Broadwater County FSA News
December 2008

Broadwater County FSA
415 South Front Street
Townsend, MT 59644
Telephone: (406) 266-4253

County Committee
Bob Wilson, Chairperson
Charles Plymale, Vice-Chair
Tom Williams, Member
Marie Hoeffner, Minority Advisor

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:

December 25 – Office Closed, Christmas
January 1 – Office Closed, New Year's Holiday
January – April – Continuation of Brand Liens
January 19 – Office Closed, Holiday
January 31 – Final loan/LDP availability date for wool/mohair shorn in 2008
January 31 – Final LDP availability date for 2008 unshorn pelts
March 16 – NAP sales closing date for all crops except value loss crops

Insurance Workshops Available

The Broadwater and Lewis & Clark FSA Offices are working with Duane Griffiths of MSU Extension and Larry Hoffman of the Lewis & Clark Extension to coordinate insurance workshops in the area. The tentative schedule and locations are as follows:

January 21, 2009, 9 a.m.	Townsend
January 21, 2009, 1 p.m.	Helena

Specific meeting locations will be determined after we have determined the number of interested participants. The length of each workshop will be one to two hours.

Please contact the Broadwater FSA at (406) 266-4253 if you are interested in attending a workshop in Townsend and contact the Lewis & Clark FSA at (406) 449-5000 if you are interested in attending a workshop in Helena. You will need to contact the applicable FSA office by January 5, 2009.

Please also let us know if there are specific insurance products that you are interested in learning more about.

Pollinator Habitat Improvement on New CRP

Many populations of native pollinators such as bees, butterflies, other insects, birds, etc. are vital for American Agriculture. One out of every 3 bites of food is dependent on pollinators. Many populations of pollinators are in decline.

The 2008 Farm Bill provides authority to include pollinator habitat on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land for new CRP contracts signed after January 2, 2009.

Certain CRP practices will include pollinator habitat components consisting of 1 to 3 bunch grasses and 9 or 10 wildflower/forbs. The cost of installing the pollinator habitat will vary from $100 to $300 per acre. Five percent of the CRP acres enrolled shall be pollinator friendly. Contact the local FSA office for further details.

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12 Counties Declared Primary Disaster Areas

Twelve Montana counties were declared primary natural disaster areas due to losses caused by drought, excessive heat, hail, severe storms, high winds, wildfires and insect damage that occurred during the period beginning January 1, 2008 and continuing.

The following counties have received the disaster designation:

Broadwater	Fallon	Richland
Custer	Golden Valley	Roosevelt
Daniels	McCone	Sheridan
Dawson	Prairie	Wibaux

Contiguous counties include:

Carter	Lewis and Clark	Stillwater
Fergus	Meagher	Sweet Grass
Gallatin	Musselshell	Valley
Garfield	Powder River	Wheatland
Jefferson	Rosebud	Yellowstone

Producers in designated or contiguous counties may qualify for natural disaster benefits.

All qualified producers within the above named counties could be eligible for low interest emergency loans from the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA).

Existing FSA borrowers could also be eligible for the debt set aside.

Contact the FSA office for further details.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to participate in FSA programs should contact Nina Fonk, 415 S Front St, Townsend MT 59644, (406) 266-4253, nina.fonk@mt.usda.gov

1099-G Mailed in January

During the last week of January, producers who have received payments from FSA should receive a CCC-1099-G from the Kansas City office. A CCC-1099-G is a report to the Internal Revenue Service about FSA payments made to you in calendar year 2008. The CCC-1099-G is a service to help participating producers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the program participant's responsibility to report income to the IRS.

If you receive a CCC-1099-G, we recommend that you check the amounts shown with those in your records to see that the amounts are correct. Refunds will no longer be reported on the 1099-G, but will be available online from the FSA Financial Inquiries (FSA-FI) web-based database. Program participants with eAuthentication user ID's and passwords can access their refund information at FSA-FI and select "Inquiry Type 1099/Refund Reports". Refund amounts are displayed on the Producer's Year-to-Date Activity web page.

If you have a question concerning the 1099-G refund information, you may contact the county office for assistance locating the correct payment data. If you choose to visit the office, bring your CCC-1099-G with you.

Please

Report Changes to Farming Operation

Please make certain you notify us of any changes to your farming operation including land ownership or lease changes, entity changes, including members and shares, new entities, and who is authorized to sign documents on behalf of the operation or individual.

Changes to FSA Payment Processing

FSA will be deploying a new payment processing system in December.

Through the new system, all payments made through direct deposit will be processed through the Federal Reserve Bank and will be received in the participants account within 2-3 days of processing. For participants without direct deposit who receive payment by check, the U.S. Treasury will issue the payment and delays will be expected up to 7 days. Be aware of the delays when planning any tax preparation for 2008 or 2009.

Year End Reviews for Farm Loans

Producers that have a farm loan with FSA are reminded they must provide data for their Year-End Analysis (YEA) to their loan officer each year. Borrowers are urged to provide this information timely so that their files can be maintained. The office staff will contact you for the data you will need to provide to assist us.

Release of Your Records

If you wish to release your farm data (such as base acres, yields, or maps) to a person that is not directly associated with the farm as an owner, operator or other producer, you will need to provide a written release stating what information may be released, to whom the information may be released and how long of a period release of the information is authorized.

Wishing You A Very Special Holiday Season

Board of Livestock Approves Revised Brucellosis Action Plan

The Montana Board of Livestock approved a revised version of the state's brucellosis action plan.

Major changes to the draft plan include:

- Adoption of a two-area, rather than a three-area, plan;
- Use of county lines as area boundaries rather than roads or geographical features;
- Explanation of expected budget and funding sources;
- Removal of mandatory, statewide Official Calfhood Vaccination requirement;
- Addition of "sunset" language that details how long the plan will be in place;
- Commitment from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks to participate in various wildlife-related aspects of the plan.

The revisions can be found on the Department of Livestock's web site at http://liv.mt.gov/.

The board's action means MDOL and producers can move forward with risk assessments and herd management plans while minor details in the revised plan are resolved.

MDOL will schedule community meetings in late January to meet with producers and explain the plan in detail.

Meeting locations and dates will be listed on MDOL's web site, and announced at a later date.

The USDA has four classifications for brucellosis: Class Free, Class A, Class B and Class C. Restrictions on the interstate movement of cattle become less stringent as a state approaches or achieves Class Free status. Class C designation is for states with the highest rate of brucellosis, and requires a federal quarantine. Class A and Class B fall between the two extremes of Class Free and Class C status.

MDOL's brucellosis action plan provides a blueprint for regaining the state's Class-Free Status as quickly as possible.

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Postage Block

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Sweet Potato Casserole

INGREDIENTS

- 3 cups cooked and mashed sweet potatoes
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/3 cup evaporated milk
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/3 cup butter, melted
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 1 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour

DIRECTIONS

1. Mix together sweet potatoes, white sugar, 1/2 cup butter or margarine, milk, eggs, and vanilla. Spread into a greased 9 x 13 inch baking dish.
2. Mix together 1/3 cup melted butter or margarine, pecans, brown sugar, and flour. Spoon on top of sweet potato mixture.
3. Bake at 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) for 25 to 30 minutes.