

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:

May 15-July 15 – FSA State Committee established Primary Nesting Season for CRP
May 15-August 1 – Primary Nesting Season for CRP contracts affected by the National Wildlife Federations settlement agreement with FSA
July 1 – EQIP Signup Deadline
July 15 – 2007 NAP Application for Payment Deadline
July 15 – Acreage Report Deadline
July 18 – LIP/LCP Deadline
August 1 – COC Nominations Due
August 1 – Reconstitution Deadline
September 30 – DCP Contract Signature Deadline
September 30 – October 1 – Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium, Billings
NAP Notice of Loss –Within 15 calendar days of the natural disaster occurrence or the date the damage to the crop or loss of production was apparent



Broadwater County

June 2008



2008 Farm Bill Passed - DCP Program Continues

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 was enacted into law on May 22, 2008. The Act provides for a number of programs, including continuation of the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment (DCP) Program for 2008 to 2012.

DCP base acres and yields in effect as of September 30, 2007 will be in effect for 2008 DCP. Payment acres will be 85 percent of the base acres for 2008. Direct payment rates are: Wheat \$.52; Barley \$.24; Oats \$.024; Corn \$.28. Advance payments will be available in the amount of 22 percent as soon as practical for 2008.

DCP payments are prohibited on a farm, if the sum of the base acres on the farm is 10 acres or less. There are two exceptions to the prohibition: 1) for a minority producer; or 2) for a limited resource producer.

DCP participants must: **report all cropland on participating farms by July 15, 2008**; control weeds on the farm; comply with conservation requirements; comply with wetland protection requirements; meet actively engaged in farming provisions; meet adjusted gross income provisions; and comply with planting flexibility requirements.

We are unable to complete 2008 DCP contracts at this time. We will let you know when we have software and procedure available to complete the contracts. All 2008 DCP contract signatures are required to be provided to the FSA office no later than September 30, 2008.



The regulations resulting from the farm bill will be finalized over the next several months. Please watch your mail for additional information on available programs.

County Committee Nominations

Beginning June 15, 2008, nominations are being accepted for candidates for County Committee (COC) positions.

A county 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 Broadwater County is for the northeast area currently represented by Charles Plymale. Nominations are due **by August 1, 2008**.

The Broadwater County Committee would like to invite you to an open house to be held in the USDA conference room in Townsend on July 10, 2008, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. to discuss the role of the County Committee.

FSA-669A (02-25-08) Page 2		Form Approved - UMB No. 0560-0229	
FSA-669A (02-25-08)		U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency	
NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION			
1. NAME OF NOMINEE (<i>Type or print Nominee's Full Name</i>)		TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE	
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE			
3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION <i>I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.</i>		5. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE (MM-DD-YYYY)	
<input type="checkbox"/> I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee. <input type="checkbox"/> I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.		6A. COUNTY	
		6B. LAA NO.	
4A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE		7. STATE	
4B. DATE (MM-DD-YYYY)		DATE OF ELECTION IS 1st MONDAY OF DECEMBER OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR	
8. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE			
VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES: The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.			
ETHNICITY <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino		RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> America Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	
		GENDER <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM			
Complete the form as follows:			
ITEM 1 Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election. B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member. C. Willing to serve if elected. 			
ITEM 2 Enter the nominee's current address.			
ITEM 3 The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.			
ITEM 4 The nominee must sign and date.			
ITEM 8 Completing this item is voluntary.			
ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 1.			
NOTE: The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a) and the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, as amended. The authority for requesting the following information is 7 CFR Part 7. The information will be used to obtain nominees for County FSA Committee.			
<small>According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.</small>			

CRP Critical Feed Use

FSA has announced the authorization of certain acreage enrolled under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to be available for haying and grazing after the **primary nesting season ends which is, August 1st in Montana**. No rental payment reduction will be assessed on contracts being utilized for the critical feed use. However, a \$75 fee will be charged per contract to process the contract modification. The fee must be paid prior to the local FSA county committee approving the contract modification. The fee is not refundable.

