

GOLDEN VALLEY COUNTY  
P.O. Box 5  
Ryegate, MT 59074

COUNTY OFFICE HOURS  
8:00-4:00

### County Committee Members

John Stoican, Chairman  
Kerry Schaff, Vice-Chairman  
Gary Heiken, Reg. Member

### FSA Office Personnel

Karen Schanz, CED  
Darlene Weenum, PT  
Kathi Horpestad, PT

### COC MEETING DATES

**3<sup>rd</sup> WEDNESDAY** of each  
month.

#### Dates to Remember:

**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 barley, canola,  
oats, wheat and harvested in 2007

**April 1** – Deadline for payment  
limitation changes

**NAP Pull-Off Date – May 1**

**June 2** - Final loan/LDP  
availability date for corn, dry peas,  
grain sorghum, lentils, mustard,  
safflower, soybeans, small  
chickpeas, sunflowers harvested  
in 2007



# Golden Valley County

## March 2008

### Change in Farming Operation or Address

Producers are reminded to notify this office to report change in address or ownership. This may include land sales, entity changes, or other changes to your farming operation. This is vital to assist this office in keeping up-to-date records.

### Ending Date for Disaster Signup

An ending signup date for the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), and the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) has currently not been set. Please contact the office or logon to the Montana FSA website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/mt](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt) for eligibility requirements.

### Year End Reviews

Producers that have a farm loan with FSA are urged to keep current production and income/expense records. These records are essential in making informed management decisions for your farming operation. Your local Farm Loan Manager or Farm Loan Officer will be requesting copies of your records on an annual or bi-annual basis and the information is used to complete a Year-End Analysis (YEA) for your operation. The frequency of the review is based on the type of loan you received and the terms of your agreement with FSA.

**National Agriculture Week is March 16-22, 2008.** 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.



## Honey Loans Available

Marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments for 2007 crop year honey are available until March 31, 2008. The national loan rate for honey is \$0.60 per pound. Market prices currently exceed the loan rate, so LDPs are currently not available.

To be eligible for a loan, the producer must have produced honey in the US during the calendar year for which the loan is requested, and extracted the honey on or before December 31 of the applicable crop year; have continuous beneficial interest in the honey through date of repayment of the loan; and been responsible for the financial risk of keeping the bees. Producers are responsible for maintaining the quality of farm stored honey during the term of the loan.

Honey must be produced in the US by an eligible producer, from an approved floral source, and stored in approved containers.

The containers must be marked with the producer's name, type of honey, number of container and net weight. Pre-loan inspections are required before the loans can be disbursed.

Honey used as collateral may not be disposed of without approval of the FSA county office staff.

## NAP Deadline – March 17

The sales closing date for all Noninsurable (NAP) crops except value loss and honey is fast approaching. **Monday, March 17, 2008**, is the final date for producers to file an application (CCC-471) for NAP coverage for many spring crops. An administrative service fee is required. The service fee is \$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 the service fee does not guarantee coverage since there are other eligibility requirements that must also be met. Please check with the county office for those eligibility requirements.

## 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.

## NAP Pull Off

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

## Beware of Crop Insurance Rebating Schemes

With the spring sales closing date for many Federal crop insurance policies right around the corner, crop insurance agents have stepped up their marketing efforts. The Risk Management Agency (RMA) has received reports from producers and agents that some aggressive marketers have been approaching producers with rebating offers. These schemes promise lower insurance premiums, refunds, dividends, or items of value tied to crop insurance purchases. Most of these activities are illegal. RMA reminds all Federal crop insurance program participants that it is now coordinating with state regulators to take appropriate regulatory action against all those who are found to promote or participate in such schemes.

**Producers who are found to participate in illegal rebating activities will not only lose their crop insurance coverage but will also lose eligibility in all USDA programs.** Producers and agents can report suspicions of illegal rebating to the OIG Hotline: 1-800-424-9121

## Final Loan/LDP Availability is March 31

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

For the 2007 crop of the commodities listed above, loans and LDP's will no longer be available after March 31, 2008.

## 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."



## ***Inside this Issue***

**FSA Accomplishments**

**Honey Loans**

**NAP Deadline/PULL OFF DATE**

**Beware of Crop Insurance  
Rebate Schemes**

**SIGNATURE AUTHORIZATIONS**

### ***Important Dates to Remember***

**March 16-22** – National Ag Week

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

**March 31** – Final loan/LDP availability date for barley, canola, crambe, flaxseed, honey, oats, rapeseed, wheat and sesame seed harvested in 2007

**April 1** – Deadline for payment limitation changes

**June 2** – Final loan/LDP availability date for corn, dry peas, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard, safflower, soybeans, small chickpeas, sunflowers harvest in 2007

### **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."

### **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.