



FARM SERVICE AGENCY

# Daniels County FSA

## March 2009

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Daniels County FSA  
131 B Hwy 5 East  
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Scobey, MT 59263-0127  
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### County Committee Members

Rick Marriage – Chair  
Murray Dighans– Vice-Chair  
Alan Danelson– Member  
Karen Tande – Minority Advisor

### FSA Office Personnel

Smokey Benson, CED ----- ext. 102  
Lisa Tvedt, PT ----- ext. 112  
JoAnn Lekkold, PT ----- ext. 113  
Bonnie Modine, PT ----- ext. 114  
Molly Crohn, PT ----- ext. 116  
Jaylein Nickels, Loan Officer - ext. 110  
Gerry Farver, Field ----- ext. 111

### Dates to Remember:

**March 15** – Spring grazing on CRP acres begins

**March 16** – NAP Sales closing date for all crops except value loss crops and honey

**March 16** – Crop insurance sales closing date for 2008 spring-seeded crops

**March 25-28** – FFA Convention – Great Falls.

**March 31** – Final loan/LDP availability date for various crops harvested in 2008

**May 1** – NAP Pull off date

**May 14** – Spring grazing on CRP acres ends

**May 15** – Beginning date of Primary Nesting Season

**June 1** – DCP signup deadline

### 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program Signup

The 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) program for farms with base acres began December 22, 2008 and will continue until June 1, 2009. Farms may not be enrolled after June 1 of the applicable contract period. There are no late filed provisions for contract years 2009-2012.

Commodities covered by DCP include: wheat, corn, grain sorghum, including dual purpose varieties that can be harvested as grain; barley, oats, soybeans, canola, flaxseed, mustard seed, safflower, crambe, sesame seed, rapeseed and sunflowers including oil and non-oil varieties. Pulse crops have been added as an eligible commodity for the 2009 crop year for counter-cyclical payments only. Pulse crops include dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas (Garbanzo bean, Desi), and large chickpeas (Garbanzo bean, Kabuli). Base acreage may not exceed the available DCP cropland acreage on the farm. A producer with the sum of the base acreage on the farm with 10 acres or less must be a minority or limited resource farmer or rancher to be eligible for DCP payments. Reconstitutions of farms with 10 base acres or less are now allowed.

Direct and Counter-cyclical payments for the 2009 year will be made on 83.3 percent of the farm's base acreage. Final direct payments will be issued in October 2009.

Direct payment rates are:

Barley	\$0.24/bu
Corn	\$0.28/bu
Grain Sorghum	\$0.35/bu
Oats	\$0.024/bu
Other Oilseeds	\$0.80/cwt
Soybeans	\$0.44/bu
Wheat	\$0.52/bu

Planting flexibility is allowed but includes planting restrictions for fruits and vegetables on base acreage without farm or producer history. To maintain eligibility: 1) meet Highly Erodible Land and Wetland provisions requirements; 2) report all cropland acres; 3) meet actively engaged in farming and person determination requirements; and 4) comply with adjusted gross income provisions. Payment limitation amounts are \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments.

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**NAP Deadline March 16**

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 not only for production coverage but also for eligibility for the new permanent disaster programs created in the 2008 Farm Bill.

In order for producers to be **eligible** for assistance under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance (**SURE**) Program and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, and Honey Bees, (**ELAP**), and the Tree Assistance Program (**TAP**) producers must obtain a plan of insurance for each insurable and non-insurable commodity on the farm, **excluding grazing**. To be eligible for assistance under the Livestock Forage Program (**LFP**) producers must obtain either coverage under the Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage Rainfall Index Pilot Program through crop insurance, or NAP coverage, or both on their grazing land.

Producers must file the required paperwork and pay the administrative fee by the NAP closing date of **March 16, 2009** for all crops except value-loss and honey. The deadline for value-loss and honey for 2009 has passed.

**Please contact the office to ensure your eligibility for the new disaster assistance programs by March 16<sup>th</sup>.**

**Secretarial Designations – Eligibility for Disaster Programs**

Fifteen Montana counties were declared primary natural disaster areas during the period beginning January 1, 2008 and continuing.

The following counties have received the disaster designation:

Broadwater	Fallon	Prairie
Big Horn	Gallatin	Richland
Custer	Golden Valley	Roosevelt
Daniels	Madison	Sheridan
Dawson	McCone	Wibaux

**Secretarial Designations – Eligibility for Disaster Programs (cont.)**

Contiguous counties include:

Beaverhead	Meagher	Silver Bow
Carter	Mineral	Stillwater
Carbon	Musselshell	Sweet Grass
Fergus	Park	Treasure Valley
Garfield	Powder River	
Jefferson	Rosebud	Wheatland
Lewis and Clark	Sanders	Yellowstone

The disaster designation has an important significance in those counties as it allows eligible producers within those 15 counties and contiguous counties to participate in the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE). SURE was one of the disaster programs created under the 2008 Farm Bill. It provides financial assistance for crop production and or quality losses due to a natural disaster. Two triggers make the program available:

- A Secretarial Disaster designation **and** at least a 10 percent crop production loss on at least one crop of economic significance which is defined as a crop which is expected to contribute at least 5 percent of the farm's income (Nationwide); or
- In the absence of a secretarial disaster declaration, farms in which the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm. Producers in counties that did not receive a secretarial declaration or contiguous county declaration have only this option available to qualify for SURE.

