

Broadwater County FSA
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County Committee

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Charles Plymale, Vice-Chair
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FSA Office Personnel

Nina Fonk, Co. Executive Director
Tamie Hahn, Program Technician
Laura Cazier, Program Technician
Alan Jenne, Farm Loan Manager
Hal Plummer, Field Person



Dates to Remember:

June 23 – CDP Quality Signup Began
Notice of Loss – filed within 15 calendar days of the natural disaster occurrence or the date the damage to the crop or loss of production was apparent

September 1 – NAP Application closing date for value loss crops

September 16 – Deadline to buy-in for 2008 Disaster Programs

September 30 – Sales closing date for crop insurance for Forage Production, Winter Wheat and Rangeland

September 30 – 2008 DCP Signup Deadline

September 30 – October 1 – Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium, Billings

December 1 – NAP sales closing date for Honey



Broadwater County

August 2008

2008 Disaster Programs

The 2008 Farm Bill created several new disaster programs under the title "Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance." These programs include:

- Emergency Assistance for Livestock and Honey bees (ELAP)
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE)
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

To be eligible for many of these programs, producers must purchase at least catastrophic (CAT) level of crop insurance for all insurable crops and/or Non-insurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for non-insurable crops. A Risk Management Purchase Requirement waiver has been authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill to allow those wanting to participate in the disaster assistance programs to pay a "buy-in" fee for 2008 crops for which crop insurance or NAP coverage was not purchased because sales closing dates for CAT and NAP have passed for the 2008 crop year for all insurable and non-insurable crops.

The deadline to pay the buy-in fee is **September 16, 2008**. For **SURE, TAP and ELAP**, a "buy-in" fee must be paid for all crops (including grazing land) that do not have at least CAT level crop insurance or NAP. For **LFP**, a "buy-in" fee must be paid for the grazing land incurring losses for which assistance is being requested. **LIP** is exempt from the "buy-in" fee requirement.

The 2008 "buy-in" fee for both CAT and NAP are:

- \$100/ crop per FSA administrative county
- \$300/producer per FSA administrative county (including previous fees paid for coverage)
- \$900 maximum for producers with multiple counties (including previous fees paid for coverage)

The 2008 "buy-in" fee is non-refundable and due at the time the required buy-in forms are filed, but no later than **September 16, 2008**.

2008 Disaster Programs (continued)

Those meeting the requirement of socially disadvantaged, limited resource, or beginning farmers or ranchers are not required to pay the "buy-in" fee. Definitions of these groups are available at the FSA office.

For the 2009 crop year, NAP and CAT coverage is required for eligibility for the disaster assistance programs. The deadline to purchase crop insurance for fall seeded or forage crops (i.e. winter wheat or alfalfa mixes) is September 30, 2008.

Acreage Reports Required for Disaster Programs

To be eligible for the 2008 disaster programs, producers must report all crops (including native grazing) in all counties in which the producer has an interest. The deadline to revise an acreage report or to file an initial acreage report for the 2008 crop year is **August 15, 2008**. Acreage reports filed or revised after that date will be considered late-filed. Producers are required to provide evidence of existence or disposition of crops if crop acreage is reported after August 15, 2008.



Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE)

Benefits under the SURE program will be available to eligible producers on farms: 1) located in or contiguous to counties included in a Secretarial Disaster Declaration; and 2) that have suffered a total loss of production greater than 50 percent of normal production.

SURE payments will be issued to eligible producers in an amount equal to 60% of the difference between the disaster assistance program guarantee and total farm revenue.

The deadline to pay any required 2008 buy-in fees (as outlined on the previous page) is **September 16, 2008**. Please contact the FSA office for an appointment if you are interested in signing up for this program.



Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)

Benefits under the LFP program will be available to eligible livestock producers who suffered eligible grazing losses: 1) due to fire on Federally managed rangeland if prohibited from grazing the normal permitted livestock or 2) due to drought on owned or leased grazing land that is located in a county that is rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as having: a D2, severe drought, for at least 8 consecutive weeks during the normal grazing period for the county; or at least a D3, extreme drought, at any time during the normal grazing period; or D4, exceptional drought, at any time during the normal grazing period.

Livestock producers may be eligible to receive LFP payments as follows: 1 monthly payment if D2 for 8 consecutive weeks; 2 monthly payments if D3; 3 monthly payments if D3 for 4 weeks or if D4; or 50% of monthly feed cost for the total number of livestock covered by a Federal lease.

The deadline to pay the required 2008 buy-in fee (as outlined on the previous page) is **September 16, 2008**. Please contact the FSA office for an appointment if you are interested in signing up for this program.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock and Honey bees (ELAP)

The ELAP Program will provide emergency relief to producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish due to losses from adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. The ELAP Program is intended to cover disasters that are not adequately covered by any other disaster program.

