

**Carbon County FSA Office  
PO Box 509  
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**May 2008**

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**County Committee Members**

**Darell Stark – Chairman  
Carol Nott – Vice Chairman  
Melvin Hoferer – Regular Member**

**FSA Office Personnel**

**Julie Winters – CED ext 102  
Kelly Heiken – PT ext 109  
Melvin Stene – PT ext 108  
Jerry Swigert – TO ext 100**

**Dates to Remember:**

**April 18 – May 16** – Conservation Security Program Signup

**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  
**June 2** – Final loan/LDP availability date for Corn, Dry peas, Grain sorghum, Lentils, Mustard seed, Safflower seed, Small chickpeas, Soybeans, and Sunflower seed harvested in 2007

**June 15** – COC Nominations Open

**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

**July 15** – deadline to provide 2007 production for NAP APH

**July 15** – 2007 NAP Application for Payment Deadline

**July 15** – Acreage report deadline

**August 1** – Deadline for reconstitutions



# Carbon County FSA May 2008

## Responsibilities for CRP Contract Holders

CRP contract holders have certain responsibilities for carrying out the terms and conditions of the CRP contract. Those include, but are not limited to:

- ✓ Control all weeds, insects, pests and other undesirable species to the extent necessary to ensure that the establishment and maintenance of the approved cover is adequately protected and there is no adverse impact on surrounding land.
- ✓ Establish and maintain the required vegetative or water cover and other required practices.
- ✓ No activity may be conducted on CRP acres without authorization.
- ✓ Prior approval must be received from FSA before any harvesting, grazing or other commercial use of the forage may begin.
- ✓ If land with a CRP contract is sold, the new owners should notify the local county FSA office if they want to continue the contract.

If CRP land is sold and the new owner does not wish to continue the CRP contract, the previous CRP participant will be required to repay all payments received on the contract plus interest and liquidated damages. Liquidated damages are equal to 25 percent of the annual rental payment on those acres not contracted by the new owner.

**NOTE: There are two primary nesting Dates**

**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*

Check the Conservation Plan of Operations (CPO) for the primary nesting dates that apply to your CRP contract

### CRP Maintenance Incentives

When the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) was originally announced a \$5/year maintenance rate was added to the contract to maintain the cover. In 2006, that rate was lowered to \$4/year. As of April 11, 2008 that rate has been lowered to \$2/year. The new rate does not affect any contracts previously approved and only applies to contracts approved after April 11, 2008.

Producers are required to perform management activities included in all contracts approved after May, 2003. These activities are eligible for cost-share assistance.

Please contact the office if you have questions regarding your CRP contract.

### 2005, 2006, 2007 Crop Disaster Program

The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides benefits to producers who suffered crop quality losses in 2005, 2006, or 2007 due to adverse weather and weather related insect/disease infestation.

Commodities must have suffered a 25% reduction in value due to quality.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the selected year of benefits, i.e. 2005 or 2006 or 2007, and incurred qualifying quality losses, are eligible.

Eligible producers include those entitled to a share of the crop and who are at risk in the crop. The payment rate is set at 42% of the established price. Because the program is fully funded, no national factor is applicable. An \$80,000 payment limitation applies to each "person" for benefits received under CDP.

Our records (crop insurance indemnity downloads from the Risk Management Agency (RMA) / NAP policies / previous contact with you) indicate which producers may have suffered an eligible quality loss.

To proceed with the quality portion of CDP you must provide acceptable verifiable documentation substantiating the quality, quantity, and the price received or value of the stored production. You must be able to divide production between RMA units. In addition, you may provide copies of the Budweiser or Coors contract(s) for the specific year. **Please note that if crop insurance has adjusted the harvested bushels on your claim, you have in essence received a quality payment and may not be eligible for a CDP payment on the difference of the harvested and RMA bushels.**

### Loan & LDP Final Availability Dates

Loans and LDP's are available to eligible producers who have:

- ❖ Reported acreage of the crop for which a loan or LDP is requested.
- ❖ Complied with all other program provisions

Request for loans and LDP's shall be made on or before the final availability date. Following are the final availability dates for crops harvested in 2007 for eligible grains, oilseeds, pulse crops, wool & mohair and honey:

| Commodity  | Availability Date |
|--|-------------------|
| Corn, Grain sorghum, Mustard seed, Safflower seed, Soybeans, Sunflower seed, Dry peas, Lentils and Small chickpeas | May 31, 2008      |
| Wool/mohair for wool/mohair clipped in calendar year 2008  | January 31, 2009  |

### CRP Management Activities

Beginning with CRP Signup 26 and Continuous CRP Signup 27, all new CRP contracts were required to have a management activity included in the Conservation Plan of Operations (CPO). Management activities must be completed must be completed before the end of year 6 for 10 year contracts and before the end of year 9 for 15 year contracts.

