

October 2008

Fallon County FSA Office
P.O. Box 1516
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PH: (406) 778-2238 Ext. 2
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County Committee Members

Robert Wenz, Chair
Brian Rustad, Vice-Chair
Maralee Burdick, Reg. Member

FSA Office Personnel

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

Dates to Remember:

October 6 – CRP/Final DCP Payments begin being issued

October 13: Office Closed for Columbus Day

October 13 – Deadline for removal of hay from CRP Managed haying

October 15 – Deadline to have NAP production into FSA office

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

November 4 – Election Day

November 11 – Office Closed – Veterans Day

November 18 – 20: Office closed - Personnel gone to farm bill training

November 30: DEADLINE to purchase NEW RFP (Rangeland, Forage, Pasture) insurance – also DEADLINE for acreage report for same program – contact your MPC insurance agent.

December 1 – NAP application closing date for Honey

December 1 – COC ballots must be returned by close of business

March 15 – Deadline to purchase NAP for forage, grazing and noninsurable spring crops – Contact the FSA office

Farm Service Agency

Fallon County FSA News

October 2008

NAP and Crop Insurance Coverage Imperative for Disaster Programs

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 2008 Farm Bill disaster assistance programs. **Coverage must be provided on all crops as well as grazing land.**

For producers to be **eligible** for assistance under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (**SURE**) Program, Tree Assistance Program (**TAP**) and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, and Honey Bees, (**ELAP**), producers must obtain a plan of insurance for each insurable commodity on the farm and, for each non-insurable commodity. The producer must file the required paperwork and pay the administrative fee by the NAP closing date of March 15, 2009 for all crops except value-loss and honey. The sales closing date for honey is December 1.

To be eligible for assistance under the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), producers must obtain a plan of insurance or file the required paperwork and pay the administrative fee by the NAP closing date of March 15, 2009 for the grazing land incurring losses for which assistance is being requested.

The NAP application closing date for value loss crops is September 1, 2008.

According to the 2008 Farm Bill, a farm is defined as the sum of all crop acreage in all counties that is planted or intended to be planted for harvest by the eligible producer.

Please contact the office to ensure your eligibility for the disaster assistance programs by applying for NAP by the application closing dates.

MONTANA HAY HOTLINE: Contact the Montana Hay hotline by phone (406) 444-2402; email agr@mt.gov or see information on the website at www.agr.mt.gov/crops/hay/hotline.asp.

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.

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 ID numbers for the members of the entity. Furthermore, entities earning payments must inform their members of the requirements for designating "permitted entities." All Payment Eligibility forms (CCC-502) 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 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, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's), Marketing Loan Gains, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) payments, and possible Disaster related program payments.

Spouses may be determined to be two "Persons" only if this determination is requested in writing and the applicable requirements are met by each spouse.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Stop by the office for a Treat



Container Approved for Honey

Honey producers requesting marketing assistance loans may now pack their honey in approved five-gallon plastic containers. The containers must hold about 60 pounds of honey, have a tight fitting cover, have strong handles, and be lined with an FDA-approved low-density polyethylene liner.



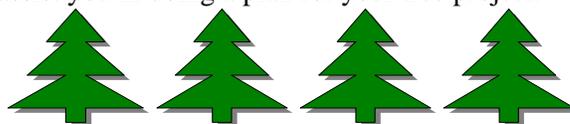
NAP Final Date for Honey Producers

The final date for honey producers to file a 2009 NAP Application for Payment is December 1, 2008 or within 30 days of the placement of hives. There are no late-filed provisions for the Application for Payment. A complete application for payment includes acceptable verifiable production evidence. If the production is not sold by January 2, 2009, a measurement service can be requested to verify the production.

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.

TREES FOR 2009: The Little Beaver Conservation District is currently taking orders for trees for the spring of 2009. The deadline to order trees is November 15. Please contact the office at 778-2238 Ext. 111 and visit with Starla. Also please check with the FSA office to see if you would be eligible for a Continuous CRP contract and/or with the NRCS office to assist you in doing a plan for your tree project.



County Committee Election:

Please be watching your mailbox for your official county committee election ballot. Eligible voters will begin receiving ballots following November 3rd. If you do not receive a ballot within two weeks please contact the county office. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by close of business on December 1st. The LAA that is up for election is LAA 1. The current COC member for that area is Brian Rustad. Thank you for taking your time to VOTE!!!

