

December 2007

Sheridan Co. FSA Office  
119 N. Jackson  
Plentywood, MT 59254  
406-765-1550

### County Committee

Gordon French	Chair
David Friedrich	Vice Chair
Kevin Wilson	Member
Ardelle Hart	Advisor

### FSA Office Personnel

Donna Hilyard, CED	ext. 102
Donelda Buckalew, PT	ext. 105
Karen Budd, PT	ext. 104
Kathy Gray, PT,	ext. 100
Josie Johnson, PT,	ext. 109
Marcia Rice, PT,	ext. 112
Michael Sandoval, PT	ext. 110
Randy Stadstad, Field	ext. 103
Stacy Buckley, Loan Mgr.	ext. 111

### Dates to Remember:

**Ongoing:** SIGNUP for the Livestock Compensation and Livestock Indemnity Programs

**Ongoing:** SIGNUP for Crop Disaster Program

**Dec. 1:** Deadline for 2008 NAP policy for honey

**Dec. 3:** **DEADLINE** to return county committee election ballots

**Dec. 25:** CLOSED in observance of Christmas

**Jan. 1:** CLOSED in observance of New Year's Day

**Jan 21:** CLOSED in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

**Jan. 31:** **DEADLINE** to apply for loan/LDP on 2007 clip wool, mohair.

**Mar. 15:** **Deadline** for NAP coverage for '08 crops



## Sheridan County FSA Newsletter

### 2007 County Committee Election

Ballots for County Committee (COC) election must be returned or postmarked by **December 3, 2007!** Eligible voters in Local Area 3 who did not receive a ballot by mail should contact the FSA office at 406-765-1550. Area 3 is in Townships 35 through 31 and Ranges 56 through 59 (generally south of Highway 5 and east of Highway 16).

Anyone who participates or cooperates in a local FSA program and meets certain voter criteria is eligible to vote. A complete explanation of voter eligibility requirements is available on the Montana FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt> under the "Hot Links" section – Montana Producer Fact Sheets link, or by visiting the FSA office.

FSA County Committee members make important decisions about disaster and conservation programs, commodity price support loans and payments and other agricultural issues affecting the local natural resource needs. Make a difference by voting in the upcoming FSA county committee election! You can vote for the candidate on the ballot or write in and circle the name of someone who farms in area 3 who would be willing to serve on the committee if elected.



### Crop Disaster Program (CDP) Signup

Signup is underway for CDP. Please call and make an appointment. At this time, a signup deadline has not been announced.

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 (if the crop was planted before February 28, 2007) crops from natural disasters, 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. (continued on page 2)

**CDP** (continued from page 1)

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Producers 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% to be eligible for CDP. The percent of loss will be calculated on the higher of your APH or the county average yield. You may not have had enough of a loss to qualify for a crop insurance payment, but you may qualify for a CDP payment.

The payment rate is set at 42% of the established price. CDP payments, together with any crop insurance or NAP payment received for the same crop, plus the value of the crop production not lost must not exceed 95% of the total value of the crop absent the disaster.

Participants may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in CDP benefits.

Signup for quality losses will be announced at a later date.

**Livestock Disaster Program Signup**

Signup for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) began September 10, 2007.

These two disaster programs provide benefits to livestock producers for livestock feed losses, additional feed costs, and livestock deaths caused by natural disasters that occurred between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007.

To be eligible for LIP and LCP, an owner or contract grower's livestock must have been located in an eligible county between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007.

Livestock producers incurring feed or livestock losses in 2005 or 2006 calendar years may select only one year in which to receive assistance.

**LCP details....**

LCP compensates livestock producers for grazing losses to native range or improved pastures occurring between January 1, 2006 (Sheridan Co is not eligible for 2005 grazing losses), and February 28, 2007 due to a natural disaster.

You'll need to provide us with the number of livestock you had at the beginning of the disaster period (January 1 or April 1, 2006, depending on the disaster event that affected grazing conditions), and be able to identify all pasture acres on aerial maps. Producers will not be penalized if they reduced the number of livestock for grazing during the year for which assistance is sought.

LCP benefits may not exceed the smaller of the calculated payment rate per head or the value of the feed loss as determined by FSA. Producers may receive no more than \$80,000 under LCP.

Eligible livestock include beef and dairy cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, poultry, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, deer or swine that were maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation and were physically located in a disaster county on the beginning date of the applicable disaster period. Animals **not eligible** for LCP include, but are not limited to: all cattle, buffalo, and beefalo that weighed less than 500 pounds on the beginning date of the applicable disaster period; and livestock produced or maintained for reasons other than commercial use as part of a farming operation (examples: recreational purposes such as roping, hunting, show, pleasure, pets, consumption by the owner).

An eligible livestock producer had to have legal ownership of or cash or share leased eligible livestock on the beginning date of the applicable disaster period; suffered an eligible feed loss as a result of an eligible disaster events during the disaster period; and is 1 of the following: a citizen of, or legal resident alien in, the United States (including entities such as corporations, partnerships, joint ventures, and trusts), any Native American tribe, any Native American organization or entity chartered under the Indian Reorganization Act, any economic enterprise under the Indian Financing Act of 1974.

