

**McCone FSA County Office**  
104 10<sup>th</sup> St/P O Box 187  
Circle, MT 59215

**County Committee Members**

Elliot Haynie, Chairman  
David Schumacher, Vice-Chairman  
Duane White, Regular Member  
Irene Rathert, Minority Advisor

*The McCone County Committee regularly scheduled meeting is the third Tuesday of each month.*

**FSA Office Personnel**

Valerie Dekker, PT  
Jeanne Meissner, PT  
Avis Miles, PT  
Sue Wittkopp, PT  
Stacy Buckley, Farm Ln Mgr  
Patrick Turner, Farm Ln Mgr  
Bruce Johnson, Farm Ln Officer  
Gregg Heide, Field Personnel  
Julie Trower, CED

**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** – Final loan/LDP availability date for Corn, Dry peas, Grain sorghum, Lentils, Mustard seed, Safflower seed, Small chickpeas, Soybeans, and Sunflower seed harvested in 2007

**June 2** – Critical feed program signup

**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



# McCone County FSA

## 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.

Signup began on September 10, 2007 for the two programs that provide aid to livestock producers who suffered eligible livestock or livestock feed losses between January 1, 2005 and December 30, 2007 because of a natural disaster.

### CDP Quantity payments

Signup for the quantity (production loss) loss portion of the 2005/2007 Crop Disaster Program (CDP) began October 15, 2007 and continues. Although no ending signup date has been announced, we encourage all producers who have not yet signed up for CDP to do so as soon as possible. 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.



### 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. Only one LAA holds an election each year. This year the LAA open in McCone County is LAA #3, which is the southern 1/3 of McCone County and represented by Duane White.

FSA-669A (02-25-08) Page 2		Form Approved - UMB No. 0560-0229	
FSA-669A (02-25-08)		U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency	
<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)	
		<b>DATE OF ELECTION IS 1st MONDAY OF DECEMBER OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR</b>	
<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"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White	
		<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 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 whether the contract is hayed/grazed or not.

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. CRP acreage that was hayed or grazed in 2007 either under the Managed Haying and Grazing provisions or the Emergency Haying or Grazing provisions is also eligible for critical feed use.

CRP participants may use their CRP acreage for their own 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 by fencing off 25% 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.

Prices for most field crops have advanced to record or near record levels in recent months, reflecting strong demand, tight supplies and competition for acres. The increased demand for commodities and resulting higher prices has impacted the livestock industry in particular. The critical feed practice will provide much needed feed and forage while maintaining the conservation benefits of the CRP program.

### 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.

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 loss payment.

**2009 EQIP Application Deadline** The deadline to apply for the 2009 Environmental Quality Incentives program (EQIP) is July 1, 2008. Signup is taken at the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office. This is a voluntary, technical and financial assistance program designed to help farmers and ranchers install conservation practices to improve sustainability of their natural resources and funded by Congress. Contracts are for a maximum of ten years or one year after the last cost shared practice is completed. Applications are ranked on practices applied for. Applicants must complete an application form by July 1<sup>st</sup> and a "Conservation Planning Workbook" by July 11<sup>th</sup>. For more information, contact NRCS at 406-485-2744, Ext. 3.

**FARM SERVICE AGENCY**

McCone County FSA Office  
104 10<sup>th</sup> St/P O Box 187  
Circle, MT 59215

PRESORT STANDARD

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

BOZEMAN, MT 59715

PERMIT #54

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### ***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**

**2008 Acreage Reporting** This is a transition year for using the new digital maps to report acres. Acreage reports will be taken by appointment only. Bring in your maps with each field marked for crop planted and date planted, including hay and grass for grazing acres. We will update farm records prior to entering certified acres and therefore may not print an acreage report for you to sign during your appointment. We will mail your acreage report to you for signature or request that you stop back another day. We have until July 15 to complete all acreage reports. Please contact the office to schedule a time to report your acres.

**2007 Census of Agriculture** It is not too late to turn in your Census of Agriculture. USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) wants everyone who received a census form to return the form or call NASS toll free at 1-888-424-7828. Even if you are a landlord or have a few chickens or a horse, NASS wants to account for your farm. Your information can be taken over the phone by calling the toll-free number. For further information contact the Montana Ag Statistics Service at 1-800-835-2612.

**Sodbusting vs New Breaking** Producers are reminded that they should contact FSA *prior* to breaking any grass acres in preparation for planting an annual crop. Sodbusting is considered the breaking of native sod. This could include native pasture or old homesteads. New Breaking is considered breaking out grass acres that had been annually cropped in past years. This could include hay fields, sod waterways, saline areas, etc. In either case, producers should complete an AD-1026 at the FSA office prior to breaking. Failure to complete this form and receive a review and determination from NRCS before planting the annual crop could cause an out-of-compliance determination and ineligibility for all USDA benefits for the current crop year.