

**Hill County FSA Office**  
**206 25<sup>th</sup> Ave W Ste 2**  
**Havre MT 59501**  
(406)265-6792 ext. 2

*The Hill County FSA Committee  
regular scheduled meeting is the third  
Thursday of each month.*

### **County Committee Members**

Richard Pollington  
Clarence Keller  
Diana Patrick  
Mary Ruth St. Pierre

### **FSA Office Personnel**

Liane Albus  
Barbara Brown  
Sara Crowley  
Clint Greytak  
Linell Pegar  
Rosalie Sather  
Lisa Toth  
Mike Zook

### **Dates to Remember:**

**May 15-July 15** – FSA State  
Committee established Primary  
Nesting Season for CRP

**May 15-August 1** – Primary Nesting  
Season for CRP contracts affected by  
the National Wildlife Federations  
settlement agreement with FSA

**June 2** – Critical feed program signup  
on CRP begins

**June 15** – COC Nominations Open  
**Notice of Loss** – filed within 15  
calendar days of the natural disaster  
occurrence or the date the damage to  
the crop or loss of production was  
apparent

**July 15** – deadline to provide 2007  
production for NAP APH

**July 15** – 2007 NAP Application for  
Payment Deadline

**July 15** – Acreage report deadline

**July 18** – LIP/LCP Deadline

**August 1** – Deadline for  
reconstitutions

**August 20** – SURE waiver fees due



# Hill County FSA News

## June 2008

### **LIP and LCP Signup Deadline Announced**

The deadline date for the 2005-2007 Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) has been set for July 18, 2008.

LIP provides payments to eligible livestock owners and contract growers who incurred the death of livestock because of a natural disaster. LCP provides payments to eligible livestock owners and cash lessees who suffered feed losses or increased feed costs because of a natural disaster.

### **CDP Quantity payments**

Signup for the quantity (production loss) loss portion of the 2005/2007 Crop Disaster Program (CDP) continues. No ending signup date has been announced. Payments will be delayed on all CDP production loss applications that are not approved and paid prior to receipt of the Quality loss software, which is expected to be issued around June 20, 2008. Signup dates for quality loss CDP applications will be announced in the near future.

### **Announcing Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Programs**

New programs as a result of the Farm Bill are being announced, including the permanent disaster bills. One, of them, which will be called the SURE (Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments) Program, says in order for producers to be eligible, the producer must have purchased either crop insurance or NAP. It also says that, for 2008, producers who do **not** meet this requirement may have this provision waived if they pay a fee in an amount applicable to the noninsured crop disaster assistance program fee or catastrophic risk protection plan fee by no later than **August 20, 2008**.

At this point we cannot accept these fees from producers because we do not have the software and we do not know what the service fee is going to be. Please keep informed through other media sources, however, or you may request to be put on a list at the county office when you come in to sign your certification.

### COC Election Approaching

Beginning **June 15, 2008**, nominations are being accepted for candidates for County Committee (COC) positions.

A county or area served by the COC is divided into local administrative areas (LAA). Each LAA is represented by one member on the county committee. Three LAA's will hold their election this year; two with 2 year terms, and one with a three year term. See the other article in this newsletter.

FSA-669A (02-25-08) Page 2		U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency		Form Approved - UMB No. 0560-0229
<b>NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION</b>				
1. NAME OF NOMINEE (Type or print Nominee's Full Name)		<b>TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE</b>		
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE				
3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION <i>I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.</i>		5. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE (MM-DD-YYYY)		
<input type="checkbox"/> I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.  <input type="checkbox"/> I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.		6A. COUNTY		
		6B. LAA NO.		
		7. STATE		
4A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE		4B. DATE (MM-DD-YYYY)		DATE OF ELECTION IS 1st MONDAY OF DECEMBER OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR
<b>8. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE</b>				
<b>VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES:</b> The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.				
<b>ETHNICITY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino		<b>RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> America Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander		<b>GENDER</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
<b>INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM</b>				
Complete the form as follows:				
<b>ITEM 1</b> Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be: A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election. B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member. C. Willing to serve if elected.				
<b>ITEM 2</b> Enter the nominee's current address.				
<b>ITEM 3</b> The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.				
<b>ITEM 4</b> The nominee must sign and date.				
<b>ITEM 8</b> Completing this item is voluntary.				
<b>ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 1.</b>				
<b>NOTE:</b> The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a) and the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, as amended. The authority for requesting the following information is 7 CFR Part 7. The information will be used to obtain nominees for County FSA Committee.				
According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.				

