

NOVEMBER 2008

Fallon County FSA Office
P.O. Box 1516
Baker, Montana 59313
(406) 778-2238
Fax: (406) 778-2965

County Committee Members

Robert Wenz, Chair
Brian Rustad, Vice Chair
Maralee Burdick, Regular Mem.

FSA Office Personnel

Maria L. Braun, CED - Ext. 102
Kay Varner, PT - Ext. 104
Sonja Wiseman, PT - Ext. 100
Ray Allerdings, Field - Ext. 108
Sharon Gookin – Temp. Off. – Ext. 105
Robin Markuson – Farm Loan Officer
(406) 775-6359 Ext. 110

Dates to Remember:

November 3: Final date for COC ballots to be mailed to producers

November 4: Election Day

November 6: Range Workshop – 8:30 – 4:30 at THEE Garage in Baker -

November 11: Office Closed – Veterans Day

November 13: Agronomy Workshop – 8:30 – 4:30 at THEE Garage in Baker

November 18 – 20: Office closed – All personnel attending Farm Bill Training

November 26: Signup Deadline for 2008 DCP 10 acre or less farms

November 27: Office Closed – Thanksgiving Day

November 30: Deadline to purchase MPCII grazing insurance – contact your agent

December 1: NAP application closing date for Honey

December 1: COC ballots for LAA 1 must be returned by close of business

December 5: Fallon County COC Meeting – Count Ballots at 3:00 p.m.

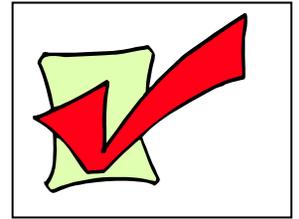
December 25: Office Closed – Christmas Day

January 1: Office Closed – New Year's Day

FALLON COUNTY FSA NEWS

County Committee Election

In November be watching your mailbox for your official county Committee election ballot. Eligible voters will begin receiving ballots following November 3, 2008. If you do not receive a ballot within two weeks following November 3rd, please contact the county office. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by close of business on December 1st.



**GET INVOLVED, HAVE A VOICE IN THE ADMINISTRATION
OF USDA PROGRAMS AT THE LOCAL LEVELVOTE**

REMINDERS

✓ **Bank Accounts:** If you have moved/cancelled/or changed a Direct Deposit account you need to let the County office know. Several payments for CRP were held up due to accounts that had been closed and/or changed without contacting the FSA office.

✓ Any **farm changes or reconstitutions** need to be brought into the FSA office before April 1, 2009. *Please remember to notify us immediately if you have changes in your operation (ex. sales, purchases, leases and/or shares)*

✓ **Make Sure Your Proper Signature Authorization is on File:** FSA reviews every producer's eligibility file to determine who is authorized to sign program documents in representative capacities and reviews all program documents to determine if the signature format is proper. For a complete listing of FSA signature requirements, contact the FSA office or logon to the Montana FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt> and click on the **Signature Authority Pamphlet** link under "In the News."

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Payments Issued

FSA in Montana will be issuing more than \$116 million in CRP rental payment to participating producers for fiscal year 2008. Montana has more than 3.4 million acres enrolled in CRP across the state.

Fallon County CRP participants received payments the 2nd week of October. The Fallon County FSA office paid out approximately \$2,500,000.00 to CRP participants in October.

A THANK YOU AND REMEMBRANCE TO VETERANS ON VETERAN'S DAY - NOVEMBER 11

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to participate in FSA programs at the Fallon County FSA office should contact Maria L. Braun at 406-778-2238, ext#102.

PLEASE READ – CORRECTIONS FROM OCTOBER NEWSLETTER!!!!

Annual Notice of Payment Eligibility to Producers

FSA program benefits may not be provided to any producer until the applicable payment eligibility determinations are made. A producer will remain ineligible until all required forms for the specific situation are provided.

