

Custer County FSA
3120 Valley Drive East
Miles City MT 59301
(406) 232-7905 Ext. 2

County Committee

Members:

Jess Drange, Reg. Member
Ejner Hansen, Chair
Gail Shaw, Vice Chair

FSA Office Personnel:

Dale E. Barta, CED
Colette Butcher, PT
Kistia Golie, PT
Jodi Herzog, PT
Jeff Janshen, FLM
Bo Kombol, FLOT
Lacy Roberts, FLOT
Deb Thingvold, PT

Dates to Remember:

January – April – Continuation of Brand Liens

January 21 – Holiday – Office closed

January 28 – Annie's Project comes to 12 locations across Montana

January 31 – Final loan/LDP availability date for wool/mohair shorn in 2007

January 31 – Final LDP availability date for 2007 unshorn pelts

February 14 – Custer County Committee Meeting @ 11:00 a.m.

March 17, 2008 – NAP sales closing date for all crops except value loss crops



Custer County FSA

January 2008

Disaster Assistance Programs Payments Issued

Farm Service Agency offices have begun to issue payments for eligible producers applying for benefits with the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), and the Crop Disaster Program (CDP).

Producers in primary counties declared secretarial disaster areas or certain counties declared presidential disaster areas between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007 or producers located in counties contiguous to those counties are eligible. CDP does not require a disaster declaration.

Contact the office for further explanation of the programs or to make an appointment to discuss eligibility.

2008 Wool Loan Deficiency Program Available

The Consolidated Appropriation Act of 2008 authorizes Loan Deficiency Programs for 2008 crops of graded and ungraded wool, mohair and unshorn pelts through March 15, 2008.

Because March 15, 2008 falls on a Saturday, 2008 crop wool, mohair and unshorn pelts requests must be postmarked or fax date stamped on or before March 15, 2008. Producers who have lost beneficial interest prior to January 15, 2008 shall be allowed to use the LDP rate in effect on the date beneficial interest was considered lost. Producers are encouraged to contact the Custer County FSA to take advantage of the loan deficiency program payments. As of January 17th, the LDP rate for graded wool was \$.15.



Change in Farming Operation or Address

Producers are reminded to notify this office to report change in address or ownership. This is vital to assist this office in keeping records.

Change in Direct Deposit Account

The Debt Collection Act of 1996 mandates that payments from FSA be directly deposited into a producer's checking or savings bank account. It is important that any change in the producer's account such as type of account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

Submission of Applications via E-Government

As required by the Freedom to E-File Act, eForms provides customers with the option to electronically access, fill out, and print paper forms, or obtain secure electronic access credentials for signing and transmitting forms and other documents electronically to their local Service Center. Level 2 access is required. Step-by-step instructions are available on the Montana FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt> explaining the Level 2 access process. Contact the local county FSA office to complete your Level 2 registration.

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance may be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting, possessing or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium poppies and other drug producing plants.

Farm Loans:

FSA offers direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loan programs to farmers and ranchers who are temporarily unable to obtain private commercial credit. Rural youth loans, Beginning Farmer and Rancher, and assistance for socially disadvantaged persons are also available.

January 31 Deadline to Request 2007 Wool and Mohair Loans and LDPs

Wool and mohair producers have until January 31 to apply for either a nine-month, nonrecourse marketing assistance loan or a Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) for 2007-crop wool or mohair.

The national loan rate for ungraded wool offered as collateral will secure a non-recourse loan made at a rate of 40 cents per pound. For graded wool, loans will be based on the statutory rate of \$1.00 per pound. Producers who desire a non-recourse loan for mohair will receive the statutory rate of \$4.20 per pound. Loan rates will be adjusted based on a schedule of quality premiums and discounts applicable to the 2007 marketing year. The repayment amount per pound for mohair and for both graded and ungraded wool will be announced at close of business each Tuesday, and can be found on the Montana FSA website at:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.

