



Roosevelt County February 2009

**Roosevelt County FSA
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County Committee

Members

Mary Nesbit
William Clay Petersen
Ted Toavs

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

Dates to Remember:

February 2 – Final loan/LDP availability date for wool/mohair shorn in 2008

February 2 – Final LDP availability date for 2008 unshorn pelts

February 10 – **Producer Informational Meetings in Froid and Poplar – See the back page of this newsletter for details!**

February 16 – Presidents Day Office Closed

February 27 – Crop year 2005, 2006, and 2007 Crop Disaster Program deadline

March 16 – NAP Sales closing date for all crops except value loss crops and honey

March 16 – Crop insurance sales closing date for 2008 spring-seeded crops

March 31 – Final loan/LDP availability date for various crops harvested in 2008

2009 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program Signup

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment (DCP) program for farms with base acres began December 22, 2008 and will continue until June 1, 2009. **Area farmers interested in signing up for the program should contact the County FSA Office to schedule an appointment.** Farms may not be enrolled after June 1 of the applicable contract period and there are no late-filed provisions for contract years 2009-2012.

Commodities covered by DCP include: wheat, corn, grain sorghum (including dual purpose varieties that can be harvested as grain), barley, oats, soybeans, canola, flaxseed, mustard seed, safflower, crambe, sesame seed, rapeseed and sunflowers (including oil and non-oil varieties). Pulse crops have been added as an eligible commodity for the 2009 crop year for counter-cyclical payments only. Pulse crops include dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas (Garbanzo bean, Desi), and large chickpeas (Garbanzo bean, Kabuli). Base acreage may not exceed the available DCP cropland acreage on the farm.

Direct and Counter-cyclical payments for the 2009 year will be made on 83.3 percent of the farm's base acreage. Advance direct payments can be requested immediately. Final direct payments will be issued in October 2009.

Direct payment rates are:

Barley	\$0.24/bu
Corn	\$0.28/bu
Grain Sorghum	\$0.35/bu
Oats	\$0.024/bu
Other Oilseeds	\$0.80/cwt
Soybeans	\$0.44/bu
Wheat	\$0.52/bu

Planting flexibility is allowed but includes planting restrictions for fruits and vegetables on base acreage without farm or producer history. Participants must: 1) meet Highly Erodible Land and Wetland provision requirements; 2) report all cropland acres; 3) meet actively engaged in farming and person determination requirements; and 4) comply with adjusted gross income provisions. Payment limitation amounts are \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments.



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Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE)

ACRE is a new program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill that protects against crop revenue shortfalls resulting from price and/or production declines at state and farm levels. Covered commodities are the same as under the 2009 – 2012 crop year Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) and include barley, canola, Desi and Kabuli garbanzo beans (chickpeas), corn, crambe, dry peas, flax, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard, oats, rapeseed, safflower, sesame, sunflowers, soybeans, and wheat. The election to participate in ACRE is irrevocable through the life of the Farm Bill (2012). All producers on the farm must agree to the enrollment of the farm.

Farms that participate in ACRE will still receive their Direct DCP Payment, but it will be reduced by 20% and the loan rate for marketing assistance loans will be reduced by 30%. The Direct Payment will be computed on 83.3% of the base acreage for the farm (85% for 2012). No Counter-Cyclical Payments will be made on farms participating in ACRE. ACRE participants must report production to establish a Farm Expected Yield and Actual Farm Yield for the year of enrollment.

Two triggers must be met before payments will be issued under ACRE:

- 1) The State ACRE Guarantee (90% of Benchmark State Yield times the 2-year National Average Market Price) must exceed Actual State Revenue (100% of Actual State Planted Yield times the higher of the National Average Market Price or 70% of the National Loan Rate.) AND;
- 2) The Farm ACRE Benchmark Revenue (Farm's Expected Yield times ACRE Guarantee Price plus producer paid crop insurance premium) must exceed the Actual Farm Revenue (Actual Farm Yield times the higher of National Average Market Price or 70% of National Loan Rate.)



ACRE (cont.)

The Farm's Expected Yield is divided by the Benchmark State Yield to arrive at a yield factor. The payment rate will be the lesser of the State ACRE Guarantee minus the Actual State Revenue or the State ACRE Guarantee times 25%.

ACRE is very different from any other program administered by FSA. The regulations and policy are still being determined and finalized and no signup period has been announced at this time. More detailed information will be provided as it becomes available.

County Committee Election Results

County Committee election ballots for the Election held in the east end of the county have been counted and William Clay Petersen has been elected to fulfill a 3-year term. He replaces Loren Schledewitz who served on the Committee for 9 years. A big "Thank You" goes out to Loren for his many years of service on the Committee.

Changes to FSA Payment Processing

A new payment processing system was deployed for FSA last December.

Through the new system, all payments made through direct deposit will be processed through the Federal Reserve Bank and will be received in the participants account within 2-3 days of processing.

