

June 2008

Roosevelt County FSA Office  
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#### County Committee Members

Mary Nesbit  
Loren Schledewitz  
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  
Sarah Stevens, Temp Field  
Pam Berwick, Temp Office  
Andrea Sorg, Temp Office

#### Dates to Remember:

**May 15-July 15** – FSA State Committee established Primary Nesting Season for CRP

**May 15-August 1** – Primary Nesting Season for CRP contracts affected by the National Wildlife Federations settlement agreement with FSA

**June 2** – Final loan/LDP availability date for Corn, Dry peas, Grain sorghum, Lentils, Mustard seed, Safflower seed, Small chickpeas, Soybeans, and Sunflower seed harvested in 2007

**June 15** – COC Nominations Open  
**Notice of Loss for NAP Crops** – filed within 15 calendar days of the natural disaster occurrence or the date the damage to the crop or loss of production was apparent

**July 15** – Deadline to Provide 2007 Production for NAP APH purposes

**July 15** – 2007 NAP Application for Payment Deadline

**July 15** – Acreage Report Deadline

**July 18** – LIP/LCP Deadline



#### FSA Announces Critical Feed Program

FSA has announced the authorization of certain acreage enrolled under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to be available for haying and grazing after the **primary nesting season ends which is August 1<sup>st</sup> in Montana**. No rental payment reduction will be assessed on contracts being utilized for the critical feed use; however, a \$75 fee will be charged per contract to process the contract modification. The fee must be paid prior to the local FSA County Committee approving the contract modification. The fee is not refundable.

Eligible CRP participants may sign up for the critical feed use practice at their local FSA Office. A modification to the applicable conservation plan must be approved prior to haying or grazing. This modification for critical feed use is only for 2008. All haying and grazing must be completed no later than November 10, 2008. The critical feed use practice may even be used on CRP acreage that was hayed or grazed in 2007 either under the Managed Haying and Grazing provisions or the Emergency Haying or Grazing provisions.

CRP participants may use their CRP acreage for haying or grazing or may lease the privilege to any other individual. CRP participants may not hay and graze the same acreage. CRP participants must leave at least 50 percent of each field unhayed. Only one cutting of hay is permitted. CRP participants wishing to graze their CRP acreage must leave at least 25 percent of each field ungrazed for wildlife or graze all of the CRP acreage at no more than 75 percent of the stocking rate as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Eligible acreage includes acreage devoted to: 1) CP1, Establishment of Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes; 2) CP2, Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses; 3) CP4B, Permanent Wildlife Habitat – Corridors; 4) CP4D, Permanent Wildlife Habitat; 5) CP10, Vegetative Cover – Grass – Already Established; 6) CP18B, Establishment of Permanent Vegetation to Reduce Salinity; 7) CP18C, Establishment of Permanent Salt Tolerant Vegetative Cover. Acreage is eligible 12 months after the cover is fully established.

Prices for most field crops have advanced to record or near record levels in recent months, reflecting strong demand, tight supplies and competition for acres. The increased demand for commodities and resulting higher prices has impacted the livestock industry in particular. The critical feed practice will provide much needed feed and forage while maintaining the conservation benefits of the CRP program.

### 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. The deadline to timely notify our office of a loss on ALL NAP crops has been set as **July 15, 2008**. In order to get an accurate appraisal of the acreage that will not be harvested, it is critical that the producer notifies us as timely as possible to enable us to send an appraiser out to look at the acres that may be involved in the 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

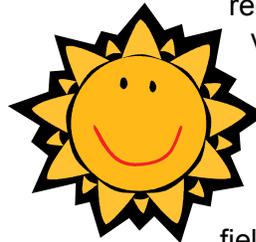
closer to normal harvest time to appraise the original seeded crop. In this situation, the original seeded crop would still be eligible for a payment.

**This is also a reminder that the deadline to submit 2007 production for Actual Production History (APH) purposes is July 15, 2008.** Failure to provide the evidence by the deadline will lead to zero production being recorded for last year and that could dramatically lower the yield established for the crop.

Please mark the July 15, 2008 deadline on your calendar as that is the final date to timely notify our office of a 2008 loss and the final date to submit 2007 (last year's) production information. Please contact the office if you have any questions on the NAP deadline and the options on final production.

### New Faces in the Office

Pam Berwick and Andrea Sorg were both recently hired to assist with various office activities. These two will be working for us through the summer. Sarah Stevens was also recently hired to assist with various office activities, along with field activities. She will be with us through the summer as well.



### 2008 Acreage Reports

Producers are reminded to complete the maps according to the instructions included in the map packet. Be sure to include the crop planted, the intended use for the crop, and the planting date. Additional information that will be very helpful to our office is shares for the crop and whether the crop is non-irrigated or irrigated. **Please mail the completed black and white copies of the maps back to our office at least a week prior to the scheduled appointment.** The colored copy of the maps will remain with the producer. The final date to complete the crop year 2008 certification process is July 15, 2008.

### COC Election Approaching

Beginning **June 15, 2008**, nominations are being accepted for candidates for County Committee (COC) positions. Form FSA-669A which is shown below is the form that needs to be completed.

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 Roosevelt County is LAA 3 and it includes producers who live east of the Big Muddy. The final date to submit form FSA-669A is **August 1, 2008**.

FSA-669A (02-25-08) Page 2		U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency		Form Approved - UMB No. 0560-0229
<b>NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION</b>				
1. NAME OF NOMINEE (Type or print Nominee's Full Name)		<b>TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE</b>		
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)		
4A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE		4B. DATE (MM-DD-YYYY)		6A. COUNTY
				6B. LAA NO.
				7. STATE
<b>DATE OF ELECTION IS 1st MONDAY OF DECEMBER OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR</b>				
<b>8. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE</b>				
<b>VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES:</b> 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.				
<b>ETHNICITY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino		<b>RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> America Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander		<b>GENDER</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
<b>INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM</b>				
Complete the form as follows:				
<b>ITEM 1</b> 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.				
<b>ITEM 2</b> Enter the nominee's current address.				
<b>ITEM 3</b> The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.				
<b>ITEM 4</b> The nominee must sign and date.				
<b>ITEM 8</b> Completing this item is voluntary.				
<b>ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 1.</b>				
<b>NOTE:</b> 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.  <i>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 10 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.</i>				

**LIP and LCP Signup Announced**

The deadline date for the 2005-2007 Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) has been set for July 18, 2008.

LIP provides payments to eligible livestock owners and contract growers who incurred the death of livestock because of a natural disaster. LCP provides payments to eligible livestock owners and cash lessees who suffered feed losses or increased feed costs because of a natural disaster.



Signup began on September 10, 2007 for the two programs that provide aid to livestock producers who suffered eligible livestock or livestock feed losses between January 1, 2005 and December 30, 2007 because of a natural disaster.

**CDP Quantity payments**

Signup for the quantity (production loss) loss portion of the 2005/2007 Crop Disaster Program (CDP) began October 15, 2007 and continues. Although no ending signup date has been announced, we encourage all producers who have not yet signed up for CDP to do so as soon as possible. Payments will be delayed on all CDP production loss applications that are not approved and paid prior to receipt of the Quality loss software, which is expected to be issued around June 20, 2008. Signup dates for quality loss CDP applications will be announced in the near future.




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**Open House** – The Roosevelt County FSA Committee will be holding an Open House at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 8, 2008 at the USDA Service Center located in Culbertson. The Open House is being held for area farmers and ranchers who may be interested in running for a County Committee position.

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Roosevelt County FSA Office  
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