



**Stillwater Farm Service Agency**

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**Stillwater County Committee**

Richard Swartz - Member  
Robert Yates - Member  
Lance Eisenman - Member  
Theo Yanzick - Advisor

**Stillwater County Personnel**

Dane Schneidt, CED -Ext. 104  
Donna Linger, PT -Ext. 105  
Michelle Eder, PT -Ext. 100  
Susan Pederson, TP -Ext. 106

**Sweet Grass Farm Service Agency**

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**Sweet Grass County Committee**

Donald Kinsey - Member  
Lynn Sanders - Member  
Kate Binckley - Member  
Sylvia Drivdahl - Advisor

**Sweet Grass County Personnel**

Dane Schneidt, CED - Ext. 2  
Marla Moen, PT - Ext. 2

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**February 19** - Holiday Office closed

**March 15** - 2007 Application for coverage closing date for NAP crops

**March 31** - Final loan/LDP availability date for Barley, Canola, Crambe, Flaxseed, Honey, Oats, Rapeseed, Wheat and Sesame seed harvested in 2006

**April 1** - Deadline for payment limitation changes

**May 1** - NAP Pull-Off Date for forage producers

**May 15-August 1** - FSA State Committee established primary nesting season for CRP

**July 16** - last day to certify crops

# FARM FOCUS FEBRUARY 2007

## THANK YOU!!

We would like to thank all of our producers for their time, patience and timeliness in getting your 2007 Eligibility paperwork back into the office. It has been quite a process to redo all of your eligibility and we appreciate your understanding and grace, as this has been a National mandate and not something we are doing just for fun! If you still need to get paperwork in to our office, please do so immediately - as we are not able to make any payments until your paperwork has been approved by the County Committee.

## SIGNATURE AUTHORITY

Documents that do not have the correct signatures on them for corporations, trusts, joint ventures, and partnerships will be returned until correct signatures are received. The following items are needed for a correct signature for an entity:

- An indicator, such as “**by**” or “**for**”, illustrating that the individual is signing in a representative capacity

### **And**

- Individual’s name, capacity and name of the entity

An example of a correct signature for Smith Bros. Inc would be Smith Bros. Inc by John H. Smith, President

Please direct any questions regarding signature authority to the County FSA Office.

## NEW MEASUREMENT SERVICE COSTS

On farm measurement is charged at:

- Basic farm fee of \$30.00;
- Plus an hourly rate of \$16.00 for the first hour and \$8.00 for each additional ½ hour.

The hourly rate includes the time to travel from the FSA county office to the farm, complete the measurement service and return to the county office.

In-office measurements are charged at a basic farm rate of \$15.00 plus a 30-minute minimum rate of \$8.00.

## Changing Financial Institutions

Almost all FSA payments are made electronically using direct deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. It has been determined that the chance of having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with direct deposit. Another benefit is that direct deposit to your account can be made within 48 hours.

To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the office so we can update our files to ensure continued uninterrupted service.

## Reminder: Wool and Mohair Producers need to file CCC-633 EZ

The 2007 crop year for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts began January 1, 2007 and ends December 31, 2007. For the 2007 crop year, wool mohair, and unshorn pelt producers need to file a CCC-633 EZ form. The purpose of filing this form is for producers to:

- Indicate their intentions to receive Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) benefits (on page 1 of the CCC-633 EZ) before the loss of beneficial interest; or
- Submit an LDP request (on page 4 of the CCC-633 EZ) for benefits at any time during the loan/LDP availability period before or after losing beneficial interest.

Producers are reminded to file the CCC-633 EZ at the FSA office.

## NAP Production Records

For those who purchased a NAP application in 2006, don't forget to report your grass hay or small grain hay crop production to the office!

## Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

NAP provides financial assistance to producers of Noninsurable crops when low yields occur as a result of natural disaster. Eligible crops are those commercially produced for food, livestock consumption, and some specialty crops. Eligible producers must pay an administrative service fee of \$100 per crop per administrative county or \$300 per producer per county, not to exceed \$900 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties. Service fees may be waived for limited-resource producers. **Payment of a service fee does not guarantee coverage.** There are many eligibility requirements that must be met. ***The Application Closing Date is March 15, 2007.*** Contact the office for more information.

