

August/September 2007

Roosevelt County FSA Office
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County Committee Members

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FSA Office Personnel

Carol Y. Ritter-Fellman, CED
Julie Williams, Chief PT
Darcia Larsen, PT
Dale Friedrich, PT
Julane Poland, PT
Judy Grimsrud, PT
Jill Davidson, PT
Stacy Buckley, Loan Manager
Jenna Anderson, Temp Field

Dates to Remember:

August 4 - September 28 – DCP late filed fee of \$100 will be assessed

August 30 – September 28 – Distress grain loans may be requested

September 3 – Holiday, Office closed

September 24-27 – Tribal Outreach Forum, Gran Tree, Bozeman

September 28 – Final date for late filed 2007 DCP contracts

October 2 & 3 – Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium, Dillon

November 2 – COC ballots will be mailed to eligible voters

December 3 – Final date to return voted COC ballots to FSA office



Roosevelt County FSA News

Important Loan Information

Due to the large amount of low test weights being found in spring grains grown in our county, Roosevelt County is one of the locations within the state of Montana **where test weights will be required prior to loans being disbursed on wheat or barley.** It is important to note that loan rates may be adjusted as a result. For example, test weights on spring wheat below 57 pounds will see some adjustment.

Price Support loans are for nine months, and may be repaid at the lower of: the posted county price, or principal plus interest prior to loan maturity. Once the loan matures, the producer must repay at principal plus interest, or forfeit the grain to the government. Forfeited grain is still subject to premiums and discounts – and therefore, FSA is taking the adjustment on the loan rate at the beginning of the loan, rather than leaving producers with an unrealized debt at the end of the loan.

Area producers who are interested in obtaining a grain loan on wheat or barley are urged to send samples to the state grain lab, by bin, as soon as possible. If the loan is settled by forfeiting the grain, a new test weight will be calculated by the elevator taking the delivery.

Note: The factors that are determined by the state grain lab are often times required should a quality disaster program be implemented at a later date. Producers who feel they may have a quality loss on durum, and who are sending samples to the state grain lab, should ensure that test weight, damaged kernel total, HVAC, and Falling Numbers are checked on the samples. Producers who feel they may have a quality loss on spring wheat, and who are sending samples to the state grain lab, should ensure that test weight, damaged kernel total, and Falling Numbers are checked on the samples. We have no way of knowing whether or not disaster legislation will be passed, and if it is passed we have no way of knowing how the legislation will read. However, producers who feel they may have a qualifying quality loss based on the factors listed above are urged to get the tests run now in case there is a deadline established for having the tests run.

Distress Loans Approved

Roosevelt County producers may apply for a distress loan on grain stored on the ground. There is a 30 calendar day signup period which will run from 8/30/07 to 9/28/07.

The following apply to distress loans:

- The storage location must be protected from animals and it must allow for water drainage.
- The maximum quantity eligible for a certified or measured distress loan is 75% of the eligible quantity.
- The loan matures on demand, but no later than 90 calendar days after the loan is disbursed.
- The collateral may be repledged as a 9-month loan, but the process of repledging the crop must be completed on or before the day the distress loan matures.
- If the collateral will be repledged, the producer must repay the distress loan with cash at principal plus interest OR authorize offset for the distress loan to be repaid with the proceeds of the repledged loan. This means that the producer cannot repay the distress loan at the posted county price – it must be repaid at principal plus interest.

No Final 2006 Counter-Cyclical Payments for Wheat, Barley and Oats

FSA will not issue final 2006-crop counter-cyclical payments to farmers enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP) for wheat, barley and oats. The decision was made due to the fact that prices for these commodities have averaged well above levels that trigger counter-cyclical payments. Counter-cyclical payments are made at the end of an eligible crop's 12-month marketing year.

2007 Crop Loan Rates

2007 Crop	Loan Rate
Wheat/Durum	\$2.81/bushel
Wheat/HRS	\$2.42/bushel
Wheat/HRW	\$2.52/bushel
Wheat/Soft White	\$2.14/bushel
Barley	\$1.59/bushel
Oats	\$1.25/bushel
Corn	\$2.07/bushel
Sorghum	\$3.13/bushel
Soybeans	\$4.47/bushel
Mustard Seed	\$9.21/cwt
Safflower Seed	\$7.32/cwt
Sunflower Seed	\$8.82/cwt
Canola	\$9.07/cwt
Crambe	\$9.03/cwt
Flaxseed	\$8.96/cwt.
Rapeseed	\$9.23/cwt
Dry Peas	\$6.12/cwt.
Lentils	\$10.97/cwt.
Small Chickpeas	\$7.43/cwt.

Expiring CRP Contracts with Base Acres

Attention: Currently, the 2002 Farm Bill provides for restoration of lost base acres when a CRP contract expires. That provision ends September 30, 2007 with the expiration of the 2002 Farm Bill.

