



Farm Service Agency

Richland County September 2007

**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:
M-F, 8 AM to 5 PM

County Committee Members

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

FSA Office Personnel

**Nancy Heins, CED-Programs
Patti Boyer, PT
Tammy Lake, PT
Kathy Obergfell, PT
Marilyn Pust, PT
Jamie Zumbuhl, PT
Charlene Kaercher, TO
Stacey Buckley, FLM-Loans
Pat Turner, FLO
Patti McGinnis, FLPT
Bruce Johnson, FLOT
Sarah Carpender, FLOT**

NRCS Office Personnel

**Jamie Selting, District Con.
Dave Haverkamp, Soil Con.
Channon Bighorn, Soil Con.
Joe Lyseng, Soil Con.
Kraig Paulson, Pheasants
Forever and Volunteer**

Conservation District

Julie Goss, Administrator

Eastern Plains RC&D

**Mike Carlsen, Coordinator
Dick Iversen, Asst. Coordinator
Cal Oraw, CRDC Specialist
Sara Herman, Admin Assistant
Krystle Earle, Hse Ed Specialist**

Disaster Program Signup Begins

Signup for the *Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)* and the *Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)* will begin **Monday, September 10, 2007.**

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. Also producers in a primary (or contiguous) county that received an Administrator's Physical Loss Notice directly associated with a disaster declaration made by President Bush may also be eligible for LCP, LIP and DDAP.

LCP compensates livestock producers for feed losses occurring between January 1, 2005, and February 28, 2007 due to natural disaster. This can include producers who suffered losses resulting from blizzards that started in 2006 and continued into January 2007. Livestock producers may elect to receive compensation for calendar year 2007 grazing season losses that are attributable to wildfire natural disaster occurring during the applicable period as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Eligible livestock include: dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, poultry, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, deer or swine.

Producers will not be penalized if they reduced the average number of livestock they owned for grazing during the production year for which assistance is being provided.

The payment rate for each livestock category will be 61 percent of the USDA determined national payment rate.

LIP compensates livestock producers for livestock losses between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007 that resulted from natural disasters.

Eligible livestock include: dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, sheep, goats, swine, poultry, or deer.

The payment rate will be 26 percent of the market value of the livestock on the day before the date of death, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. These rates will be available at the FSA office during the sign-up period.

Producers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in LCP or LIP benefits. Eligible producers must choose only one year for which they wish to receive benefits in either of the programs.

Crop Disaster Program Signup Begins

Signup for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) will **begin October 15, 2007**. CDP does not require a disaster declaration.

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.

EASTERN PLAINS RC & D

The staff of RC&D serves the counties of Carter, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Garfield, Fallon, McCone, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sheridan, Treasure, Valley and Wibaux. Their mission is to get people involved in identifying and solving human, economic, and environmental problems in their communities. Call 406-433-5024 for more information.

New Soil Rental Rates

CRP rental rates provide the basis for maximum payment rate calculations used to determine annual rental payments on a per acre basis. Periodic reviews are required to ensure that rental rates reflect county average cash market dryland rents. A state-wide review was completed this summer. This review of cash market dryland rents resulted in an increase of \$1 on a majority of the individual soil types. These new rates became effective on August 16, 2007 and will apply to new CRP contracts approved on or after that date.

The new CRP soil rental rates are posted at the local County FSA Office.

NEW FACES at USDA Service Center

Several new employees have been welcomed aboard in recent months at the Service Center.

Kraig Paulson, from Laramie, WY, has been with Pheasants Forever for a number of years and volunteers for NRCS. Kraig is a former Marine.

Joe Lyseng, is originally from Culbertson, and comes to Sidney from Conrad NRCS. As a former Airman, Joe remains in the Air Guard.

Bruce Johnson, Farm Loan Trainee, was raised on a ranch near Forsyth, MT. He enjoys outdoor activities, especially hunting and fishing.

Sarah Carpender, is also a Farm Loan Trainee. She is from Utah. We are happy to have her husband and three children settle in Sidney.

Jamie Zumbuhl, has recently joined the Farm Program staff and will be the Compliance Program Technician and Field person. Jamie is originally from Opheim. She and her husband have moved here from Bozeman.

Rural Youth Loans

FSA makes loans to individual rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with their participation in 4-H clubs, Future Farmers of America, and similar organizations.

Each project must be part of an organized and supervised program of work. The project must be planned and operated with the help of the organization adviser, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience.

Who may borrow?

To qualify for a loan, an applicant must:

- Be a citizen of the United States (or a permanent resident), which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
- Be between 10 and 20 years old;
- Live in a town of less than 10,000 residents;
- Be unable to obtain a loan from other sources; and
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work, as outlined above.

The project adviser must recommend the project and the loan and agree to provide adequate supervision.

What are some possible projects?

All projects must be a income producing project.

What is the maximum loan amount?

The maximum amount for FSA youth loans is \$5,000

What security is required?

Applicants must sign a promissory note and be responsible for repaying the loan. In some cases, a cosigner may be required. Loan collateral normally consists of items purchased with loan funds.

What are the repayment terms?

The repayment schedule will be worked out with FSA. Payments will be tailored to the type of project for which the loan was made.

Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium

The Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium will be held October 2 & 3, 2007 at the Beaverhead Golf Course, Highway 41 North in Dillon. Early registration is \$50 due by September 20. The Symposium is sponsored by the State FAC, MT Agri-Women, MT Farm Bureau Women, WIFE and the MT Cattlewomen.

An agenda including the registration form is available at the FSA office or by logging into the Montana FSA homepage at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

One Month Extension for MILC Payments

The Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program payment rate calculation at 34 percent has been extended for the month of September 2007.

The MILC program compensates dairy producers when domestic milk prices fall below a specified level.

The one month extension was provided through the Agricultural Assistance Act of 2007. Under previous law, the MILC payment period and 34 percent rate expired at the end of August 2007, and the payment rate for September 2007 was zero percent.

Dairy producers must contact the local FSA office to change their production start month to September 2007.

COC Election

Ballots for the county committee (COC) election in LAA 2 will be mailed to eligible voters by November 2. The final date to submit ballots to the FSA county office is December 3.

Please vote and have your voice be heard for USDA programs to fit the needs of your local community.

Dairy Disaster Assistance Program

The signup date for DDAP has currently not been set. The program provides benefits to dairy producers for dairy production losses. Producers in primary or contiguous counties declared disaster areas are eligible.

More information on the program will be provided when it is received.

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

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 PERMIT NO. 54

Official Business

Important Dates to Remember

September 3 – Office Closed, Labor Day
 September 6, COC Meeting 9 AM
 September 10 – Signup begins for LCP, LIP
 September 24-27 – Tribal Outreach Forum
 September 28 - DCP late-filed deadline
 October 2 & 3 – Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium
 October 4-COC Meeting 9 AM
 October 8 - Office Closed Columbus Day
 October 15 – Signup begins for CDP
 November 1-COC Meeting 9 AM
 November 2 – COC ballots mailed to voters
 November 12-Office Closed, Veterans Day
 November 22-Office Closed, Thanksgiving
 December 3 – COC ballots returned to office

2008 NAP Important Dates

Crop	Application Closing Date
Perennial Forage, Mint, Mixed Forage, All Types	March 15, 2008
Annual Crops – Both Fall & Spring Seeded Crops: Winter Peas & Rye; Garlic; Wheat Forage; Millet; Buckwheat; Sorghum Forages	March 15, 2008
Perennial Fruit (Apples, Cherries, etc.)	March 15, 2008
Honey	December 1, 2007

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to participate in FSA programs should contact Nancy Heins, CED at the Service Center phone number or address.