SURE requires that all crops in all counties in the nation be included on one application regardless if only one county received a secretarial declaration.

In addition, producers must have crop insurance of Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for all crops excluding grazing lands. SURE does not pay for losses on crops intended for grazing. **Signup for SURE is unknown at**

### **Mixed Grain/Hay Loan LDP Eligibility**

USDA does not establish loan rates for mixed commodities. A mixed commodity harvested as grain that does not meet grading standards is not eligible for a loan or Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP). A mixed commodity that is hayed or harvested as silage is not eligible for an LDP.

Eligibility for Grain/Oilseeds/Pulse Crops Harvested as **Grain** – If a mixed commodity is harvested as grain and a farm-stored loan or LDP is applied for; a sample of the harvested crop must be taken to a licensed Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) laboratory for grading, at the producer's expense. Loan or LDP eligibility will be determined based on the results of the sample.

Eligibility for Grain/Oilseeds/Pulse Crops Harvested as **Other Than Grain** – If the mixed commodity is harvested as hay or silage, there is no test to determine the percentage of each commodity in the mixture to establish the grade and class. Therefore, crops planted in a mixture and hayed or harvested for silage are not eligible for an LDP.

A commodity planted as a nurse crop with alfalfa may be eligible for an LDP if a full seeding is planted and the commodity is reported as the intended use for grain or forage. The County Committee may require documentation to support the seeding rate.

### **Ensure Benefits Are Received in a Timely Manner**

To ensure USDA program benefits are received in a timely manner, please ensure you are consistent in the way you are presenting your operation to all USDA agencies including NRCS, Risk Management Agency (RMA), FSA and any other USDA agency programs you may partake in. For example, if you have signed up for program benefits with FSA as Joe Farmer, please sign up with NRCS as Joe Farmer. This will ensure Joe Farmer has completed all program paperwork and is eligible to receive payments. When in doubt, ask your county office.

### **Changes to FSA Payment Processing**

FSA started using a new payment processing system the first part of 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.

No payments will be processed in the County Office.

### **New Loan Interest Rates Provided**

The interest rate for Marketing Assistance Grain loans changed at the beginning of 2009. The interest rate is 1.625%. This rate will stay in effect until the loan is paid in full.

### **Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to participate in FSA programs should contact:**

**Myron E. Benson, CED**

**131 B Hwy 5 E**

**(406) 487-5366 ext 102**

[myron.benson@mt.usda.gov](mailto:myron.benson@mt.usda.gov)

### **Final Loan/LDP Availability is March 31**

March 31 is the final loan/LDP availability date for Barley, Canola, Flaxseed, Oats, Rapeseed, Crambe and Wheat.

For the 2008 crop of the commodities listed above, loans and LDP's will no longer be available after March 31, 2009.

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### *Important Dates to Remember*

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## Spring Grazing on Conservation Reserve Program Acres

The 2009 grazing period for managed grazing of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres is March 15<sup>th</sup> through May 14<sup>th</sup>. CRP participants who want to graze their CRP contracts this spring must sign up at the office.

Grazing cannot begin until the participant (s) receives written approval from the local FSA county committee or its designee. Spring managed grazing must end before May 15<sup>th</sup>, which is the start of Montana's Primary Nesting and Broodrearing Season.

Participants may graze CRP acres based on the rotation period (once every three years or once every 5 years) and other limitations that are included in their Conservation Plan of Operations. Producers wishing to graze CRP acres must first receive written notification of approval from the FSA county committee before managed grazing can begin. Livestock producers, who rent or lease acreage from the CRP participant, shall sign a statement agreeing not to sublease the CRP acreage and receive notification of approval from the FSA county committee, a copy of which they should provide to the CRP participant. All livestock must be removed from the CRP acreage when the calculated AUM's are utilized, but no later than May 14<sup>th</sup> for spring grazing. CRP participants will be assessed a payment reduction for managed grazing which is calculated by taking the number of acres grazed, times the CRP per acre annual rental payment, times 25 percent.

Managed grazing *and* managed haying of CRP will be allowed in 2009, however, a starting date for the summer/fall managed grazing *and* managed haying for CRP will be announced later.

**NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK is March 15-21, 2009.** It is a time to celebrate American agriculture and honor the people who work to meet our everyday needs. FSA in Montana thanks the many farmers and ranchers we work with on a daily basis.