



A Peek at USDA Farm Service Agency Happenings in August

Important Dates to Remember

Aug. 4 - Sept. 28 - DCP late filed fee of \$100 will be assessed

September 24-27 - Tribal Outreach Forum, Gran Tree, Bozeman

September 28 - Final date for late filed 2007 DCP contracts

October 2 & 3 - Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture, Beaverhead Golf Course, Dillon

Fire Management on CRP

With the hot, dry weather Montana faces during July and August, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contract holders have the opportunity to provide fire protection on their CRP acres.

Firebreaks can either be a strip of bare land or a vegetative cover that retards fire. Grazing is not allowed as an option to maintain firebreaks. Bare ground firebreaks shall be only allowed in high risk areas such as transportation corridors, rural communities, and adjacent farmsteads. Bare ground strips may serve as sites for the establishment of weeds. As required for the vegetative cover, weeds and erosion must be controlled on bare ground strips. Lack of weed control measure could result in noncompliance of CRP provisions and assessment of payment reduction or termination of the affected acreage. It is the responsibility of the CRP contract holder to maintain the firebreaks.

CRP contract holders must acquire a modification to their current CRP contract that includes fire management. Contact the office for required fire management specifications.

DCP Signature Deadline is Sept. 28, 2007

Producers enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) have until September 28th to provide all contract signatures for share acres and late-filed fees.

New Features on the Web

USDA provides their customers an opportunity to do business electronically 24 hours a day seven days a week over the Internet.

With a Level 2 access, USDA customers may receive their 1099-G form, review any collections or debts they may have with USDA and also review an itemized listing of their USDA payments.

Receiving a Level 2 account is a simple process. By entering your name, address and answering a few questions, customers may have access to the above mentioned items.

In addition to receiving payment information, USDA customers may also send forms from the comfort of their home and sign up for programs without visiting a USDA service Center.

Complete step-by-step instructions are available by logging on to the Montana FSA Internet site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.

NOTE: A number of questions have been received regarding the restoration of DCP base acreage from CRP contracts expiring on September 30, 2007. Currently, the 2002 Farm Bill provides for restoration of lost base acres when a CRP contract expires. That provision ends September 30, 2007 with the expiration of the 2002 Farm Bill. When a new Farm Bill is passed by Congress, FSA will provide details as they become available.