

Lewis & Clark County FSA
790 Colleen Street
Helena, MT 59601

County Committee Members

Carol Troy, Chairperson
Phil Wirth, Vice-Chairperson
Gary Dobler, Regular Member

FSA Office Personnel

Nina Fonk, CED
Kathy Peters, Program Technician
Alex Potter, Office Assistant
Fred Smith, Farm Loan Manager
Hal Plummer, Field Person

Dates to Remember:

August 4 - September 28 – DCP late filed fee of \$100 will be assessed

September 10 – Signup begins for LIP

September 28 – Final date for late filed 2007 DCP contracts

October 2 – Public meeting on office closures.

October 13 – Deadline for removal of hay from CRP emergency haying and Managed haying

October 13 – Removal of livestock for CRP emergency grazing

October 15 – CDP Signup Begins

November 2 – Committee ballots will be mailed to eligible voters

December 1 – NAP application closing date for Honey

December 3 – Final date to return voted COC ballots to FSA office



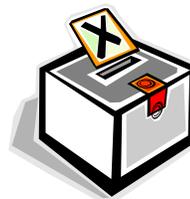
Lewis & Clark County September 2007

Lewis & Clark FSA Office To Close Permanently

Six FSA offices in Montana are planned to be closed including Lewis & Clark, Meagher, Park, Sanders, Sweet Grass, and Treasure. According to the restructure plan, FSA records for Lewis & Clark and Meagher County producers will be transferred to the Broadwater County FSA in Townsend if a request is not submitted and approved to transfer to another contiguous county office. Additional information about the restructuring plan can be obtained from your local FSA office or from the Montana FSA website: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt> under the "I want to" section on the right hand side of the web page.

Public meetings are being held during the first week of October to explain the process and for you to be able to voice your concerns. Area meetings about the office closures are planned for **Tuesday, October 2, at 9:00 a.m. at the Forest Service, Helena National Forest, 2880 Skyway Drive, in Helena** (directly across from the Helena Regional Airport) and for **Tuesday, October 2, at 2:00 p.m. at the Senior Citizens' Center, 101 1st Avenue SE in White Sulphur Springs**.

Following the public meetings, the Montana State FSA will submit a final plan to the National level. If the plan is approved, a 120 day waiting period is required before the six Montana county FSA offices can close.



County Committee Election

Ballots for the county committee (COC) election will be mailed to eligible voters by November 2. The final date to submit ballots to the FSA county office is December 3.

Please vote and have your voice be heard for USDA programs to fit the needs of the local community.

Livestock Disaster Program Signup Begins

Signup for the *Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)* began September 10, 2007.

Producers in primary counties declared secretarial disaster areas or certain counties declared presidential disaster areas between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007 are eligible. Producers located in counties contiguous to those counties are also eligible. In addition, producers in a primary (or contiguous) county that received an Administrator's Physical Loss Notice directly associated with a disaster declaration made by President Bush may also be eligible.

LIP compensates livestock producers for livestock death losses between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007 that resulted from natural disasters.

The payment rate will be 26 percent of the market value of the livestock on the day before the date of death, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. These rates will be available at the FSA office during the sign-up period. Producers may receive a maximum of \$80,000.

The office staff will be trained on October 10-11. Please call the County Office at 449-5277, extension 2, to schedule an appointment if you believe you may be eligible.



Dairy Disaster Assistance Program (DDAP)

The signup date for DDAP has currently not been set.

The program provides benefits to dairy producers for dairy production losses. Producers in primary or contiguous counties declared disaster areas are eligible.

More information on the program will be provided when it is received.

Crop Disaster Program Signup Begins

Signup for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) will **begin October 15, 2007**. CDP does not require a disaster declaration.

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 February 28, 2007, or in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before February 28, 2007. 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.

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

Assistance, together with any crop insurance or NAP payment received for the same crop and including the value of the crop production not lost, must not exceed 95 percent of the total value of the crop absent the disaster.

Farmers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in CDP benefits.

New CRP Soil Rental Rates

CRP rental rates provide the basis for maximum payment rate calculations used to determine annual rental payments on a per acre basis. Periodic reviews are required to ensure that rental rates reflect county average cash market dryland rents. A state-wide review was completed this summer. This review of cash market dryland rents resulted in an increase of \$1 on a majority of the individual soil types. These new rates became effective on August 16, 2007 and will apply to new CRP contracts approved on or after that date.

The new CRP soil rental rates are posted at the local County FSA Office.

Rural Youth Loans

FSA makes loans to individual rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with their participation in 4-H clubs, Future Farmers of America, and similar organizations.

Each project must be part of an organized and supervised program of work. The project must be planned and operated with the help of the organization adviser, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience.

Who may borrow?

To qualify for a loan, an applicant must:

- Be a citizen of the United States (or a permanent resident), which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
- Be between 10 and 20 years old;
- Live in a town of less than 10,000 residents;
- Be unable to obtain a loan from other sources; and
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work, as outlined above.

The project adviser must recommend the project and the loan and agree to provide adequate supervision.

What are some possible projects?

All projects must be an income producing project.

What is the maximum loan amount?

The maximum amount for FSA youth loans is \$5,000

What security is required?

Applicants must sign a promissory note and be responsible for repaying the loan. In some cases, a cosigner may be required. Loan collateral normally consists of items purchased with loan funds.

What are the repayment terms?

The repayment schedule will be worked out with FSA. Payments will be tailored to the type of project for which the loan was made.

Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium

The Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium will be held October 2 & 3, 2007 at the Beaverhead Golf Course, Highway 41 North in Dillon. Early registration is \$50 due by September 20. The Symposium is sponsored by the State FAC, MT Agri-Women, MT Farm Bureau Women, WIFE and the MT Cattlewomen. The symposium provides a platform for women involved in the promotion of Montana's agriculture to learn of issues affecting rural agricultural communities, promote leadership development, and further support women's leadership roles.

An agenda including the registration form is available at the FSA office or by logging into the Montana FSA homepage at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.



One Month Extension for MILC Payments

The Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program payment rate calculation at 34 percent has been extended for the month of September 2007.

The MILC program compensates dairy producers when domestic milk prices fall below a specified level.

The one month extension was provided through the Agricultural Assistance Act of 2007. Under previous law, the MILC payment period and 34 percent rate expired at the end of August 2007, and the payment rate for September 2007 was zero percent.

Dairy producers must contact the local FSA office to change their production start month to September 2007.

Lewis & Clark County FSA

790 Colleen Street
Helena MT 59601

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Lewis & Clark FSA Office to be closed permanently

Public Meeting

October 2 -- 9:00 a.m.

**Forest Service, 2880 Skyway Drive, Helena
(across from Helena Regional Airport)**

This is your opportunity to voice your concerns

2008 NAP Important Dates

Crop	Application Closing Date
Perennial Forage, Mint, Mixed Forage, All Types	March 15, 2008
Annual Crops – Both Fall & Spring Seeded Crops: Winter Peas & Rye; Garlic; Wheat Forage; Millet; Buckwheat; Sorghum Forages	March 15, 2008
Perennial Fruit (Apples, Cherries, etc.)	March 15, 2008
Honey	December 1, 2007

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to participate in FSA programs should contact Nina Fonk, County Executive Director at 790 Colleen Street, Helena, MT 59601 or (406) 449-5277 extension 2 or through e-mail at nina.fonk@mt.usda.gov