Eligible CRP participants may sign up for the critical feed use practice at their local FSA office. Participants must submit a modification to their conservation plan. This modification for critical feed use is only for 2008. All haying and grazing must be completed no later than November 10, 2008. The critical feed use practice may be used on CRP acreage that was hayed or grazed in 2007 either under the Managed Haying and Grazing provisions or the Emergency Haying or Grazing provisions.

CRP participants may use their CRP acreage for haying or grazing or may lease the privilege to any other individual. CRP participants may not hay and graze the same acreage. At least 50 percent of each field must be left unhayed. Only one cutting of hay is permitted. CRP participants wishing to graze their CRP acreage must leave at least 25 percent of each field ungrazed for wildlife or graze all of the CRP acreage at no more than 75 percent of the stocking rate as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or a Technical Service Provider (TSP).

Prices for most field crops have advanced to record or near record levels in recent months, reflecting strong demand, tight supplies and competition for acres. The increased demand for commodities and resulting higher prices has impacted the livestock industry in particular. The critical feed practice will provide much needed feed and forage while maintaining the conservation benefits of the CRP program.



EQIP 2009 Deadline Approaching

The deadline to apply for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is approaching for 2009. If you are interested in implementing conservation practices on your land, please contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Townsend before July 1, 2008. Please call (406) 266-3146 extension 103 or stop in at 415 S. Front Street.



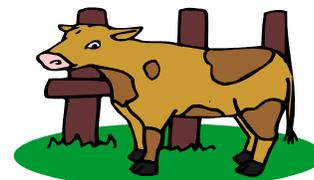
2008 Farm Reconstitutions Must Be Requested By August 1

If you have sold, purchased, or leased a farm or part of a farm, please notify this office immediately. If you need to request a farm division or a farm combination for 2008, the deadline to submit the request is August 1, 2008. If requests are not filed timely, it may be difficult to complete a 2008 DCP contract with all required signatures for the farm. Requests filed after August 1, 2008, will be processed for 2009.

The designation by landowner method is the division of bases in the manner agreed to by the parent farm owner and the purchaser. 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
- A tract is sold to 2 or more persons

In order to use the designation by landowner method, both of the following must be met: The land must have been owned for at least 3 years; And the original owner of the parent farm and the purchaser must file a signed document designating bases before the farm is reconstituted and before subsequent transfer of ownership.



Livestock Program Signup To End

The deadline to apply for the 2005-2007 livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) has been set for July 18, 2008.

LCP provides payments to eligible livestock owners and cash lessees who suffered (pasture growth) feed losses or increased feed costs because of a natural disaster. LIP provides payments to eligible livestock owners and contract growers who incurred the death of livestock because of a natural disaster. Please contact the local FSA Office for additional information.

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Important Dates to Remember

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July 15 – Acreage Report Deadline
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Census of Agriculture

It is not too late to turn in your Census of Agriculture. USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) wants everyone who received a census form to return the form or call NASS toll free at 1-888-424-7828. Even if you are a landlord or have a few chickens or a horse, NASS wants to account for your information. Your information can be taken over the phone. For further information contact the Montana Ag Statistics Service at 1-800-835-2612.

Reminder to File Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) Forms

The CCC-633-EZ form is a two-part loan deficiency payment request that allows producers to: 1) Indicate their intentions to receive LDP benefits before losing beneficial interest in the eligible commodity; and 2) Submit a request for an LDP at any time during the loan/LDP availability period before or after losing beneficial interest.

Page 1 of the form must be signed and filed with the FSA office before beneficial interest in the commodity is lost. Once beneficial interest is lost, the commodity is ineligible for an LDP even if beneficial interest is regained. All producers are encouraged to submit page 1 of the CCC-633 EZ for each crop year whether or not they plan to subsequently request a loan or LDP.

Once the first page of the form has been signed and submitted, the producer can submit an LDP request by completing page 2 for all harvested commodities or page 4 for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts. The LDP request (pages 2 & 4) can be submitted at any time during the loan availability period, before or after losing beneficial interest.

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