



Gallatin County FSA Office
3710 W Fallon St, #D
Bozeman, MT 59718
(406) 522-4000 (Opt. 2)
(406) 522-4036 (Fax)

County Committee

Terry Triemstra-Chairman
Maynard Flikkema-ViceChair
Bob Hofman-Reg. Member
Jodi Camp, Advisor

FSA Office Personnel

Bob Broyles, CED
Bill Ballard, FLM
Kristi Parker, PT
Keshia Lind, PT
Norbert Kern, Field man

Dates to Remember:

February 18 – Holiday Office closed

March 17 – NAP sales closing date for all crops except value loss and honey

March 17 – Crop insurance sales closing date for 2007 spring-seeded crops

March 31 – Final loan/LDP availability date for various crops harvested in 2007

April 1 – Deadline for payment limitation changes

May 15-July 15 – Primary Nesting Season under the old CRP hay/graze provisions

May 15-August 1 – Primary Nesting Season under the new CRP hay/graze provisions

June 2 – Final loan/LDP availability date – various crops harvested in 2007

Gallatin County News

February 2008

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Provisions Continued

The 2002 Farm Bill implemented the AGI at \$2.5 million limited. Those provisions for AGI have been extended through March 15, 2008. Until then, FSA county offices will:

- Accept AGI certifications as necessary for crop years 2003 through 2007;
- Obtain AGI certifications for 2008 for emergency, disaster, and conservation program purposes.

Each program has an established payment limitation that applies to all farming operations. Details for each program's payment limitation may be obtained at the county office. Further information will be provided as it is received regarding updated AGI provisions.

Change in Farming Operation or Address

Producers are reminded to notify this office to report any changes. This may include land sales, leases, entity changes including members or shares, bank accounts for direct deposit of payments, or any other changes to your farming operation. This also includes ownership changes for estate planning purposes. This is vital to assist this office in keeping up-to-date records. Failure to report these changes could delay payments or make you ineligible to receive payments at all.

Disaster Programs Expanded

Signup is currently underway for the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), and the Crop Disaster Program (CDP). Initially these programs were limited to disaster designations or crops planted prior to February 28, 2007. They have now been expanded to run through December 31, 2007. For LIP and LCP, this means that application can be made for either 2006 or 2007. If you feel you suffered dry land pasture loss (LCP) in either year, contact the office. For CDP, you may now apply for benefits on losses on any insured or NAP covered crop planted for harvest in 2007. Please contact the office or logon to the Montana FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/mt for eligibility requirements. No signup end date has been announced yet for these disaster programs.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

NAP provides financial assistance to producers of Non-insurable crops when low yields occur as a result of natural disaster. Eligible crops are those commercially produced for food, livestock consumption, and some specialty crops. Eligible producers must pay an administrative service fee of \$100 per crop per administrative county or \$300 per producer per county, not to exceed \$900 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties. Service fees may be waived for limited-resource producers. **Payment of a service fee does not guarantee coverage.** There are many eligibility requirements that must be met. ***The Application Closing Date for all crops except value loss and honey is March 17, 2008.*** Contact the office for further information.

NAP Pull Off

Each FSA County Committee determines the date when livestock must be removed from NAP forage acres each spring. The date determined for Gallatin County is May 1, 2008. The pull off date for crops intended for grass seed is April 1 in all counties.

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).

1099-G Mailed from Kansas City

During the last week of January, producers who have received payments from FSA should have also received a CCC-1099-G from the Kansas City office. A CCC-1099-G is a report to the Internal Revenue Service about FSA payments made to you in calendar year 2007. The CCC-1099-G is a service to help participating producers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the program participant's responsibility to report income to the IRS.

If you received a CCC-1099-G, we recommend that you check the amounts shown with those in your records to see that the amounts are correct. Refunds will no longer be reported on the 1099-G, but will be available online from the FSA Financial Inquiries (FSA-FI) web-based database. Program participants with eAuthentication user ID's and passwords can access their refund information at FSA-FI and select "Inquiry Type 1099/Refund Reports". Refund amounts are displayed on the Producer's Year-to-Date Activity web page.

If you have a question concerning the 1099-G refund information, you may contact the county office for assistance locating the correct payment data. If you choose to visit the office, bring your CCC-1099-G with you.

Step-by-step instructions for obtaining a Level 2 access to obtain your CCC-1099-G electronically are available on the Montana Internet site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt> under the "I Want To" section and by clicking on the "Do Electronic Business with FSA on My Home Computer."

Disaster Payments Issued
To date more that \$14 million has
been issued in disaster benefits
to Montana Producers:
CDP = \$11,680,340
LCP = \$2,962,409
LIP = \$119,699

FSA Hiring a Summer Intern

If you know a college student who is interested in agriculture issues in Montana and wants to work for the Farm Service Agency (FSA), now is the time for them to apply for a job. FSA in Montana is providing students the opportunity to learn more about the Farm Service Agency as a full-time career through the summer intern program.

The Montana vacancy announcement for one summer intern position will close March 14, 2008.

The position is open to any student who:

- Is a U.S. citizen;
- Is currently enrolled in a college or university; and
- Is planning to continue their education in the fall of 2008.

For the vacancy announcement logon to the Montana FSA website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt> or by contacting Linda Itoh at 406/587-6876.

FSA will also be hiring a Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) position. SCEP is an internship program that allows a student part-time employment with FSA while they are completing their college education. The goal of the program is for the student to work for FSA at the completion of their degree. For further information or an application packet logon to the Montana FSA website or call Linda Itoh at 406/587-6876 or Dave Pitts at 406/587-6787.

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>

Demand for Organic Crops Provides Opportunity when CRP Contracts End

Montana is experiencing increasing demand for organic grain to supply markets for organic flour and other certified organic food ingredients, according to the Montana Department of Agriculture.

This creates an additional option for growers whose Conservation Reserve Program contracts will expire within the next few years. CRP contracts for an estimated 907,000 acres in Montana will expire in 2008 to 2010.

Fields that have been in CRP and have not been treated with herbicides during the past three years may be eligible for organic certification without a three-year transition period from conventional crops. Organic certification is among the ways farmers and ranchers can add value to commodities. Prices offered for organic crops may be twice those of non-organic crops.

For information on the requirements for organic certification, contact Doug Crabtree at the Montana Department of Agriculture at (406) 444-9421 or at dcrabtree@mt.gov.

Dairy Disaster Program Signup Suspended

Signup has been temporarily suspended for the Dairy Disaster Assistance Payment (DDAP-III) Program III which began December 3, 2007. The suspension is due to major modifications in the program and to allow administrative procedure to be updated to adhere to the current legislation which extended eligibility through December 31, 2007. DDAP-III provides benefits to eligible dairy producers who suffered production losses due to a variety of adverse weather conditions. The FSA will contact dairy producers when signup resumes for the program.

Gallatin County FSA

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Important Dates to Remember

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March 31 – final loan/LDP availability date for various crops harvested in 2007
April 2 – Deadline for payment limitation changes
NAP pull-off date – May 1, 2008

Montana Envirothon

The Montana Envirothon will be held April 28-29, 2008 in Lewistown. The Envirothon assists high school age students learn more about five different natural resource areas. This program is sponsored by the Montana Association of Conservation Districts and cooperating agencies. Five-member teams made up of students from the same school enrolled in grades 9-12 compete locally and regionally with the winning team advancing to the state competition. Sponsorship is available through your local conservation district. For more information logon to the Montana Department of Natural Resources website at <http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/cardd/camps> or by calling 406/444-6667.

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.