CRP Payments Begin In October

FSA will begin issuing Conservation Reserve Program payments to eligible producers in October, 2008. In Montana, FSA will issue more than \$116.9 million dollars to eligible CRP participants. The payments are annual rental payments earned on 3,480,849 acres enrolled in CRP in Montana.

OVERVIEW

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary program for agricultural landowners. Through CRP, annual rental payments and cost-share assistance can be received to establish long-term, resource-conserving covers on eligible farmland.

The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) makes annual rental payments based on the agriculture rental value of the land, and it provides cost-share assistance for up to 50 percent of the participant's costs in establishing approved conservation practices. Participants enroll in CRP contracts for 10 to 15 years.

BENEFITS

CRP protects millions of acres of American topsoil from erosion and is designed to safeguard the Nation's natural resources. By reducing water runoff and sedimentation, CRP protects groundwater and helps improve the condition of lakes, rivers, ponds, and streams. Acreage enrolled in the CRP is planted to resource-conserving vegetative covers, making the program a major contributor to increased wildlife populations in many parts of the country.

CONTINUOUS CRP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) allows participants to voluntarily enroll acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provides wildlife habitat. The acreage must meet cropping history requirements and be suitable for eligible conservation practices. If eligibility requirements are met, FSA will automatically accept enrollment for Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year. An example of a Continuous CRP contract would be a tree planting and now is the time to be researching the CRP program, preparing the soil and ordering trees for 2009. For more information please contact the FSA office.

Commodity Loans, Not a Disaster Program

Commodity loans are not a means of compensating producers for production of low quality grain. The loans are available to allow producers a method of short term financing using the commodity as security for the loan. The commodity is generally certified as being of US Grade 2 or better and, if the quality of the grain is less than US Grade 2 or has other grading factors that normally result in reduced value upon sale, those same discounts will apply upon forfeiture of the grain to CCC in lieu of loan repayment with cash. Some common factors that will cause discounts to apply are low test weight, low protein, and falling numbers. Discounts will apply for other grading factors as well.

Loans taken on low test weight farm stored grain may have discounts applied to the loan rate prior to loan disbursement. Sample grade grain is eligible only for a recourse loan with discounts applied at loan making or for a non-recourse loan at 20 percent of the county loan rate.

Producers will not be able to receive commodity loan proceeds on the date of the loan applications because time is needed to complete lien searches, file liens with the Secretary of State, and receive lien waivers. If you are interested in obtaining Market Assistance Loan (MAL) please contact Kay at (406) 778-2238 Ext. 104.

**DEADLINE FOR NAP PRODUCERS:
PLEASE BRING YOUR 2008
PRODUCTION REPORTS INTO THE
COUNTY OFFICE BY OCTOBER 15,
2008. THIS IS ALSO THE SAME
DATE THAT IS BEING REQUESTED
BY THE LOCAL INSURANCE
AGENTS FOR MPC I PRODUCTION.
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS
PLEASE CONTACT MARIA AT 778-
2238 Ext. 102.**

FALLON COUNTY FSA OFFICE
PO BOX 1516
BAKER MT 59313-1516

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PERMIT #54

REMINDERS FOR 2008 FALL DEADLINES

- ✓ **CRP Managed Grazing:** When livestock are removed from CRP Managed Grazing, please complete the DF-25 and return to the FSA office immediately.
- ✓ **CRP Managed Hay:** Deadline to have bales off CRP acres is Oct. 13 then complete the production report form DF-25 and return to the FSA office immediately.
- ✓ **Insurance:** Don't forget to turn in your **acreage report** to your agent for Fall seeded and hay and grazing acres for 2009 along with the production report.
- ✓ **Deadline** – Insurance – the deadline for the new Pasture, Rangeland and Forage (PRF) program is November 30th – you must have insurance or NAP coverage to be eligible for the 2009 disaster program for grazing LFP (Livestock Forage Program). Contact the office with any questions or concerns.
- ✓ **2008 NAP Crop Production:** The deadline to have 2008 production turned into the FSA office for NAP crops is **October 15**. Please contact your insurance agent immediately for the deadline for multi-peril crops.



National Animal Identification System (NAIS)

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) developed policies for implementing NAIS for protecting U.S. livestock and poultry from potentially devastating pests and diseases through an identification system that enabled faster response with more precision.

NAIS consists of three components: 1) premise registration, 2) animal identification, and 3) animal tracking. Premise registration is the foundation of the NAIS and is the first component to be implemented.

Premise registration is voluntary, free, quick, and does not commit producers to participate in the other components of NAIS. To find out how to register a premise, visit USDA's NAIS website at <http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/index.shtml>.