The deadline to pay any required 2008 buy-in fees (as outlined on the previous page) is **September 16, 2008**. Please contact the FSA office for an appointment if you are interested in signing up for this program.

2008 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP)

Signup for the 2008 DCP program has started and will end September 30, 2008. All signatures to shares of the contract must be received by close of business on September 30th. Advance direct payments of 22% can be requested with final direct payments issued in October 2008.

Please contact the FSA office if you have not received: an appointment letter or your DCP contracts through the mail. If you have missed your appointment and are still interested in applying for this program, please contact the FSA office.



CRP Critical Feed Use Halted

On July 24th a District Judge issued a permanent injunction against the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Critical Feed Use Program. The injunction was the result of a lawsuit filed by the National Wildlife Federation against FSA stating the agency violated the National Environmental Policy Act by failing to study the environmental impacts of its action before implementing the program.

The ruling limits Critical Feed Use to three categories of producers:

- Category A - CRP participants who applied for Critical Feed Use and the contract modification form was signed and approved by FSA prior to the issuance of the Temporary Restraining Order issued on July 8, 2008.
- Category B – CRP participants who applied for Critical Feed Use and signed the required contract modification form prior to or on July 8, 2008 but was not approved by FSA.
- Category C – CRP participants who can provide documentary proof of investment or obligations of \$4,500 or more on or before July 8, 2008 in preparation for Critical Feed Use.

CRP Participants who believe they may be eligible for Critical Feed Use should contact the FSA office.



NAP and Crop Insurance Coverage Required for 2009 Disaster Assistance

For the 2009 crop year, it is imperative to purchase Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and catastrophic (CAT) level of crop insurance for all insurable and non-insurable crops. This is for production coverage and for eligibility for the disaster assistance programs authorized under the recent farm bill.

For producers to be **eligible** for assistance under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (**SURE**) Program, Tree Assistance Program (**TAP**) or the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, and Honey Bees, (**ELAP**), producers must obtain a plan of insurance for each insurable commodity on the farm and, for each non-insurable commodity. **Coverage must be provided on all crops as well as grazing land.** The deadline to purchase crop insurance coverage for fall seeded or forage crops is September 30, 2008. The deadline to apply for NAP coverage for all NAP crops except value-loss and honey is March 15, 2009. The sales closing date for honey is December 1, 2009.

To be eligible for assistance under the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), producers must obtain a plan of insurance or file the required documents and pay the administrative fee by the NAP closing date of March 15, 2009 for grazing land.

The NAP application closing date for value loss crops is September 1, 2008.

According to the 2008 Farm Bill, a farm is defined as the sum of all crop acreage in all counties that is planted or intended to be planted for harvest by the eligible producer.

Please contact your insurance agent and the FSA office to ensure you apply for 2009 crop insurance and NAP coverage by the application closing dates.

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Important Dates to Remember

Notice of Loss – 15 calendar days of the natural disaster occurrence or the date the damage to the crop or loss of production was apparent
August 15 – Acreage Reporting Deadline
September 1 – NAP application Closing date for Value loss crops
September 16 – Deadline to purchase buy-in fee
September 30 – Crop insurance closing date
September 30 – 2008 DCP Signup Deadline

Crop Disaster Program Quality Losses

Eligible producers who suffered quality losses to their crops during 2005-2007 can now sign up for benefits under the Crop Disaster Program (CDP). The program is open to producers who suffered losses to their 2005-2007 crops from natural disasters and related conditions.

To receive benefits from CDP for quality losses, producers must have had crop insurance or been covered under the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the disaster year that the quality loss occurred. Producers must have suffered quality losses of at least 25 percent and also suffered an economic loss of 25 percent compared to the crops value (if the crop had not suffered a quality loss) to be eligible for CDP quality loss benefits.

In determining affected production, participants in CDP must supply verifiable production records to the FSA county committee to substantiate the level of quality loss. Verifiable production records must include the quantity of production, indicate the level of quality loss, and the price received.

Before You Sell Your Grain

It is important for producers to come into the office and sign a CCC-633EZ, page 1 (Loan Deficiency Payment Agreement and Request) before any of the eligible loan commodity is sold or contracted. Although there might not be a Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) rate in effect at the time of harvest, there may be a rate in effect at a later date. If the CCC-633EZ, page 1 is not on file at the office, the producer must have ownership and control of the commodity at the time the LDP is requested.

Beneficial interest is retained in the commodity if all of the following remain with the producer: Control of the commodity, the commodity must be within their possession; risk of loss; title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in the commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for a loan or an LDP even if the producer regains control, risk of loss, and title.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to participate in FSA programs should contact Nina Fonk, County Executive Director at 415 South Front Street, Townsend, MT 59644 or (406) 266-4253 extension 2 or through e-mail at nina.fonk@mt.usda.gov