Management activities include:

- Residue Management
- Ground Disturbing
- Interseeding Legumes
- Fabric Management
- Fertilization
- Prescribed Burn

Contact the county office for more detailed information.

## COC Election Approaching

Beginning **June 15, 2008**, 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 Carbon County is the Roberts / Red Lodge Area, Darell Stark. Darell has served on the COC his full term. The Carbon County FSA Office and COC Members would like to Thank Darell for his hard work and dedication on the COC committee.

The nominee must sign the nomination form in order to be nominated as a COC member.

Nomination forms are also available at the county office or by logging on to the Montana FSA website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.

Please remember that as a county committee member you are the local voice of how FSA programs are administered to meet your local community and resource needs.

Nomination forms must be submitted to the FSA county office by **August 1, 2008**. Ballots will be sent to eligible voters beginning November 3, 2008. The final day for voters to submit their voted ballots is December 1, 2008.

## Measurement Service Charges

On farm measurement is charged at:

- Basic farm fee of \$30.00;
- Plus an hourly rate of \$16.00 for the first hour and \$8.00 for each additional ½ hour after the first hour. The minimum is 1 hour.

The hourly rate includes the time to travel from the FSA county office to the farm, complete the measurement service and return to the county office.

An "Initial Fee" is required at the time the measurement service is requested and the fee must be collected before the measurement service is performed. The initial fee will be the basic rate plus the hourly minimum. Once the service has been completed the actual fee will be calculated. The initial fee will be subtracted from the calculated fee and a letter will be sent informing you of the additional amount owed. If the amount is \$9.99 or less then an additional fee is not required.

## Measurement Service Charges (cont.)

In-office measurements are charged at:

- a basic farm rate of \$15.00 plus a 30-minute minimum rate of \$8.00.

Bin site measurements will be calculated according to the farm number and the physical location of the bins:

- for one farm with multiple bin sites, only one FSA-409 (a written request to have acreage measured by FSA) is required;
- for multiple farms and all the grain is stored in bins at one site, only one FSA-409 is required where the bin site is physically located;
- for multiple farms with a different bin site for each farm, a separate FSA-409 is required for each farm and bin site.

## DCP Fruit and Vegetable Plantings

The 2008 Farm Bill has currently not been passed. FSA cannot predict the final terms of what Congress will adapt, however, to ensure compliance with pending farm bill proposals, producers with plans of planting fruit and vegetables (FAV's) in 2008 need to be aware of planting restrictions. These restrictions were applied to base acreage during the 2002 Farm Bill. Please contact the county office for a list of FAV restricted crops. When planting FAV's, producers had the following options:

1. Plant FAV's on a participating farm's "free acres".
2. Plant FAV's on base acreage of a participating farm that has a farm FAV history and takes an acre-for-acre reduction in the DCP payment. NOTE: Farm FAV history is based on the FAV planting history for 1991-1995 or 1998-2001.
3. Plant FAV's on base acreage of a participating farm without farm FAV history, using the producer's FAV history and takes an acre-for-acre reduction in DCP payment. NOTE: Producer FAV history is based on the planting history the producer has of each specific FAV crop.
4. Plant FAV's on a nonparticipating farm.

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### *Important Dates to Remember*

**May 31 – Final loan availability date for various crops  
June 15 – COC nominations open  
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  
July 15 – Acreage report deadline  
August 1 – Reconstitution Deadline**

### **Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium**

Mark your calendars for the annual Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium to be held September 30 & October 1 at the Clock Tower Inn in Billings, Montana.

A great slate of topics will be discussed such as Dispelling Agriculture Myths from the American Farm Bureau, a panel discussion from the congressional staffers, source water protection and farm-to-table. Ed Usset from the Minnesota Center for Farm Financial Management will be presenting "Grain Marketing is Simple." These are just a few of the topics, presentations, and activities that will occur during the two day event. Cost of registration is \$60 which includes meals and presentations.

The symposium will begin at 8:00 a.m. on September 30 with registration and end on October 1 at 2:00 p.m.

Continue to watch the newsletter for further details.

