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Farm Service Agency
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Dates to Remember

Prior to harvest – File form CCC-633EZ if you are producing a crop for which you believe LDP's may be earned. (At this time LDP rates exist for HRS and Durum)

August 1 – Farm reconstitution deadline for 2010 program year

August 2 – Deadline to file a nominating petition for the FSA County Committee.

August 2 – August 27 – CRP signup period #39 – call for an appointment to inquire about this CRP signup period.

September 1 – Final date for 2009 ACRE participants to report 2004-2009 crop production records to FSA

September 15 – Signup deadline for 2010 Durum Wheat Quality Program (DWQP)

Chouteau County FSA News

July 26, 2010

Managed Haying or Grazing of CRP – New Rules

Due to a recent change in FSA regulations, many CRP contracts are now eligible to be hayed or grazed as of July 16th. Previously, some contracts could be hayed or grazed as of July 16th, while others were not eligible to be hayed or grazed until August 2nd. Under the new rules, haying or grazing may begin on July 16th for all eligible contracts. While most CRP acreage is eligible to be haying or grazed, acreage devoted to the following practices is still ineligible to participate in the managed haying and grazing option:

- CP3 and CP11 – tree plantings ☺
- CP8 – grass waterways
- CP12 – wildlife food plots
- CP22 – riparian buffer
- CP23 – wetland restoration
- CP25 – rare and declining habitat

Eligible CRP acreage may be grazed every third year, or hayed every 5th year. Only 50% of each field, or contiguous field, may be hayed. The remaining 50% of the field may be hayed the following year. The 2010 managed grazing period will run from July 16th through September 13th. The managed haying period is July 16th through September 30th.

Managed haying or grazing cannot begin until an application is completed at the local FSA office, and written approval is received from the FSA County Committee. Prior to approval, all CRP contract participants must sign the conservation plan modification.

Transition Incentives Program

The Transition Incentives Program (TIP) encourages retired or retiring owners or operators to transition their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers. TIP sign-up opened May 17, 2010. If all program requirements are met, TIP provides annual rental payments to the retiring farmer for up to two additional years after the expiration of the CRP contract, provided the transition is not to a family member. Participants are not eligible to sign a TIP agreement at FSA until the applicable CRP contract is within 12 months of its expiration date. To learn about additional TIP eligibility requirements, please contact our office.

Nomination Period for FSA County Committee

This year, farmers and ranchers in the Geraldine/Highwood area of the county (Local Administrative Area #2) will elect a new FSA committee member. A map which outlines the boundaries of LAA #2 can be viewed at the FSA office in Fort Benton. Producers with farming or ranching operations in that area of the county are encouraged to consider running for a position on the FSA committee. The nomination period for the 2010 FSA County Committee election closes on **August 2, 2010**. To be valid, the nomination form (FSA-669A) must be signed by the person being nominated, and returned to the FSA county office by the close of business on August 2 (or postmarked by midnight August 2, 2010). Nomination forms and other information concerning the FSA election process are available at the FSA office, or online at: www.fsa.usda.gov; select *News & Events* then *County Committee Election*.

FSA county committee members serve three-year terms and make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Election ballots will be mailed to producers beginning November 5th. Completed ballots must be dropped off or received via mail at the county office by December 6th.

Foreign Landowner Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

FSA Cooperation with Risk Management Agency

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.

Filing a Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Notice-of-Loss

To qualify for assistance under NAP, production losses or prevented planting must have occurred as a result of an eligible cause of loss. Eligible causes of loss include damaging weather, such as drought, freeze, hail, excessive moisture, or excessive wind; or adverse natural occurrences, such as earthquake or flood; or a condition related to damaging weather or an adverse natural occurrence, such as excessive heat, disease or insect infestation. Wildlife damage and weeds are **not** considered eligible causes of loss under NAP.

