

Beaverhead County Farm Service Agency News

January 2008

Farm Service Agency
420 Barrett St.
Dillon, MT 59725
406-683-3830

COUNTY COMMITTEE

David Schuett, LAA 1 Chair
Donna Hildreth, LAA 3 Vice-Chair
Jerry Meine, LAA 2 Regular Member

OFFICE STAFF

Alan Jenne Farm Loan Manager, Acting CED
Jenny Rose Program Technician

Disaster Program Changes Benefit Beaverhead County Producers

Signup is underway for three disaster assistance programs; the Crop Disaster Program (CDP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP). Initially these disaster programs were limited to crops planted or disaster declarations approved prior to February 28, 2007. Recent legislation has extended the eligibility date to December 31, 2007.

For LIP and LCP, this means producers in primary counties declared secretarial disaster areas or certain counties declared presidential disaster areas between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2007 or producers located in counties contiguous to those counties are eligible. Also producers in a primary (or contiguous) county that received an Administrator's Physical Loss Notice directly associated with a disaster declaration made by President Bush may also be eligible for LCP and LIP. Beaverhead County received a secretarial declaration as a contiguous county to Idaho. We are now eligible for 2007 LCP and LIP.

For CDP purposes, the date change to December 31, 2007 now allows all crops planted and prevented planted with the intention of harvesting those crops in 2007, eligible for payment. Crops planted in 2007 that will be harvested in 2008 are not eligible.

For detailed information on eligibility requirements please contact our office. **Appointments are requested and greatly appreciated!**

LAA 2 COC Election Results

Jerry Meine was reelected to his position on the Beaverhead County Committee. Jerry represents LAA 2. Thank you to everyone who returned election ballots. If you are interested in serving on the County Committee, please contact our office!

Change in Farming Operation or Address

Producers are reminded to notify this office to report change in address or ownership. This is vital to assist this office in keeping records.

Change in Direct Deposit Account

The Debt Collection Act of 1996 mandates that payments from FSA be directly deposited into a producer's checking or savings bank account. It is important that any change in the producer's account such as type of account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

Submission of Applications via E-Government

As required by the Freedom to E-File Act, eForms provides customers with the option to electronically access, fill out, and print paper forms, or obtain secure electronic access credentials for signing and transmitting forms and other documents electronically to their local Service Center. Level 2 access is required. Step-by-step instructions are available on the Montana FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt> explaining the Level 2 access process. Contact the local county FSA office to complete your Level 2 registration.

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance may be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting,

harvesting, possessing or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium poppies and other drug producing plants.

Farm Loans

FSA offers direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loan programs to farmers and ranchers who are temporarily unable to obtain private commercial credit. Rural youth loans, Beginning Farmer and Rancher, and assistance for socially disadvantaged persons are also available.

Under Represented Groups

FSA solicits and accepts nominations of under represented groups such as females and minority (American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander) producers for county committee representation. Please notify this office if you wish to be identified as a minority producer.

Annie's Project

Montana MarketManager will usher Annie's Project into Montana starting in January 2008. Annie's Project will be delivered in six 3-hour sessions at 12 locations around Montana. Each Monday evening session will run from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Registration is \$100.

Class locations:

Baker – Baker High School

Bozeman – Burns Telecom Center, MSU

Culbertson – Roosevelt Memorial Hospital

Dillon – University of Montana – Western

Glasgow – Frances Mahon Deaconess Hospital

Great Falls – MSU College of Technology

Havre – MSU Northern

Lewistown – Central Montana Education Center

Miles City – Miles City Community College

Rapelje – Rapelje High School

Scobey – Scobey High School

Shelby – Marias Medical Center

Sidney – ARS Center

For registration information logon to: www.montanamarketmanager.org/Education&Reference/WorkshopCalendar or call the Montana Grain Growers office at 406/761-4596.

Foreign Person Rule

A foreign individual is someone who is not a citizen of the United States or a lawful alien possessing a valid Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-551 or I-151). A foreign entity is a corporation, trust, estate, limited partnership, limited liability company, or other similar organization that has more than 10 percent of its beneficial interest held by individuals who are not citizens of the United States or lawful aliens possessing a valid Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-551 or I-

151). In addition to the requirements for "person" and "actively engaged in farming," the following significant contributions must be provided by an individual or entity considered to be a "foreign person." An individual determined to be a "foreign person" must provide a significant contribution of land, capital, and active personal labor. Each foreign individual who is a member of an entity determined to be a "foreign person" must provide active personal labor to enable the entity to provide a significant contribution of active personal labor.