Crop Disaster Signup Deadline

The deadline to signup for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) **will end February 27, 2009**. The deadline date applies to both quantity and quality provisions of CDP and it covers crop losses suffered in crop years 2005, 2006, and 2007.

To receive payment under this program, Form FSA-840 (Crop Disaster Program Application) and all supporting documentation must be received in the FSA County Office by the close of business on February 27, 2009. Late-filed applications will not be approved.

Secretarial Designations – Eligibility for Disaster Programs

Fifteen Montana counties were declared primary natural disaster areas during the period beginning January 1, 2008 and continuing.

The following counties received the disaster designation:

Broadwater	Fallon	Prairie
Big Horn	Gallatin	Richland
Custer	Golden Valley	Roosevelt
Daniels	Madison	Sheridan
Dawson	McCone	Wibaux

Contiguous counties include:

Beaverhead	Meagher	Silver Bow
Carter	Mineral	Stillwater
Carbon	Musselshell	Sweet Grass
Fergus	Park	Treasure
Garfield	Powder River	Valley
Jefferson	Rosebud	Wheatland
Lewis and Clark	Sanders	Yellowstone

The disaster designation has an important significance in these counties as it allows eligible producers within the 15 counties and contiguous counties to participate in the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE). SURE was one of the disaster programs created under the 2008 Farm Bill. It provides financial assistance for crop production and or quality losses due to a natural disaster. Two triggers make the program available:

- A Secretarial Disaster designation **and** at least a 10 percent crop production loss on at least one crop of economic significance which is defined as a crop which is expected to contribute at least 5 percent of the farm's income (Nationwide); or
- In the absence of a secretarial disaster declaration, farms in which the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm.

Secretarial Designations – Eligibility for Disaster Programs (cont.)

SURE requires that for each producer all crops in all counties grown in the nation be considered when calculating a loss, even if only one county received a secretarial declaration.

In addition, producers must have crop insurance or Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for all crops excluding grazing lands. SURE does not pay for losses on crops intended for grazing. **A *signup period for SURE has not been announced at this time.***

NAP Deadline March 16

For the 2009 crop year it is imperative to purchase Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) or at least a catastrophic (CAT) level of crop insurance for all insurable and non-insurable crops that are of economic significance to the producer's farming operation. This is not only for production coverage but also for eligibility for the new permanent disaster programs created in the 2008 Farm Bill.

In order for producers to be **eligible** for assistance under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance (**SURE**) Program, the Emergency Assistance for Livestock and Honey Bees Program (**ELAP**), and the Tree Assistance Program (**TAP**), producers must obtain a plan of insurance for each insurable and non-insurable commodity on the farm, **excluding grazing**. To be eligible for assistance under the Livestock Forage Program (**LFP**) producers must obtain either coverage under the Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage Rainfall Index Pilot Program through crop insurance, or NAP coverage, or both on their grazing land.

Producers must file the required paperwork and pay the administrative fee by the NAP closing date of **March 16, 2009** for all crops except value-loss and honey. The deadline for value-loss and honey for 2009 has passed.

Please contact our office by March 16, 2009 if you have any questions concerning which crops must be insured or covered under a NAP policy.



New Farm Bill Informational Meetings Will Be Held

Informational meetings will be held at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, February 10, 2009 at the Froid Town Hall in Froid, MT and at 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 10, 2009 in the Greet the Dawn Room, Fort Peck Community College, Poplar, MT. FSA employees will be presenting changes in all programs affected by the 2008 Farm Bill including Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Programs (DCP), Payment Eligibility Provisions, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Crop Disaster Programs, Price Support Programs, the Non-Insured Crop Assistance (NAP) Program and Livestock Disaster Programs. All area farmers and ranchers are urged to attend one of these meetings.

FSA Hiring Additional Loss Adjusters

FSA is currently accepting offers from individuals interested in providing contracted crop adjusting services for the 2009 crop year. Loss Adjusters perform loss adjustment and program services as assigned by FSA. Some duties included in those services are: 1) visiting farms to inspect damaged or destroyed crops; 2) appraising potential crop production; 3) determining and verifying the cause and time of loss; and 4) determining farm-stored production. Starting pay for new adjusters is \$10.00/hour. A pay raise will be received after full certification on at least one crop is received. All equipment necessary to perform loss-adjusting activities will be provided by FSA. Mileage and per diem will also be paid by FSA. Contracted adjusters are expected to provide their own mode of transportation. All applications are to be sent to the Montana FSA, Attention Leonard McArthur, P.O. Box 670, Bozeman, MT 59771. All applications postmarked by **March 1, 2009** will be reviewed and selections made based on the need of the area, work experience, agriculture background and availability. Applications may be found at any FSA county office; by logging on to the Montana FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt> or by contacting Leonard McArthur at 587-6882 or Shelly Rolando at 587-6877.

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