### FSA Announces Critical Feed Program

FSA has announced the authorization of certain acreage enrolled under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to be available for haying and grazing after the **primary nesting season ends which is August 1<sup>st</sup> in Montana**. No rental payment reduction will be assessed on contracts being utilized for the critical feed use. However, a \$75 fee will be charged per contract to process the contract modification. The fee must be paid prior to the local FSA county committee approving the contract modification. The fee is not refundable.

Beginning June 2, 2008, eligible CRP participants may sign up for the critical feed use practice at their local FSA office. Participants must submit a modification to their conservation plan. This modification for critical feed use is only for 2008. All haying and grazing must be completed no later than November 10, 2008. The critical feed use practice may be used on CRP acreage that was hayed or grazed in 2007 either under the Managed Haying and Grazing provisions or the Emergency Haying or Grazing provisions.

CRP participants may use their CRP acreage for haying or grazing or may lease the privilege to any other individual. CRP participants may not hay and graze the same acreage. CRP participants must leave at least 50 percent of each field unhayed. Only one cutting of hay is permitted. CRP participants wishing to graze their CRP acreage must leave at least 25 percent of each field ungrazed for wildlife or graze all of the CRP acreage at no more than 75 percent of the stocking rate as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or a Technical Service Provider (TSP).

Eligible acreage includes acreage devoted to: 1) CP1, Establishment of Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes; 2) CP2, Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses; 3) CP4B, Permanent Wildlife Habitat – Corridors; 4) CP4D, Permanent Wildlife Habitat; 5) CP10, Vegetative Cover – Grass – Already Established; 6) CP18B, Establishment of Permanent Vegetation to Reduce Salinity; 7) CP18C, Establishment of Permanent Salt Tolerant Vegetative Cover. Acreage is eligible 12 months after the cover is fully established.

### Filing a Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Notice-of-Loss

To qualify for assistance under NAP, production losses or prevented planting must have occurred as a result of an eligible cause of loss. An eligible cause of loss is any of the following:

- damaging weather, such as drought, freeze, hail, excessive moisture, or excessive wind; or
- adverse natural occurrences, such as earthquake or flood; or
- a condition related to damaging weather or an adverse natural occurrence, such as excessive heat, disease or insect infestation.

Wildlife damage and weeds are **not** considered eligible causes of loss under NAP.

A notice of loss must be provided within 15 calendar days after the:

- disaster occurrence or date damage to the specific crop acreage is apparent to the producer for yield losses;
- final planting date for prevented planting.

If a Notice-of-Loss is filed prior to the final planting date established for the specific crop, the producer is expected to replant the crop. If the Notice-of-Loss is filed after the established final planting date and the intent is to reseed to another crop intended for harvest, such as barley for grain, which is covered under crop insurance, a NAP payment cannot be received on the original failed crop.

Montana is not a double cropping state. If the intent is to destroy the crop, summer fallow it, or reseed to another crop **not** intended for harvest, representative strips must be left in the field so that a loss adjuster can be sent out closer to normal harvest time to appraise the original seeded crop. In this situation, the original seeded crop would still be eligible for a payment.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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**COC Nomination Form**  
**Filing a NAP Notice-of-Loss**  
**Updated Addresses Needed**  
**Approval of a New LAA**

***Important Dates to Remember***

June 2 – Final loan availability date for various crops  
June 2 – Critical Feed Program Signup Begins  
June 15 – COC nominations open  
Notice of Loss – 15 calendar days of the natural disaster occurrence or the date the damage to the crop or loss of production was apparent  
July 15 – Acreage report deadline  
August 1 – Reconstitution Deadline  
August 20 – SURE waiver app.s and fees due

**Address Updates Needed**

With a large portion of the county eligible to vote in this year's election, we are asking for people to ensure we have the correct addresses for not only themselves, but also for their landowners. We also need help in making sure we have the correct addresses for all enrolled tribal members, and ask for any help people might be able to give us on family members, friends, etc.

**County Committee Representation Changed**

A fourth Local Administrative Area (LAA) has been created by splitting the one that had the election last year into two LAA's; they will each have an election this year. The area is currently represented by Richard Pollington. Each of the new members will serve a two year term. The LAA that is the area west of the Gildford High Grade Road, currently represented by Diana Patrick will also have an election. Each LAA of a county elects a committee member who serves a term of three years, and cannot serve more than three terms in consecutive order.