Census of Agriculture Coming Soon

Beginning December 28, 2007, the National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) will mail out Census of Agriculture forms to collect data for the 2007 calendar year. Completed forms are due by February 4, 2008. Forms may be returned by mail or, for the first time, forms may be filled out online via a secure web site.

Conducted every five years by USDA, the Census is a complete count of the nation's farm and ranches and the people who operate them. The Census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures and other topics. The Census provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation.

For more information about the 2007 Census of Agriculture, contact the NASS Montana Field Office at 406/441-1240 or 1-800-835-2612 or logon to the Montana Agriculture Statistics website at <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov>.

Farm Storage Facility Loan

FSA may make loans to producers to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

Commodities covered under this storage program are rice, soybeans, dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas, peanuts, sunflower, flaxseed, mustard seed, and other oilseeds as determined and announced. Corn, grain sorghum, oats, wheat, or barley harvested as whole grain or other than whole grain are also eligible.

Loans may be made only for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities.

Eligible facilities and equipment include:

- New conventional-type cribs or bins designed and engineered for whole grain storage and having a useful life of at least 10 years;
- New oxygen limiting and other upright silo-type structures designed for whole grain storage or other

than whole grain wet storage having a useful life of at least 10 years;

- Re-manufactured oxygen-limiting storage structures built to original manufacturer's design specifications using original manufacturer's rebuild kits having a useful life of at least 10 years;
- New structures that are upright, bunker-type, horizontal, or open silo structures with at least 2 concrete walls and a concrete floor, designed for whole grains storage or other than whole grain storage having a useful life of at least 10 years;
- New permanently affixed grain handling equipment and grain drying equipment determined by FSA to be needed and essential to the proper functioning of a grain storage system, with or without a loan for storage structures;
- Existing storage renovated according to FSA regulations without an increase in storage capacity;
- New electrical equipment, such as lighting and motors integral to the proper operation of grain storage and handling equipment, excluding the installation of electrical service to the electrical meter;
- New equipment to improve, maintain or monitor the quality of stored grain;
- Safety equipment as required; and
- New flat-type storage structures, including a permanent concrete floor and bulkheads, designed for and primarily used to store whole grain for the term of the loan.

The applicant must:

- Complete form CCC-185
- Pay a non-refundable application fee of \$45.00 to the FSA office
- Provide copies of contracts, project cost breakdown, copies of site plans or estimates for all proposed work;
- Provide form FSA 440-32
- Provide proof of multi-peril crop insurance
- Provide legal description of parcel (s) of land to be offered as security and legal description of land where facility will be placed;
- File CCC-10

The maximum term of the loan is 7 years. The maximum principal amount of any farm storage facility loan shall be 85 percent of the net cost of the applicant's needed storage or handling equipment not to exceed \$100,000 for each borrower signing the note and security agreement.

A minimum down payment representing the difference between the net cost of the storage facility and the amount of the loan shall be made by the loan applicant to the supplier or contractor before the loan is disbursed.

Loans shall bear interest at the rate equivalent to the rate of interest charged on U.S. Treasury securities of

comparable maturity on the date the loan is approved. The interest rate for each loan will remain in effect for the term of the loan. Other requirements may apply.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

NAP provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields occur as a result of natural disaster. Eligible crops are those commercially produced for food, livestock consumption, and some specialty crops. Eligible producers must pay an administrative service fee of \$100 per crop per administrative county or \$300 per producer per county, not to exceed \$900 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties. Service fees may be waived for limited-resource producers. **Payment of a service fee does not guarantee coverage.** There are many eligibility requirements that must be met. *The Application Closing Date for all crops except value loss and honey is March 17, 2008.* Contact the office for further information.

Wool and Mohair Producers need to file CCC-633 EZ

The 2008 crop year for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts began January 1, 2008 and ends December 31, 2008. For 2008, wool mohair, and unshorn pelt producers need to file a CCC-633 EZ form. The purpose of filing this form is for producers to:

- Indicate their intentions to receive Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) benefits (on page 1 of the CCC-633 EZ) before the loss of beneficial interest; or
- Submit an LDP request for benefits at any time during the loan/LDP availability period before or after losing beneficial interest.

Farm Service Agency
420 Barrett St
Dillon, MT 59725

PRESORT
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BOZEMAN, MT 59715
PERMIT #54

Important Dates to Remember

January 21st Holiday, Office Closed
February 18th Holiday, Office Closed
March 17th Deadline to purchase NAP for 2008 perennial and spring-seeded crops

In This Issue

Changes have been made to the Disaster Programs that benefit Beaverhead County!

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to participate in FSA programs should contact Alan Jenne, Acting CED at 420 Barrett Street, Dillon MT 59725 or alan.jenne@mt.usda.gov.