

**Blaine County FSA
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County Committee Members

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Dates to Remember:

June 15 – Nominations Open for County Committee (COC) election

NAP Notice of Loss – 15 calendar days following disaster
July 16 – Acreage report deadline
July 16 – Deadline to submit 2006 NAP production reports

July 16 – Deadline to file 2006 crop application for NAP payment

August 1 – Deadline for 2007 reconstitutions

August 1 – Last day to file COC nomination forms at the local FSA office

August 3 – Signature deadline on 2007 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP)

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 Symposium, Dillon

November 2 – COC ballots will be mailed to eligible voters

December 3 – Last day to return voted COC ballots to the local FSA office



Blaine County FSA

June 8, 2007

Maintenance on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Acres

The Farm Service Agency State Committee has established the following minimum acreage policy for management activities and maintenance on CRP acreage that applies to mechanical operations to improve the stand and inter-seeding:

- If the total acreage of a CRP contract is 80 acres or less, management activities and maintenance is allowed to be completed on the total acres.
- If the total acreage of a CRP contract is over 80 acres, management activities and maintenance is limited to 50 percent of the total acres.

This policy was established by the FSA State Committee to address hardships caused on “small acre” CRP contracts. Misuse of this policy could result in the State Committee retracting this policy.

Hull-less Barley and Oats

As harvest draws near you may begin asking questions about loans and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's) on your crops.

Hull-less barley and hull-less oats are not eligible for 2007 price support activities.

According to the United States Grain Standards Handbook (Book II, Barley & Oats) detailed definition of barley and oats, the term “barley” shall not include hull-less or black barley.

Since the hull-less variety does not meet the definition of barley or oats, it is considered to be a non-standardized grain and therefore not eligible for LDPs or Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs).

Montana FSA website

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>

log on to receive information and resources pertinent to Montana as well as individual county newsletters.

Landowner Method of Division

Definition of Designation by Landowner Method:

The designation by landowner method is the division of bases, allotments, and quotas in the manner agreed to by the parent farm owner and purchaser or transferee.

When This Method May Be Used: The designation by landowner method may be used when any of the following apply:

- Part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred
- An entire farm is sold to 2 or more persons
- Farm ownership is transferred to 2 or more persons
- Part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred
- A tract is sold to 2 or more persons
- Tract ownership is transferred to 2 or more persons.

When This Method May Not Be Used:

The designation by landowner method shall not be used to divide allotments or quotas, if the parent farm is located in 2 or more counties and the allotments and quotas cannot be transferred from 1 county to another by sale, lease, or owner.

All of the following requirements must be met in order to use the designation by landowner method: *(in adjacent column)*

Tribal Outreach Forum

The 2007 Tribal Outreach Forum will be held September 24-27, 2007 at the Gran Tree in Bozeman. The forum will provide an avenue for Indian landowners and Tribal representatives to share culture, history, land mass, demographics, economics and current issues with representatives and in turn for those representatives to present information on programs available to benefit Indian landowners and Tribes.

The cost of the forum is \$35.00 for pre-registration if received prior to September 14. Registration may be sent to Heidi Brewer, PO Box 670, Bozeman, MT 59771. A block of rooms have been reserved at the Gran Tree.

For a complete agenda and registration information logon to the Montana FSA website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt> or contact your FSA office.

Description	Requirement
3-year ownership	The land sold or transferred must have been owned for at least 3 years.
Memo of Understanding	<p>The owner of the parent farm and the purchaser or transferee shall file a signed written memo or understanding designating bases, allotments, and quotas before either of the following occurs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The farm is reconstituted; that is, COC signs the COC report, and; • Subsequent transfer of ownership. <p>A memo of understanding may be revised to meet the eligibility requirements in this subparagraph.</p>

NOTE: A deed is not a memo of understanding

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of United States agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. FSA administers this program for

COC Election Approaching

Beginning **June 15, 2007**, nominations are being accepted for candidates for County Committee (COC) positions.

A county or area served by the COC is divided into local administrative areas (LAA). Each LAA is represented by one member on the county committee. Only one LAA holds an election each year. This year the LAA open in Blaine County is the area of the county north of the Milk River. Nomination forms are available at the Blaine County FSA Office.

Blaine County Ag Tour Returns – June 21st

It's time again for the Blaine County Ag Tour. This year the tour will be venturing south to the Bear Paws and is going to cover noxious weeds, covered ditch, alfalfa weevils, variable rate fertilizer, (Precision Ag) and maybe a surprise or two. Detection of alfalfa weevils by sweeping will be demonstrated. Information on the covered ditch on the north side of Chinook will be presented. Noxious weed topics to be discussed include weed sniffing dogs, chemical control and target grazing with sheep or goats.

This tour is made possible by the financial support of our local businesses in Blaine, Hill and Phillips counties. We would like to thank them for their support in the past. We will be looking for sponsors and donations to keep this tour free for participants of all ages.

The tour is scheduled for Thursday, June 21st. Registration begins that morning at 7:00 in the parking lot behind the USDA Service Center building. Buses will leave at 7:45.

Crop Certification has begun

Appointments have been sent and map packets have been sent to Blaine County operators. If you didn't receive your maps, please call the office. Signup for the 2007 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program, (DCP) has been extended to August 3, 2007. If you have not enrolled you still have time to do so. Any enrollments received between August 4 and September 30, 2007 will have to pay a \$100 late fee.

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Important Dates to Remember

June 15 – COC nominations open
Notice of Loss – 15 calendar days following disaster
June 21 – Blaine County Crop Tour
July 16 – Acreage report deadline
August 1 – Reconstitution Deadline
August 1 – Last day to file COC nomination form
August 3 – Signature deadline for 2007 DCP

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. An eligible cause of loss is any of the following:

- 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 must be provided within 15 calendar days after the:

- disaster occurrence or date damage to the specific crop acreage is apparent to the producer for yield losses;
- final planting date for prevented planting.

If a Notice-of-Loss is filed prior to the final planting date established for the specific crop, the producer is expected to replant the crop. If the Notice-of-Loss is filed after the established final planting date and the intent is to reseed to another crop intended for harvest, such as barley for grain, which is covered under crop insurance, a NAP payment cannot be received on the original failed crop.

Montana is not a double cropping state. If the intent is to destroy the crop, summer fallow it, or reseed to another crop **not** intended for harvest, representative strips must be left in the field so that a loss adjuster can be sent out closer to normal harvest time to appraise the original seeded crop. In this situation, the original seeded crop would still be eligible for a payment.