraud, waste, and abuse. FSA will assist RMA and insurance providers in monitoring conditions throughout the growing season and conduct growing season inspections. All suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse concerning the Federal Crop Insurance Program will be referred to RMA. FSA will also assist RMA with auditing claims. Producers may also report suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse to their local FSA County Office, the RMA Office or OIG.

FRAUD HOTLINE: To report possible fraud, the hotline phone number is: 1-800-424-9121.

Notification Regarding Controlled Substances

Program participants convicted under federal or state law of any planting, cultivating, growing, producing, harvesting or storing a controlled substance are ineligible for program payments and benefits. If convicted of one of these offenses, the program participant shall be ineligible during that crop year and the four succeeding crop years for direct and counter-cyclical payments, price support loans, loan deficiency payments, market loan gains, storage payments, farm facility loans, Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) payments or disaster payments. Program participants convicted of any federal or state offense consisting of the distribution (trafficking) of a controlled substance shall, at the discretion of the court, be ineligible for any or all program payments and benefits.

Important Upcoming FSA Deadlines:

- **Ongoing:** Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Continuous Signup
- **Sept. 13:** CRP Managed Summer/Fall Grazing Period Ends
- **Sept. 16:** 2013 DCP Program Signup Deadline
- **Sept. 30:** CRP Managed Summer/Fall Haying Ends
- **Sept. 30:** MILC Contracts Expire
- **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
- **Dec. 2:** 2014 Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Sales Closing Date for 2014 Honey Producers

******2013 NAP Participants are reminded to report their 2013 NAP production to FSA once harvest is complete.**

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).