

CONNECTIONS

CONSERVATION DISTRICT, EXTENSION SERVICE, FARM SERVICE AGENCY, & NATURAL RESOURCES & CONSERVATION SERVICE

March, 2009

2009 DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM SIGNUP

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. Farms may not be enrolled after June 1 of the applicable contract period. 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. A producer with the sum of the base acreage on the farm with 10 acres or less must be a minority or limited resource farmer or rancher to be eligible for DCP payments.

Reconstitutions of farms with 10 base acres or less are now allowed.

Direct and Counter-cyclical payments for the 2009 year will be made on 83.3 percent of the farm's base acreage. 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. To maintain eligibility: 1) meet Highly Erodible Land and Wetland provisions 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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SPRING GRAZING ON CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP) ACRES

The 2009 grazing period for managed grazing of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres is March 15th through May 14th. CRP participants who want to graze their CRP contracts this spring must sign up at the office.

Grazing cannot begin until the participant (s) receives written approval from the local FSA county committee or its designee. Spring managed grazing must end before May 15th, which is the start of Montana’s Primary Nesting and Brood rearing Season.

Participants may graze CRP acres based on the rotation period (once every three years or once every 5 years) and other limitations that are included in their Conservation Plan of Operations. Producers wishing to graze CRP acres must first receive written notification of approval from the FSA county committee before managed grazing can begin. Livestock producers, who rent or lease acreage from the CRP participant, shall sign a statement agreeing not to sublease the CRP acreage and receive notification of approval from the FSA county committee, a copy of which they should provide to the CRP participant. All livestock must be removed from the CRP acreage when the calculated AUM’s are utilized, but no later than May 14th for spring grazing. CRP participants will be assessed a payment reduction for managed grazing which is calculated by taking the number of acres grazed, times the CRP per acre annual rental payment, times 25 percent.

Managed grazing *and* managed haying of CRP will be allowed in 2009, however, a starting date for the summer/fall managed grazing *and* managed haying for CRP will be announced later. ♣



NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK is March 15-21, 2009. It is a time to celebrate American agriculture and honor the people who work to meet our everyday needs. FSA in Montana thanks the many farmers and ranchers we work with on a daily basis.

NAP DEADLINE MARCH 16

For the 2009 crop year it is imperative to purchase Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and catastrophic (CAT) level of crop insurance for all insurable and non-insurable crops. 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 and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, and Honey Bees, (**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 the office to ensure your eligibility for the new disaster assistance programs by March 16th. ♣

2008 LOAN RATES

HRW	= \$2.87
HRS	= \$2.83
HAD	= \$2.70
BLY	= \$1.84
OATS	= \$1.21
PEAS	= \$6.14 cwt
CANOLA	= \$8.20 cwt

The final application date for 2008 grain loans is March 31, 2009. ♣

ORGANIC CERTIFICATION COST SHARE ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

HELENA, Mont. -- The Montana Department of Agriculture is offering cost-share assistance for organic certification expenses under two separate programs.

Certified organic growers of fruits, vegetables and other "specialty crops" will receive payments based on certification costs currently on file with the department. Payments will be made within the next 30 days to those growers, says Doug Crabtree, program manager. Each eligible grower will receive an equal percentage reimbursement.

Specialty crops are defined in federal law. Qualifying crops grown in Montana include fruits, vegetables, herbs, flowers, potatoes, peas and lentils. To be eligible, growers must raise a specialty crop, be certified organic by a USDA-accredited agency, and have total gross income from farming of less than \$100,000 in 2008.

Organic growers who do not raise specialty crops may apply for cost reimbursement under the National Organic Certification Cost Share Program. Under this program, certified organic producers and handlers are eligible for a reimbursement of up to 75 percent of certification costs incurred between October 1, 2007 and September 30, 2009. The program was contained in the 2008 Farm Bill. In essence, it allows reimbursement for a percentage of two years of certification expenses, says Doug Crabtree, organic program manager for the department.

An application form is posted on the department's website at: www.agr.mt.gov. Total reimbursement for a single certification may not exceed \$750. However, an operation certified as both a producer and handler may receive up to \$1,500. Both programs are open to any certified organic operation located in Montana.

Reimbursements cannot be made under both programs. For additional information, contact Ann Bay at the Montana Department of Agriculture at (406) 444-7804 or by email at agr@mt.gov. ♣



BEGINNING FARMER LOANS

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides direct and guaranteed loans to beginning farmers and ranchers who are unable to obtain financing from commercial credit sources.

Each fiscal year, the Agency targets a portion of its direct and guaranteed farm ownership (FO) and operating loan (OL) funds to beginning farmers and ranchers. A beginning farmer or rancher is an individual or entity who:

1. Has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years;
2. Meets the loan eligibility requirements of the program to which he/she is applying;
3. Substantially participates in the operation; and,
4. For FO loan purposes, does not own a farm greater than 30 percent of the average size farm in the county. (Note: all applicants for direct FO loans must have participated in business operation of a farm for at least 3 years).