New forms (CCC-902) and regulations are in the process of being implemented. All participants will be required to complete the new eligibility forms for the 2009 program year. These new forms and associated procedures are not yet available, please be patient as we work to implement the new farm bill. **Previous rules on permitted entity designation will no longer apply for the 2009 and future years.** All payments, including those made for the individual’s pro-rata share in an entity, will now be attributed to a **single payment limitation for the applicable individual**, though they will be issued as usual to the payment-earning entity. In addition, payment entities with the exception of joint operations will be limited to a single payment limitation overall. Payment Limitation/Eligibility determinations may be initiated by the FSA County Committee or requested by the producer. Statutory provisions require that entities earning program benefits provide FSA with the names, addresses, and tax ID numbers for the members of the entity.

All Payment Eligibility forms (CCC-902) submitted by a producer are subject to spot check through the End-of-Year Review process. Farming operations selected for an End-of-Year Review will be required to submit additional documents to verify their contributions of capital, land, equipment, labor, and management. Individuals, joint operations, or entities which are determined to be “not actively engaged in farming,” will be ineligible for Direct and Counter Cyclical (DCP) Payments, Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Payments, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP’s), Marketing Loan Gains and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) payments.

Adjusted Gross Income Limitations

New Adjusted Gross Income limitations will be in place for 2009 and future years. There are three limitations to consider now, one that affects all commodity programs, one that affects DCP only, and one that applies to Conservation Programs only. These certifications will be based on the average income in the three years preceding the most recent complete tax year (so, for the 2009 program year, the years in consideration will be 2005, 2006, and 2007). The table below summarizes these limits:

\$500,000 Average Adjusted Gross Non-farm Income	Exceed this – ineligible for any commodity, price support or disaster program benefits
\$750,000 Average Adjusted Gross Farm Income	Exceed this – ineligible for DCP Direct Payments
\$1,000,000 Average Adjusted Gross Non-farm Income	Exceed this – ineligible for Conservation programs, unless 66.66% or more of AGI is average adjusted gross farm income

Direct and indirect program participants will be required to certify to the new income limitations for the 2009 crop year on form CCC-926 or through an accountant’s or attorney’s certification. The Adjusted Gross Income Certification form is no longer a continuous certification and must now be filed at least once every 3 years. The new form and procedures are not yet available, additional information, including specifics on what is considered farm income and what is considered non-farm income will be made available at a future date.

NASS to Conduct Cash Rent Survey

The 2008 Farm Bill directs the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to collect annual data from producers at the county level on cash rental rates paid for cropland and pastureland. Until this year, NASS only published this information at the national and state levels. This year NASS will collect and publish it at the county level.

Between October and January, NASS will be collecting the county cash rent data in several ways. Questions will be included in four of the agency’s ongoing surveys: 1) biannual cattle survey; 2) biannual sheep and goats survey; 3) quarterly crops/stocks survey; 4) annual acreage and production survey. Producers not covered by one of those surveys will be mailed a separate cash rents survey.

FSA and other USDA agencies rely on cash rent data to administer commodity, credit, conservation, disaster, and loan programs. The county-level data will be of particular use in FSA’s administration of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). For further information, please contact Peggy Stringer or Jodie Sprague in the USDA, NASS Montana Field Office at 1-800-835-2612 or e-mail nass-mt@nass.usda.gov.

PRICE SUPPORT INFORMATION



2008 Wool LDP

Producers need to get their 2008 wool clip production into the office prior to January 31st, 2009 in interested in an LDP.

UNAUTHORIZED DISPOSITION OF MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOAN COLLATERAL

For those producers that have a loan on any grain with the FSA office this is a reminder that Unauthorized Disposition is the conversion of any loan quantity pledged as collateral for a farm-stored loan without prior written authorization from CCC.

Producers who remove or dispose of outstanding loan collateral without prior approval from CCC have committed a violation. When a violation is discovered, the Fallon County Committee (COC) has to assume that a good faith cannot be determined and the unauthorized disposition must be reported to the State Executive Director (SED).

So please contact the FSA office prior to moving any grain. This includes moving from quonset to bin, bin to bin, feeding or moving grain to town for sale. When you move the grain for sale you must get an authorization from the COF to move the loan collateral. If you are moving grain on the farm contact the office immediately for further instructions.