For detailed explanations of eligible livestock and eligibility requirements, logon to the Montana FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.

## LIP Details....

To be eligible for LIP, the owner's livestock must have died in an eligible county as a direct result of an eligible disaster event after Jan. 1, 2005 and before Feb. 28, 2007; must have died no later than 60 calendar days from the ending date of the applicable disaster period(s) but before Feb. 28, 2007; and in the calendar year for which benefits are requested. Livestock must have been maintained for a commercial farming operation on the day they died.

Applicants must provide adequate proof that the eligible livestock deaths occurred in an eligible county as a direct result of an eligible disaster event during the applicable disaster period.

Supporting documents must show evidence of loss, current physical location of livestock in inventory, and location of the livestock at the time of death. The quantity and kind of livestock that died as a direct result of the eligible disaster event may be documented by purchase records, veterinarian records, bank or other loan papers and any other documents verifying the death of the livestock.

As with LCP, producers may receive no more than \$80,000 under LIP.

## Equipment and Land Lease Payment Deadline

The Sheridan County FSA Committee has set December 31, 2007 as the deadline to make equipment and land lease payments for the 2007 crop year. This applies to land and/or equipment lease payments for the 2007 crop year when they are needed as a "significant contribution" to the farming operation to make the producer eligible to receive farm program payments. Please contact this office for further information if you are unsure of your situation.



## 2007 Clip Wool Loan/LDP Deadline

The deadline to request a loan or LDP (Loan Deficiency Payment) on your 2007-clip wool and mohair is January 21, 2008.

**Foreign land investors:** AFIDA was enacted to establish a nationwide system to monitor foreign ownership, purchases and sales of U.S. ag land. Foreign persons shall report any ownership, purchases, leases over 10 years long, and sales to FSA within 90 days of the date of transfer. A foreign person who either fails to file or knowingly submits a false report is subject to a penalty of up to 25% of the fair market value of the land.



## **Emergency Loans Available**

Sheridan, Daniels, Roosevelt, Valley, McCone, and Richland Counties are eligible for FSA emergency loans due to a Secretarial Disaster Designation for the Fort Peck Reservation resulting from hail damage, high winds, and excessive moisture from severe storms that occurred 6/7/07 through 7/31/07.

Producers are eligible to apply for emergency loans through the FSA offices serving their area until 6/2/08. Emergency loans are made to farmers/ranchers to cover losses resulting from designated disasters. To be eligible, applicants must be unable to obtain credit from other sources, be able to repay the loan and any other loans, and have adequate security. This disaster designation also allows FSA the option of installment set-aside to eligible producers.



## **For Your Information...**

A number of questions have been received regarding the restoration of DCP base acreage from CRP contracts that expired on September 30, 2007. The 2002 Farm Bill provided for restoration of lost base acres when a CRP contract expired. That provision ended September 30, 2007 with the expiration of the 2002 Farm Bill. When a new Farm Bill is passed by Congress, FSA will provide details as they become available.

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Sheridan County FSA Office  
119 N. Jackson  
Plentywood, MT 59254

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**PAID**  
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*Happy Holidays to  
you and yours, from  
the Sheridan  
County FSA staff!*



## *Inside this Issue*

**County Committee Ballots Due;  
Crop Disaster Program Signup;  
Livestock Compensation and Livestock  
Indemnity Program Signups;  
CRP duck nesting habitat signup  
ends soon**

### *Important Dates to Remember*

**Dec. 1 – Deadline** to purchase NAP on '08 honey  
**Dec. 3 – Deadline** to return your ballot for County  
Committee election  
Dec. 25 – Christmas Day – Office Closed  
Jan. 1 – New Year's Day – Office Closed  
Jan. 21 – ML King, Jr. Day – Office Closed  
**Jan. 31: Deadline** to apply for loan/LDP on 2007  
clip wool, mohair.

**Timely report** any farm owner or operator changes, share changes, entity changes, owned and/or leased land changes, etc. Farm payments are dependent on correct farm records! Have you deeded any land to a trust for estate planning purposes? If so, you need to notify us, because we have to carry the trust as the landowner. It is also important that any change in the producer's bank account, such as type of account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly if you receive payments via direct deposit.

**Wetlands Initiative added to CRP:** the Duck Nesting Habitat Initiative has been added to the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The purpose of the initiative is to increase duck populations by an estimated 60,000 birds annually and to restore 100,000 wetland acres. Signup for the initiative began October 2, 2006 and will run on a continuous basis until **December 31, 2007**. Please check with us on the details.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to participate in FSA programs should contact Donna Hilyard, CED, at 119 N. Jackson, Plentywood, MT 59254; phone 406-765-1550 ext. 102; or email at [donna.hilyard@mt.usda.gov](mailto:donna.hilyard@mt.usda.gov).

