

Lake County FSA Office
64352 Highway 93
Ronan, MT 59864

County Committee Members

Shirley Eye
Susan Lake
Oliver Dupuis

FSA Office Personnel

Dennis Krantz, PT
Stacy Thornbrugh – PT
Teresa Rader - FLPT
Fred Smith, Credit Manager
Dale Neiman, CED

Dates to Remember:

June 16 – COC nomination period begins

July 15 – Acreage Reporting Deadline

July 15 – Deadline to submit 2007 NAP production reports

July 18 – Final date to file 2007 LCP application

August 1 – Reconstitution Deadline for FY 2007

August 1 – COC Nomination forms must be returned to county office by close of business

November 3 – COC ballots will be mailed to eligible voters

December 1 – Last day to return voted ballots



Lake Co FSA Office

June 2008

File Your Acreage Reports by July 15

Yearly acreage reports are required for producers to be eligible for the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Non-insured Crop Disaster Program (NAP) and Price Support Programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported and certified to maintain this eligibility. Acreage reports will be accepted from an owner, operator or tenant as well as those with power of attorney for these individuals. The deadline for reporting acreage is July 15, 2008. Reports filed after that date are subject to late-filed fees and a visual farm inspection unless the County Committee determines that the late filing was beyond the producer's control. Farms with late filed reports are subject to mandatory spot checks unless the County Committee determines it was beyond the producer's control.

Certification is mandatory if any of the following apply:

- You receive DCP payments
- You have acres enrolled in CRP
- Loans or LDP's will be requested; including Wool, Mohair and Honey (*All cropland on the farm must be certified to be eligible for DCP and loan program benefits*).
- Acreage is covered by NAP

Failure to report accurately may result in loss of program and price support benefits.



COC Nominations Open

Nominations for positions on the FSA County Committee will begin on June 16. Anyone interested in either nominating themselves or their neighbors are encouraged to submit a nomination form to the office by August 1.

A county or area served by the county committee is divided into local administrative areas (LAA). Each LAA is represented by one member on the county committee. Only one LAA holds an election each year. You must reside within the LAA that is open for election to be eligible to run for a position on the county committee. This year the South end of Lake County, from Charlo to Arlee LAA (3) is open for election.

The nominee must be sure to sign the nomination form in order to be nominated as a COC member. All eligible voters will receive a ballot in the mail no later than November 3. At that time, all eligible voters will vote for their favorite candidate, sign the ballot and return the completed ballot to the county office by December 1.

Nomination forms are available at the office or by logging on to the Montana FSA website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.

Livestock Compensation Program to end on July 18, 2008

The signup period for the 2005-2007 Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) will end on July 18, 2008. There are no late-filed provisions.

Lake County livestock producers are eligible for loss of dryland grazing and/or increased feed purchases in 2007 only.

Proof of livestock ownership and numbers as of January 1, 2007 along with documentation of dryland grazing acres (owned and leased) is needed to complete an application. Increased feed purchases may be documented by submitting complete feed receipts for 2006 and 2007.

Please contact this office for further details if you have not yet signed up for this program.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of United States agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. FSA administers this program for USDA. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

AFIDA was enacted to establish a nationwide system to monitor ownership and purchases of U.S. agricultural land by foreign persons.

Farm Reconstitutions Deadline is August 1

In FSA terms, farms are constituted to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary.

The reconstitution – or recon – is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP). The farm producers may enroll the base acres for a crop year by signing a new DCP (CCC-509) for the resulting farm (s). This must be done by **August 3** or 30 days after written notification that the farm reconstitution has been completed.

Crop Disaster Program (CDP) Signup

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from natural disasters if the crop was planted before December 31, 2007.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.

Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to apply for benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. .

Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible. The payment rate is set at 42 percent of the established price.

Signup for the 2008 Direct/Counter Cyclical Program

The newly passed Farm Bill provides for the Direct/Counter Cyclical Program for 2008. However, at this time, the signup dates have not been announced. This office will notify all past contract holders as soon as we are notified of the 2008 signup dates.

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