



A Peek at USDA Farm Service Agency Happenings in June

Important Dates to Remember

June 15 - Nominations Open for COC Election

Notice of Loss - 15 calendar days following disaster

July 16 - Acreage Reporting Deadline

July 16 - Deadline to file 2006 crop application for NAP payment

August 1 - Deadline for reconstitutions

August 3 - Signature deadline on 2007 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP)

October 2 & 3 - Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture, Beaverhead Golf Course, Dillon

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.

Maintenance on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Acres

The Farm Service Agency State Committee has established the following minimum acreage policy for management activities and maintenance on CRP acreage that applies to mechanical operations to improve the stand and inter-seeding:

- If the total acreage of a CRP contract is 80 acres or less, management activities and maintenance is allowed to be completed on the total acres.
- If the total acreage of a CRP contract is over 80 acres, management activities and maintenance is limited to 50 percent of the total acres.

This policy was established by the FSA State Committee to address hardships caused on "small acre" CRP contracts. Misuse of this policy could result in the State Committee retracting this policy.