



A Peek at USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Happenings in March

Important 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 various crops harvested in 2007

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.

FSA to Host Meeting on CRP Managed Haying and Grazing

Beginning at 1:00 p.m. on March 20th, FSA will host a public meeting at the Hampton Inn in Great Falls to provide the general public the opportunity to comment on changes to managed haying and grazing on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land. The Hampton Inn is located at 2301 14th Street SW in Great Falls.

For detailed information on the changes, logon to the MT FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/mt.

Beware of Crop Insurance 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.

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.