## NAP Pull Off Dates

Each FSA County Committee determines the date when livestock must be removed from NAP forage acres each spring. The date determined in Stillwater and Sweet Grass Counties is ***May 1, 2007***. The pull off date for crops intended for grass seed is ***April 1, 2007*** in all counties.

**Prevented Planting Crop Reports**

It is often difficult for County Committees or the State Committee (STC) to make a determination that a producer with a claim for prevented planting was prevented from planting because of a natural disaster, or if the producer made a management decision not to plant.

The FSA State Committee (STC) has determined that a producer not planting because of drought conditions is making a management decision and is not prevented from getting into the field and planting the crop. The STC determined that drought is not an eligible cause of prevented planting. This determination applies only to crop acreage reporting for prevented planting acreage credit.

**NWF Settlement**

On September 25, 2006 a settlement agreement was signed by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) and the Farm Service Agency as a result of the NWF's lawsuit against the Agency's CRP managed haying and grazing provisions.

The settlement agreement affects CRP Re-Enrollments and Extensions (REX) contracts that were not approved by September 25, 2006. It also affects any existing CRP contract that did not have the managed haying and grazing provisions in its Conservation Plan of Operations by September 25, 2006. These contracts will be under the new managed haying and grazing provisions agreed to in the settlement.

The new managed haying and grazing provisions are:

- The Primary Nesting and Brood Rearing Season will be May 15 through August 1
- Managed Haying frequency will be changed to no more than 1 in 10 years
- Managed Grazing frequency will be changed to no more than 1 in 5 years

**Final Loan/LDP Availability is March 31**

March 31 is the final loan/LDP availability date for Barley, Canola, Flaxseed, Oats, Rapeseed, Crambe and Wheat.

For the 2006 crop of the commodities listed above, loans and LDP's will no longer be available after March 31, 2007. You may find the daily LDP rates at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/ldppcpStateInfo?mystate=mt&area=home&subject=dalp&topic=landing>

then select the County FSA Office and 2006 crop year and click submit.

**Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program Signup (DCP) Reminder**

Producers wanting to receive 2007 DCP payments have until June 1, 2007 to signup or pay a \$100 late filing fee.

**FSA will begin issuing 2007 advance direct payments soon.** Advance direct payments for 2007 will be 22 percent of the payment rate. 2007 advance direct payment rates are as follows:

Crop	Advance Payment Rate
Wheat (bu.)	\$0.1144
Oats (bu.)	\$0.00528
Soybeans (bu.)	\$0.0968
Flax (bu.)	\$0.09856
Other Oilseeds (lbs.)	\$0.00176
Corn (bu.)	\$0.0616
Grain Sorghum (bu.)	\$0.077
Barley (bu.)	\$0.0528



**VALENTINE'S DAY CARD TRIVIA**

- About 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are exchanged each year. That's the largest seasonal card-sending occasion of the year, next to Christmas.
- About 3% of pet owners will give Valentine's Day cards to their pets.
- Hallmark has over 1330 different cards specifically for Valentine's Day.
- In Victorian times it was considered bad luck to sign a Valentine's Day card.
- Teachers will receive the most Valentine's Day cards, followed by children, mothers, wives, and then, sweethearts. Children ages 6 to 10 exchange more than 650 million Valentine's cards with teachers, classmates, and family members.

**2006 Commodity Loan Rates**

2006 commodity loans are still available until March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007. These loan rates for Stillwater and Sweet Grass Counties are as follows:

**STILLWATER COUNTY**

COMMODITY	LOAN RATE
Barley \$/bu	1.86
Canola \$/cwt	8.36
Corn \$/bu	2.14
Oats \$/bu	1.23
Wheat - Spring \$/bu	2.65
Wheat - Winter \$/bu	2.60
Wheat - White \$/bu	2.45

**SWEET GRASS COUNTY**

COMMODITY	LOAN RATE
Barley \$/bu	1.90
Canola \$/cwt	8.29
Corn \$/bu	2.19
Oats \$/bu	1.23
Wheat - Spring \$/bu	2.65
Wheat - Winter \$/bu	2.68
Wheat - White \$/bu	2.50