LDPs are also subject to mandatory spot checks. Please contact the office if you have any questions. Thank you for your attention in this very important matter.

DCP Provisions Amended to Include 10 Acre or Less Farms

The 2008 Farm Bill has been amended to permit producers on a farm with the sum of the base acres of covered commodities on the farm of 10.0 acres or less to receive DCP payments. The amendment only affects the 2008 contract year.

Producers on farms with 10.0 base acres or less have until **November 26, 2008** to enroll a farm for the 2008 DCP. The extended DCP signup does not affect the signup deadline for farms with greater than 10.0 base acres. Producers with 10.0 acres or less must ensure they have a completed CCC-509 (DCP contract) at the FSA office by November 26th to be eligible for benefits.

Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Program (SURE)

SURE is one of five new disaster assistance programs authorized under the 2008 Farm Bill. SURE is available to eligible producers on farms in disaster counties, including contiguous counties that have incurred crop production losses and/or crop quality losses during the crop year.

SURE assistance is also available to eligible producers on farms in which the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm.

For SURE purposes, a farm is defined as all crop acreages in all counties in the nation.

To be eligible for SURE and the other programs in the "Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance" package authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill, producers must purchase at least catastrophic (CAT) level of crop insurance for all insurable crops and/or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for non-insurable crops by the sales closing dates. **The sales closing date for NAP is March 15, 2009** for all crops except value loss and honey. **The sales closing date for the Pasture, Rangeland, Forage Index Program is November 30, 2008.** Please check with the office or your crop insurance sales person to ensure eligibility in the disaster programs.

NAP Service Fees Increased

Service fees for the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) have increased for the 2009-2012 crop year. An administrative service fee is required to purchase the insurance. The service fee has increased to:

- \$250 per crop per administrative county; or
- \$750 per producer per county;
- not to exceed \$1,875 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties.
- Service fees may be waived for limited-resource producers. **The sales closing date for all Noninsurable (NAP) crops except value loss and honey is March 15, 2009.**

Fallon County Farm Service Agency
P.O. Box 1516
Baker, Montana 59313-1516

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Happy Thanksgiving from all of us
here at the FSA Office!!



Agricultural Financial and Production Management Workshops to be Held

FSA, in conjunction with Montana State University (MSU) Extension Service will be conducting Financial and Production Management training beginning November 3, 2008. Topics to be covered are: 1) goals and assessments; 2) family business issues; 3) production records; 4) intro. and advanced quicken; 5) beginning estate planning; 6) financial analysis; 7) advanced estate planning; 8) crop and livestock marketing; and 9) energy.

The training will be conducted via a video conferencing method called BREEZE. These trainings will be available to current and future FSA loan recipients as well as to the general public. Participants will be asked to pay a registration fee to cover the cost of the video conferencing. Contact the location of your choice for further information. Workshop locations are:

Location

Baker USDA Service Center
Blackfeet Community College, Contact Terry Tatsey
Blaine County Extension Service
Bozeman USDA Service Center
Choteau USDA Service Center
Dillon USDA Service Center
Ekalaka USDA Service Center
Fort Belknap Extension Service
Fort Peck Community College – Contact Tom Black Eagle
Great Falls USDA Service Center
Lewistown USDA Service Center
Little Big Horn College, Contact Fredrica Lefthand
Miles City USDA Service Center
NTDA Office, Stone Child Campus

Phone Contact

(406) 778-2238 Ext. 2
(406) 338-5441 Ext. 760
(406) 357-3200
(406) 522-4000 Ext. 2
(406) 466-5351 Ext. 2
(406) 683-3830 Ext. 2
(406) 775-6355 Ext. 2
(406) 353-2205 Ext. 484
(406) 653-3900
(406) 727-7580 Ext. 2
(406) 538-3489 Ext. 2
(406) 638-3131
(406) 232-7905 Ext. 2
(406) 395-4095