

**Meagher Co FSA Office
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County Committee Members

Ellen Berg
Scott Jackson
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FSA Office Personnel

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Margaret Buckingham – PT

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Dates to Remember:

December 3 – Dairy Disaster Aid
Signup Begins

December 24 & 25 – Holiday –
Office closed

January 1 – Holiday – Office
closed

January – April – Continuation of
Brand Liens

January 14 – Holiday – Office
closed

January 31 – Final loan/LDP
availability date for wool/mohair
shorn in 2007

January 31 – Final LDP
availability date for
2007 unshorn pelts

March 17, 2008 – NAP
sales closing date for
all crops except value
loss crops



Signup Still Underway for Disaster Assistance Programs

Signup continues for the **Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), and the Crop Disaster Program (CDP)**. Producers in primary counties declared secretarial disaster areas or certain counties declared presidential disaster areas between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007 or producers located in counties contiguous to those counties are eligible. **CDP does not require a disaster declaration.**

Contact the office for further explanation of the programs or to make an appointment to discuss eligibility.

Dairy Disaster Aid Program Signup Begins

Signup begins December 3rd for the Dairy Disaster Assistance Payment (DDAP-III) Program. DDAP-III will provide benefits to eligible dairy producers who suffered production losses during a variety of adverse weather conditions. Eligible counties are those counties that were declared a natural disaster in 2005 and/or 2006 and January/February 2007.

Production losses must have occurred between January 1, 2005, and February 28, 2007 due to natural disasters.

The program provides benefits to dairy producers for production losses that occurred between January 1, 2005, and February 28, 2007. It compensates dairy producers who may have incurred decreases in annual production because of cattle and yield losses.

Comments may be made on DDAP-III until December 26, 2007. The proposed rules may be found on the Montana FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt> under "In the News." Comments should include the volume, date and page number of the issue of the Federal Register. Comments may be made by e-mail, fax or regular mail.

- E-mail: Danielle.Cooke@wdc.usda.gov
- Fax: 202/690-1536
- Online: <http://www.regulations.gov> and follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

Year End Reviews

Producers that have a farm loan with FSA are reminded they must provide data for their Year-End Analysis (YEA) to their loan officer each year. Borrowers are urged to provide this information timely so that their files can be maintained. The office will contact you for the data you will need to assist us.

January 31 Deadline to Request 2007 Wool and Mohair Loans and LDPs

Wool and mohair producers have until January 31 to apply for either a nine-month, nonrecourse marketing assistance loan or a Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) for 2007-crop wool or mohair.

The national loan rate for ungraded wool offered as collateral will secure a non-recourse loan made at a rate of 40 cents per pound. For graded wool, loans will be based on the statutory rate of \$1.00 per pound. Producers who desire a non-recourse loan for mohair will receive the statutory rate of \$4.20 per pound. Loan rates will be adjusted based on a schedule of quality premiums and discounts applicable to the 2005 marketing year. The repayment amount per pound for mohair and for both graded and ungraded wool will be announced at close of business each Tuesday, and can be found on the Montana FSA website at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.

For Montana the loan rates are divided into two regions by county. Producers should pick the correct region for their operation and then check the posted rates at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/psd/MKTPRICLEAN2.htm> for region 2 counties and at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/psd/MKTPRICLEAN3.htm> for region 3 counties.

Instead of obtaining a loan, producers may request LDPs on these commodities. The LDP rates will be the difference between the per pound loan rate and the weekly announced repayment rate. The repayment prices reflect prices being offered in the current market.

Census of Agriculture Coming Soon

Beginning December 28, 2007, the National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) will mail out Census of Agriculture forms to collect data for the 2007 calendar year. Completed forms are due by February 4, 2008. Forms may be returned by mail or, for the first time, forms may be filled out online via a secure web site.

Conducted every five years by USDA, the Census is a complete count of the nation's farm and ranches and the people who operate them. The Census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures and other topics. The Census provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation.

For more information about the 2007 Census of Agriculture, contact the NASS Montana Field Office at 406/441-1240 or 1-800-835-2612 or logon to the Montana Agriculture Statistics website at <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov>.

Annie's Project

Montana MarketManager will usher Annie's Project into Montana starting in January 2008. Annie's Project will be delivered in six 3-hour sessions at 12 locations around Montana. Each Monday evening session will run from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Registration is \$100.

Class locations:

Baker – Baker High School
Bozeman – Burns Telecom Center, MSU
Culbertson – Roosevelt Memorial Hospital
Dillon – University of Montana – Western
Glasgow – Frances Mahon Deaconess Hospital
Great Falls – MSU College of Technology
Havre – MSU Northern
Lewistown – Central Montana Education Center
Miles City – Miles City Community College
Rapelje – Rapelje High School
Scobey – Scobey High School
Shelby – Marias Medical Center
Sidney – ARS Center

Contact the Grain Growers for registration information.

www.montanamarketmanager.org/Education&Reference/WorkshopCalendar or call the Montana Grain Growers office at 406/761-4596.

Crop Disaster Program (CDP) Quantity Losses Signup Began October 15

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.

Signup for CDP quality losses will be announced at a later date.

County Committee Election

The County Committee tabulated the ballots in LAA#1 on December 7, 2007.

Ellen Berg was elected for a second three-year term.

Thanks to all that participated in the successful election.

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)

To be eligible for LCP, producers must have:

- Either owned or cash-leased eligible livestock (but not both for the same livestock) on the beginning date of the applicable disaster period (s); and
- Suffered an eligible feed loss from produced or purchased forage or feed, or incurred additional feed costs as a result of an eligible disaster event (s) during the applicable disaster period (s) and the feed lost or additional incurred feed costs were intended for use with eligible livestock.

To apply, producers must complete form FSA-901 at their local office; bring adequate proof that the feed loss or incurred additional feed costs were for the claimed eligible livestock and occurred as a direct result of an eligible disaster event during an eligible disaster period (s) in the calendar year for which the benefits are being requested.

For detailed explanations of eligible livestock and eligibility requirements, logon to the Montana FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.

Wheatland County producers are eligible for either 2005 or 2006 and **Meagher County producers are eligible for 2006.** *Check at the office for more details for your operation.*



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Happy Holidays From Our Staff

