



**USDA Service Center
Richland County FSA
2745 West Holly
Sidney, MT 59270**

Telephone 406-433-2103
FSA Fax 406-433-4673
NRCS Fax 406-433-7351
MT FSA Web site:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>

Office Hours:

Monday thru Friday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

County Committee Members

Robert Albin—Chairman
Larry Vaira – Vice Chair
Orion Sundheim – Member
Connie Iversen – Minority
Advisor

FSA Office Personnel

Nancy Heins, CED
Patti Boyer, PT
Tammy Lake, PT
Kathy Obergfell, PT
Marilyn Pust, PT
Charlene Kaercher, TO
Jeniffer Steinbeisser, TO
Stacey Buckley, FLM
Pat Turner, FLO
Patti McGinnis, FLPT
Bruce Johnson, FLOT

NRCS Office Personnel

Jamie Selting, District Con.
Dave Haverkamp, Soil Con.
Channon Bighorn, Soil Con.

Richland Co. Conservation

District Personnel

Julie Goss, Administrator

Richland County

June 2007

Maintenance on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Acres

The Farm Service Agency State Committee has established the following minimum acreage policy for management activities and maintenance on CRP acreage that applies to mechanical operations to improve the stand and inter-seeding:

- If the total acreage of a CRP contract is 80 acres or less, management activities and maintenance is allowed to be completed on the total acres.
- If the total acreage of a CRP contract is over 80 acres, management activities and maintenance is limited to 50 percent of the total acres.

This policy was established by the FSA State Committee to address hardships caused on “small acre” CRP contracts. Misuse of this policy could result in the State Committee retracting this policy.

Hull-less Barley and Oats

As harvest draws near you may begin asking questions about loans and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's) on your crops.

Hull-less barley and hull-less oats are not eligible for 2007 price support activities.

According to the United States Grain Standards Handbook (Book II, Barley & Oats) detailed definition of barley and oats, the term “barley” shall not include hull-less or black barley.

Since the hull-less variety does not meet the definition of barley or oats, it is considered to be a non-standardized grain and therefore not eligible for LDPs or Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs).

Montana FSA website

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

logon to receive information and resources
pertinent to Montana as well as individual county
newsletters.

Landowner Method of Division

Definition of Designation by Landowner Method:

The designation by landowner method is the division of bases, allotments, and quotas in the manner agreed to by the parent farm owner and purchaser or transferee.

When This Method May Be Used: The designation by landowner method may be used when any of the following apply:

- Part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred
- An entire farm is sold to 2 or more persons
- Farm ownership is transferred to 2 or more persons
- Part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred
- A tract is sold to 2 or more persons
- Tract ownership is transferred to 2 or more persons.

When This Method May Not Be Used:

The designation by landowner method shall not be used to divide allotments or quotas, if the parent farm is located in 2 or more counties and the allotments and quotas cannot be transferred from 1 county to another by sale, lease, or owner.

All of the following requirements must be met in order to use the designation by landowner method: *(in adjacent column)*

Tribal Outreach Forum

The 2007 Tribal Outreach Forum will be held September 24-27, 2007 at the Gran Tree in Bozeman. The forum will provide an avenue for Indian landowners and Tribal representatives to share culture, history, land mass, demographics, economics and current issues with representatives and in turn for those representatives to present information on programs available to benefit Indian landowners and Tribes.

The cost of the forum is \$35.00 for pre-registration if received prior to September 14. Registration may be sent to Heidi Brewer, PO Box 670, Bozeman, MT 59771. A block of rooms have been reserved at the Gran Tree.

For a complete agenda and registration information logon to the Montana FSA website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt> or contact your FSA office.

Description	Requirement
3-year ownership	The land sold or transferred must have been owned for at least 3 years.
Memo of Understanding	<p>The owner of the parent farm and the purchaser or transferee shall file a signed written memo or understanding designating bases, allotments, and quotas before either of the following occurs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The farm is reconstituted; that is, COC signs the COC report, and; • Subsequent transfer of ownership. <p>A memo of understanding may be revised to meet the eligibility requirements in this subparagraph.</p>

NOTE: A deed is not a memo of understanding

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of United States agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. FSA administers this program for

COC Election Approaching

Beginning **June 15, 2007**, nominations are being accepted for candidates for County Committee (COC) positions. Nominations close on August 1.

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 Richland County is LAA 2, currently represented by Robert Albin.

FSA-669A (03-08-06) Page 2		Form Approved - OMB No. 0560-0229	
FSA-669A (03-08-06)		U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency	
NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION			
1. NAME OF NOMINEE (Type or print Nominee's Full Name)	TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE		
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> <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.	5. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE (MM-DD-YYYY)		
	6A. COUNTY		
	6B. LAA NO.		
7. STATE			DATE OF ELECTION IS 1st MONDAY OF DECEMBER OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR
4A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE	4B. DATE (MM-DD-YYYY)		
8. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE			
VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES: 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.			
ETHNICITY <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable) <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		GENDER <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM			
Complete the form as follows:			
ITEM 1 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.			
ITEM 2 Enter the nominee's current address.			
ITEM 3 The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.			
ITEM 4 The nominee must sign and date.			
ITEM 8 Completing this item is voluntary.			
ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 1.			
NOTE: 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 5 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.			

USDA SERVICE CENTER
Farm Service Agency
RICHLAND COUNTY OFFICE
2745 West Holly Street
SIDNEY, MT 59270

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Bozeman, MT 59717
PERMIT NO. 54

Official Business

Important Dates to Remember

June 15 – COC nominations open
Notice of Loss – 15 calendar days following disaster
July 4-Office Closed Independence Day
July 12 – Regular COC Meeting
July 16 – Acreage report deadline
July 24-25-Annual District Meeting in Makoshika Park, Minimal Service Days
August 1 – Reconstitution Deadline
August 1 – Last day to file COC nomination form
August 2 – Regular COC Meeting
August 3 – Signature deadline for 2007 DCP
September 3-Office Closed Labor Day

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.

Montana is not a double cropping state. If 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 payment.