FSA will not know how base acres will be treated until the new Farm Bill is implemented.

LDP REMINDER

If you have not already filed your CCC-633 LDP Agreement and Request (Page 1), you should do so immediately to protect your eligibility for an LDP. Page 1 MUST be filed prior to losing beneficial interest in the commodity, or the commodity will not be eligible for an LDP.

DCP Signature Deadline is September 28, 2007

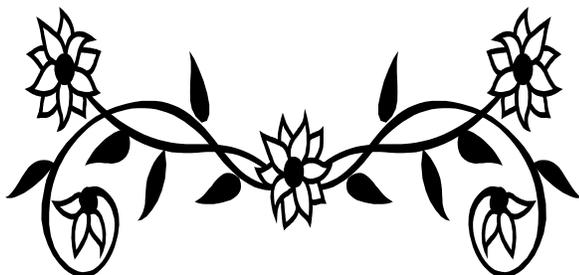
Producers enrolled in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) have until September 28th to provide all contract signatures for share acres and to pay late-filing fees. It is possible that we will be implementing a new farm bill this fall so producers who have contracts pending are urged to submit the pending signatures or leases by September 28, 2007.

Fire Management on CRP

With the hot, dry weather Montana faces during July and August, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contract holders have the opportunity to provide fire protection on their CRP acres.

Firebreaks can either be a strip of bare land or a vegetative cover that retards fire. Grazing is not allowed as an option to maintain firebreaks. Bare ground firebreaks shall be only allowed in high risk areas such as transportation corridors, rural communities, and adjacent farmsteads. Bare ground strips may serve as sites for the establishment of weeds. As required for the vegetative cover, weeds and erosion must be controlled on bare ground strips. Lack of weed control measure could result in noncompliance of CRP provisions and assessment of payment reduction or termination of the affected acreage. It is the responsibility of the CRP contract holder to maintain the firebreaks.

CRP contract holders who wish to install a firebreak must acquire a modification to their current CRP contract that includes fire management. Contact the office for required fire management specifications.

**2007 County Committee Election Dates**

August 1	COC nomination forms must be returned to county office by close of business
November 2	Ballots mailed to eligible voters
December 3	Final date to return voted ballots to FSA office

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. The symposium provides a platform for women involved in the promotion of Montana's agriculture to learn of issues affecting rural agricultural communities, promote leadership development, and further support women's leadership roles.

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

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>.

Crop Disaster Programs/Livestock Disaster Programs

On May 25, 2007, President Bush signed into law an act that provides approximately \$3 billion in agricultural disaster aid for America's farmers and ranchers. The act provides for a Crop Disaster Program (CDP), a Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), and a Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). CDP will provide benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses from natural disasters that occurred in 2005, 2006, or the fall and winter of 2007. Producers who incurred losses in multiple years will be required to select one year to receive benefits. The payment rate for CDP is set at 42 percent of the established price. Only producers who obtained crop insurance or NAP coverage will be eligible for CDP. LCP will provide benefits to ranchers for feed losses resulting from natural disasters that occurred between 1/1/05 and 2/28/07. The payment rate will be 61% of the national payment rate that is determined for each livestock category. LIP will compensate livestock producers for deaths caused by natural disasters between 1/1/05 and 2/28/07. The payment rate will be 26% of the market value of the livestock the day before the date of death.

We currently do not have any signup dates for the disaster programs. We will notify producers of signup dates as they occur.

Managed Haying or Grazing of CRP

It is important to note that different rules and dates may apply when requesting to hay or graze CRP acres under the managed provisions. For contracts that have been hayed or grazed in a prior year under the managed provisions the following will apply: the acreage may be hayed once every five years or grazed once every three years. Managed haying may begin the later of July 16th or when the producer receives notification of approval from the County FSA Office. For contracts that have not been hayed or grazed in a prior year under the managed provisions the following will apply: the acreage may be hayed once every ten years or grazed once every five years. Managed haying cannot begin until the later of August 2 or when the producer receives notification of approval from the County FSA Office.

New Features on the Web

USDA provides their customers an opportunity to do business electronically 24 hours a day seven days a week over the Internet. With a Level 2 access, USDA customers may receive their 1099-G form, review any collections or debts they may have with USDA and also review an itemized listing of their USDA payments. Receiving a Level 2 account is a simple process. By entering your name, address and answering a few questions, customers may have access to the above mentioned items. In addition to receiving payment information, USDA customers may also send forms from the comfort of their home and signup for programs without visiting a USDA service Center. Complete step-by-step instructions for obtaining a Level 2 access, retrieving payment information, submitting forms and signing up for certain programs is available by logging on to the Montana FSA Internet site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.

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