A notice of loss (form CCC-576) must be filed with FSA within 15 calendar days after the disaster occurrence or the date damage to the specific crop acreage is apparent. If your intent is to destroy the crop acreage, representative strips must be left in the field so that a loss adjuster can perform an appraisal close to the date that a “normal” harvest would occur.

2010-Crop Price Support Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's)

Marketing assistance loans provide crop producers with interim financing at harvest time to meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows. Loans for covered commodities are non-recourse because the commodity is pledged as loan collateral, and producers have the option of delivering the pledged collateral to the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) as repayment of the loan. Loan collateral may not be forfeited or delivered to CCC until the loan maturity date. The settlement value for the delivered commodity is determined based upon the quantity and quality of the production that is delivered. A schedule of the premiums and discounts that are applied by FSA when determining the settlement value is available at the local FSA office.

Producers of some commodities may also have an opportunity to repay their loans at a rate that is less than principal plus accrued interest. Price support loans may be repaid at the posted county price, which is posed daily at www.fsa.usda.gov/mt. Producers may also choose to “lock in” a repayment rate by use of form CCC-697. Loan repayment rates may be “locked in” only one time during the term of the loan. The “locked in” rate is generally in effect for 60 days, but will expire 14 calendar days prior to loan maturity. Alternatively, loan deficiency payment (LDP) provisions specify that, in lieu of securing a loan, producers may be eligible for a LDP. LDP's are applicable when the posted county price for a commodity is below the effective loan rate. As was stated above, the daily posted county price may be found at www.fsa.usda.gov/mt. Producers of commodities that may be eligible for LDP are strongly encouraged to file form CCC-633EZ prior to the beginning of harvest. Failure to have form CCC-633EZ on file with FSA prior to the date that “beneficial interest” in the commodity is lost will result in the denial of LDP's. The price support loan rates for commodities stored in Chouteau County are as follows:

Crop	Regular	ACRE (70%)		Crop	Regular	ACRE (70%)
HRW	\$2.61/bu	\$1.827/bu		HRS	\$3.82/bu.	\$2.674/bu
Durum	\$6.17/bu	\$4.319/bu		Soft White Wheat	\$2.88/bu	\$2.016/bu
Barley	\$1.85/bu	\$1.295/bu		Corn	\$2.18/bu	\$1.526/bu
Safflower	\$8.78/cwt	\$6.146/cwt		Dry Peas	\$5.20/cwt	\$3.64/cwt
Lentils	\$10.41/cwt	\$7.287/cwt				

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Judy Ferguson to Retire on July 31st

Judy Ferguson will be retiring from Farm Service Agency on July 31st, after 33 years of service. Judy will be greatly missed in our office, as she has worked in nearly every program area that FSA offers, and therefore has a wide array of program knowledge. If you have the opportunity, please stop by the office between now and the end of July to visit with Judy, thank her for the service that she has provided to you, and congratulate her on her retirement.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

Producers with land that is located within one mile of the Missouri River are potentially eligible to enroll those lands into the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). The CREP offers slightly higher payment rates than are offered through the general CRP enrollment process. Land that is currently enrolled in a CRP contract is not eligible for the CREP until the original contract has expired. CREP contracts have a term of 10 or 15 years, depending upon the practices that are implemented. Another advantage of the CREP is that eligible acreage does not have to complete nationwide for acceptance into the program (like is done in the general CRP enrollment process). CREP contracts may begin on the first day of the month after contract approval, or the effective date may be deferred for up to six months from the date of approval by the FSA county committee.

CRP Sign-up Period #39 Announced

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) signup period #39 will be held from August 2nd through August 27th. During the sign-up period, farmers and ranchers may offer eligible land for the CRP's competitive general sign-up. New offers and offers to re-enroll land that is currently enrolled in contracts that will expire on 9/30/2010 may be accepted during this signup period. The 2008 Farm Bill authorized USDA to maintain CRP enrollment up to 32 million acres. Producers wishing to enroll acreage during this signup period are asked to call our office to make an appointment. More information on the CRP can be found at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=crp-sp>