For Montana the loan rates are divided into two regions by county. Producers should pick the correct region for their operation and then check the posted rates at:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/psd/MKTPRICLEAN2.htm> for region 2 counties and at:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/psd/MKTPRICLEAN3.htm> for region 3 counties.

Instead of obtaining a loan, producers may request LDPs on these commodities. The LDP rates will be the difference between the per pound loan rate and the weekly announced repayment rate. The repayment prices reflect prices being offered in the current market.

Under Represented Groups

FSA solicits and accepts nominations of under represented groups such as females and minority (American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander) producers for county committee representation. Please notify this office if you wish to be identified as a minority producer.

Annie's Project

Montana MarketManager will usher Annie's Project into Montana starting in January 2008. Annie's Project will be delivered in six 3-hour sessions at 12 locations around Montana. Each Monday evening session will run from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Registration is \$100.

Class locations:

Baker – Baker High School
 Bozeman – Burns Telecom Center, MSU
 Culbertson – Roosevelt Memorial Hospital
 Dillon – University of Montana – Western
 Glasgow – Frances Mahon Deaconess Hospital
 Great Falls – MSU College of Technology
 Havre – MSU Northern
 Lewistown – Central Montana Education Center
 Miles City – Miles City Community College
 Rapelje – Rapelje High School
 Scobey – Scobey High School
 Shelby – Marias Medical Center
 Sidney – ARS Center

For registration information logon to:
www.montanamarketmanager.org/Education&Reference/WorkshopCalendar or call the Montana Grain Growers office at 406/761-4596.

Reasonable Accommodation Statement

USDA is required to provide the reasonable accommodations statement semiannually in county office newsletters and on printed announcements of all public meetings, seminars or FSA sponsored training, and farm program orientation sessions.

Website

Producers may access FSA information and forms on the Montana Internet site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>

Civil Rights/Discrimination Process

As a participant or applicant for programs or activities operated or sponsored by USDA, you have a right to be treated fairly. If you believe you have been discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, disability, or marital or familial status, you may file a discrimination complaint.

The complaint should be filed with the USDA Office of Adjudication and Compliance within 180 days of the date you became aware the alleged discrimination occurred. To file a complaint of discrimination write: USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication and Compliance, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 326W, Whitten Building, Stop 9410, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD).

Foreign Person Rule

A foreign individual is someone who is not a citizen of the United States or a lawful alien possessing a valid Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-551 or I-151). A foreign entity is a corporation, trust, estate, limited partnership, limited liability company, or other similar organization that has more than 10 percent of its beneficial interest held by individuals who are not citizens of the United States or lawful aliens possessing a valid Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-551 or I-151). In addition to the requirements for "person" and "actively engaged in farming," the following significant contributions must be provided by an individual or entity considered to be a "foreign person." An individual determined to be a "foreign person" must provide a significant contribution of land, capital, and active personal labor.

Each foreign individual who is a member of an entity determined to be a "foreign person" must provide active personal labor to enable the entity to provide a significant contribution of active personal labor.

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Important Dates to Remember

January 21 – Office Closed
January 31 – Final loan/LDP availability due date for wool/mohair shorn in 2007
January 31 – Final LDP availability date for 2007 unshorn pelts
March 17 – NAP application closing date for all crops except value loss and honey
March 17 – Crop insurance sales closing date for 2007 spring-seeded crops

Census of Agriculture Coming Soon

Beginning December 28, 2007, the National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) will mail out Census of Agriculture forms to collect data for the 2007 calendar year. Completed forms are due by February 4, 2008. Forms may be returned by mail or, for the first time, forms may be filled out online via a secure web site.

Conducted every five years by USDA, the Census is a complete count of the nation's farm and ranches and the people who operate them. The Census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures and other topics. The Census provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation.

For more information about the 2007 Census of Agriculture, contact the NASS Montana Field Office at 406/441-1240 or 1-800-835-2612 or logon to the Montana Agriculture Statistics website at <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov>.