



Farm Service Agency

Meagher County February 2008

**Meagher Co FSA Office
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County Committee Members

Ellen Berg
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FSA Office Personnel

Kathryn Hiner – CED
Margaret Buckingham – PT

Bill Ballard – FLM
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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

April 1 – Deadline for payment limitation changes

May 15-July 15 – Primary Nesting Season under the old CRP hay/graze provisions

May 15-August 1 – Primary Nesting Season under the new CRP hay/graze provisions

June 2 – Final loan/LDP availability date – various crops harvested in 2007

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Provisions Continued

The 2002 Farm Bill implemented the AGI at \$2.5 million limited. Those provisions for AGI have been extended through March 15, 2008.

Until March 15, 2008, FSA county offices will:

- Accept AGI certifications as necessary for crop years 2003 through 2007;
- Obtain AGI certifications for 2008 for emergency, disaster, and conservation program purposes.

Each program has an established payment limitation that applies to all farming operations. Details for each program's payment limitation may be obtained at the county office.

Further information will be provided as it is received regarding updated AGI provisions.

Change in Farming Operation or Address

Producers are reminded to notify this office to report change in address or ownership. This may include land sales, entity changes, or other changes to your farming operation. This is vital to assist this office in keeping up-to-date records.

Ending Date for Disaster Signup

An ending signup date for the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), and the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) has currently not been set. Please contact the office or logon to the Montana FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/mt for eligibility requirements.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

NAP provides financial assistance to producers of Noninsurable crops when low yields occur as a result of natural disaster. Eligible crops are those commercially produced for food, livestock consumption, and some specialty crops. Eligible producers must pay an administrative service fee of \$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 a service fee does not guarantee coverage.** There are many eligibility requirements that must be met. ***The Application Closing Date for all crops except value loss and honey is March 17, 2008.*** Contact the office for further information.

NAP Pull Off

Each FSA County Committee determines the date when livestock must be removed from NAP forage acres each spring. The date determined in Meagher County is May 1 2008. The pull off date for crops intended for grass seed is April 1 in all counties.

Montana Envirothon

The Montana Envirothon will be held April 28-29, 2008 in Lewistown. The Envirothon assists high school age students learn more about five different natural resource areas. This program is sponsored by the Montana Association of Conservation Districts and cooperating agencies. Five-member teams made up of students from the same school enrolled in grades 9-12 compete locally and regionally with the winning team advancing to the state competition. Sponsorship is available through your local conservation district. For more information logon to the Montana Department of Natural Resources website at <http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/cardd/camps> or by calling 406/444-6667.

1099-G Mailed from Kansas City

During the last week of January, producers who have received payments from FSA should have also received a CCC-1099-G from the Kansas City office. A CCC-1099-G is a report to the Internal Revenue Service about FSA payments made to you in calendar year 2007. The CCC-1099-G is a service to help participating producers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the program participant's responsibility to report income to the IRS.

If you received a CCC-1099-G, we recommend that you check the amounts shown with those in your records to see that the amounts are correct. Refunds will no longer be reported on the 1099-G, but will be available online from the FSA Financial Inquiries (FSA-FI) web-based database. Program participants with eAuthentication user ID's and passwords can access their refund information at FSA-FI and select "Inquiry Type 1099/Refund Reports". Refund amounts are displayed on the Producer's Year-to-Date Activity web page.

If you have a question concerning the 1099-G refund information, you may contact the county office for assistance locating the correct payment data. If you choose to visit the office, bring your CCC-1099-G with you.

Step-by-step instructions for obtaining a Level 2 access to obtain your CCC-1099-G electronically are available on the Montana Internet site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt> under the "I Want To" section and by clicking on the "Do Electronic Business with FSA on My Home Computer."

Disaster Payments Issued
To date more that \$14 million has
been issued in disaster benefits
to Montana Producers:
CDP = \$11,680,340
LCP = \$2,962,409
LIP = \$119,699

Change in Direct Deposit Account

The Debt Collection Act of 1996 mandates that payments from FSA be directly deposited into a producer's checking or savings bank account. It is important that any change in the producer's account such as type of account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

Submission of Applications via E-Government

As required by the Freedom to E-File Act, eForms provides customers with the option to electronically access, fill out, and print paper forms, or obtain secure electronic access credentials for signing and transmitting forms and other documents electronically to their local Service Center. Level 2 access is required. Step-by-step instructions are available on the Montana FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt> explaining the Level 2 access process. Contact the local county FSA office to complete your Level 2 registration

Farm Loans:

FSA offers direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loan programs to farmers and ranchers who are temporarily unable to obtain private commercial credit. Rural youth loans, Beginning Farmer and Rancher, and assistance for socially disadvantaged persons are also available.

Demand for Organic Crops Provides Opportunity when CRP Contracts End

Montana is experiencing increasing demand for organic grain to supply markets for organic flour and other certified organic food ingredients, according to the Montana Department of Agriculture.

This creates an additional option for growers whose Conservation Reserve Program contracts will expire within the next few years. CRP contracts for an estimated 907,000 acres in Montana will expire in 2008 to 2010.

Fields that have been in CRP and have not been treated with herbicides during the past three years may be eligible for organic certification without a three-year transition period from conventional crops. Organic certification is among the ways farmers and ranchers can add value to commodities. Prices offered for organic crops may be twice those of non-organic crops.

For information on the requirements for organic certification, contact Doug Crabtree at the Montana Department of Agriculture at (406) 444-9421 or at dcrabtree@mt.gov.

Montana Range Days

Join the fun during the 32nd annual Montana Range Days being held June 16-18, 2008 at Utterback Middle School in Conrad. Participants will spend three full days exploring the Rocky Mountain Front while learning about natural resources. 2008 Montana Range Days is sponsored by the Pondera Conservation District, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Northern Ag Network.

For complete details and a registration form, logon to www.montanarangedays.com or contact Kody Farkell at 406/278-7611 extension 101 or kody.farkell@mt.nacdnet.net.

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Important Dates to Remember

March 17 – NAP sales closing date for all crops except value loss and honey
March 31 – final loan/LDP availability date for various crops harvested in 2007
April 2 – Deadline for payment limitation changes
NAP pull-off date – May 1st

As Time Passes.....things change, people age, and Life goes on. This will be my last newsletter for Meagher County. I am retiring from FSA as of March 3rd. I have enjoyed working with you and getting to know your operations. After more than 30 years working in the Agency....it is now time to move on and enjoy other things in life. I plan to live in Harlowton and continue to "run" my ranch there. Thank you for everything!!!

I feel that I am leaving the office in very capable hands with Maggie and the County Committee. They will be hiring a new CED in future.

There will be an Open House at the office on Wednesday February 27th from 2-4.