If the applicant is an entity, blood or marriage must relate all members, and all stockholders in a corporation must be eligible beginning farmers.

Additional information may be obtained at local FSA offices or through the Montana FSA Web site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>. ♣

NEED TO ORDER FABRIC SOON

The Toole County Conservation District asks that your orders for fabric be placed by March 30, 2009. This gives time for the fabric to arrive around the same time as the trees.

Prices for the fabric are:

6' X 300' \$61.70

6' X 500' \$91.95

The district has a fabric layer for producers to use. The price of the fabric will be at cost. The use of the layer will have a \$100.00 deposit with a \$20.00 a day usage. The layer, is to be signed out and returned to the office to receive the \$100.00 deposit. This cost used to be added to the fabric in the past and then the layer was just given out at no cost. ♣

PAYMENT OPTIONS FOR DCP

For crop years 2009 through 2011, customers may elect to receive their direct payments in two installments. An advance payment for up to 22 percent will be issued beginning in December of the calendar year prior to the harvest year. The balance of the total direct payment is available in October of the crop year. Customers who do not elect to take the advance direct payment will receive the entire direct payment that October. There is no **advanced direct payment for 2012**. For crop years 2009 through 2012, customers may elect to receive two counter-cyclical payments per year if available. A partial payment may be available at the discretion of the Secretary of Agriculture after completion of 180 days of the marketing year for the crop. These payments can not exceed 40 percent of the total projected payment. Final payments are issued beginning Oct. 1 after the end of the marketing year for the crop. Customers who do not elect to take the partial payment will receive the entire counter-cyclical payment at this time. ♣

MAKE SURE YOUR PROPER SIGNATURE AUTHORIZATION IS ON FILE

The Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 required every federal agency to identify programs and activities susceptible to possible improper payments. As a result, FSA has been reviewing every producer's eligibility file to determine who is authorized to sign FSA program documents in representative capacities and if the signature format is proper. If you are contacted by your local FSA Office, you will be asked to provide copies of signed legal documents specific to your organization. The documents that may be requested to verify ownership interest as well as signature authority for the organization are identified as follows:

Corporation: Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, Corporate Resolutions, Corporate Meeting Minutes, Share Certificates, Share Registers, Share Receipts, Annual Report Filed with the Montana Secretary of State's Office.

Limited Liability Company: Articles of Organization, Operating Agreement, Annual Report Filed with the Montana Secretary of State's Office.

Limited Liability Partnership: Partnership Agreement.

Limited Partnership: Partnership Agreement.

General Partnership: Partnership Agreement, IRS Form 1065 and applicable Schedule K-1.

Trust: Trust Agreement.

Estate: Last Will and Testament, Court Orders of Appointment containing the signature of an officer of the issuing court, Court-approved certificate of letter of administration containing the signature of an officer of and issuing court, Certification by an officer of the issuing court that the evidence of authority is in full force and effect.

Joint Venture: IRS Form 1065 and applicable Schedule K-1.

For a complete listing of FSA signature requirements, contact your local FSA office or logon to the Montana FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usa.gov/mt> and click on the Signature Authority Pamphlet link under "In the News." ♣

TOOLE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

On February 2, 2009 the Toole County Conservation District held their 58th Annual Dinner Meeting. The dinner held at the Dixie Inn had approximately 51 people attending. The meeting started off with Gary Olson, MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks speaking on the progress of the Lincoln Ranch. The district presented a new award this year to Kory Fauque for the Conservation Partner Award. Kory owns and operates with his wife K-W Insurance in Sunburst. The, Conservationist of the Year, was present to Paul and Detta Lindberg for their conservation partnership over a quarter of a century. They are not afraid to draw on the expertise of others and then continually implement new knowledge to improve their farming operation.

The meal for the evening was a roast beef/ham buffet with entertainment provided by, Eric "Fingers" Ray Gustafson. The door prizes were handed out and the 58th Toole County Conservation District came to an end for another year. ♣

CASH-RENT TENANT

A cash-rent tenant rule applies to any producer that rents land from another producer for cash or a crop share guaranteed as the amount of the commodity to be paid in rent. The rule also applies to any producer who rents land for zero dollars or who farms the land in exchange for compensation other than cash, such as controlling weeds on land not owned, or barter arrangements. Any cash-rent tenant shall be ineligible to receive payment unless the cash-rent tenant makes a significant contribution of active personal labor to the farming operation; or a significant contribution of active personal management **and** a significant contribution of equipment. A cash-rent tenant must also meet all applicable requirements to be considered “actively engaged in farming.” ♣

ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME

The 2008 Farm Bill states that an individual or entity shall not be eligible to receive commodity program benefits as specified in the bill if the average adjusted gross non-farm income (AGI) of the individual or entity exceeds \$500,000. An individual or entity shall not be eligible to receive direct DCP payments if their average adjusted gross farm income exceeds \$750,000. An individual or entity shall not be eligible to receive conservation program benefits if their average adjusted gross non-farm income exceeds \$1,000,000 unless more than 66.6% of their adjusted gross income was derived from farm sources. Revisions to what is considered ‘farm’ income versus ‘nonfarm’ income have been made; please contact this office for additional details. Noncompliance with the AGI provisions, either by exceeding the applicable limitations or failure to submit the applicable certification statement, will result in the determination of ineligibility for all program benefits subject to the AGI provisions; program benefits shall be reduced in an amount that is commensurate with the direct and indirect interest held by an ineligible individual or entity in any entity, general partnership, or joint operation that receives benefits subject to the AGI limitation. ♣

DIRECT AND COUNTER CYCLICAL FARM SPECIFIC CROP AND SHARE INFORMATION

To participate in DCP, producers are required to designate shares and sign the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program Contract (CCC-509) on a yearly basis. The annual DCP sign-up period runs from October 1 to June 1 of the applicable program year. CCC-509 must be submitted by June 1 of the applicable program year. Late-filed applications will not be accepted. All supporting documentation, such as CCC-902, AD-1026, and CCC-926, must be submitted before payments can be issued. Annual acreage reports indicating uses of all cropland on a farm must be filed by the applicable established reporting dates. Acreage reports filed after the applicable final reporting date may be accepted if all requirements are met and a late-filed fee is paid. ♣

WHAT IS HAY NET?

The Farm Service Agency's (FSA) electronic Hay Net Ad Service (eHayNet) is an Internet-based service allowing farmers and ranchers to share 'Need Hay' ads and 'Have Hay' ads online.

A few things to remember when getting familiarized with the site:

There is a one-time registration process that should be completed by all users who want to post an ad online. When completing your registration with eAuthentication (described below), please remember to use the Email address you used with the previous version of Hay Net. This information will be very important when you want to remove ads that were posted through the previous site.

Users just wishing to browse ads DO NOT NEED to have an eAuthentication user id.

Hay Net Ads will be automatically removed after a period of 13 months.

Please help your fellow farmer and rancher by keeping ads current and up to date. Remove ads you no longer need advertised on our Web.

Please use this site in a courteous manner. The site was not designed for use by placing ads in each state, or advertising your company. ♣

SHELTERBELTS

By: Amy Kaiser

Shelterbelts, especially in wind-swept Toole County, are very valuable and provide many benefits. One main purpose of the shelterbelt establishment is to reduce soil erosion from wind. In effect this will protect crops, manage snow deposition, provide shelter for structures and animals, and also provide noise and visual screens. The long term benefits will improve air quality by reducing and intercepting air borne particulate matter, chemicals and odors, and reduce energy costs.

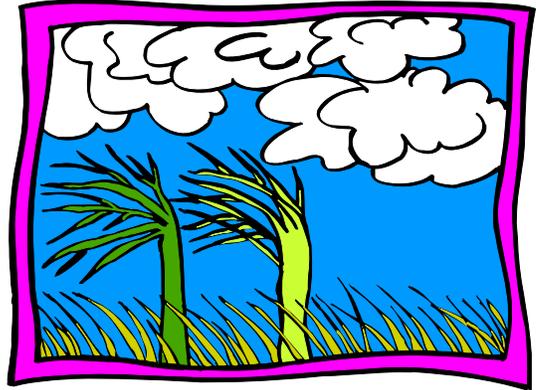
NRCS is able to provide technical assistance with the design of your shelterbelt. The location, layout and density of the planting will accomplish the purpose and function intended within a 20-year period.

1. Development of a Shelterbelt:
2. Determining the soil type of the planting location
3. Match the soil type to the most adequate tree species available in Toole County
4. Determine the length and width of the tree rows
5. Tilling the desired tree planting area should be done 1 year before planting
6. Order the trees in bulk by March 31st for an April 20th delivery
 - *Tip: the earlier you order, the more likely your chosen variety will be in stock
7. Order fabric mesh by March 31st – Mesh will help reduce weed competition
8. Plant trees and watch them grow
9. Maintain your new seedlings through tillage between rows and replacing trees that did not advance

Trees can be ordered through the Toole County Conservation District (406.434.5234 x.113) or online at <http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/forestry/nursery/>

There are programs to assist with planning and cost share assistance for installing shelterbelts. Eligible applications could receive anywhere from

50-75% incentive payments toward the trees and planting. The NRCS may provide assistance using EQIP or WHIP (for wildlife shelterbelts) and FSA has the continuous CRP that also offers cost share assistance for eligible applications. If you are interested call or stop by the USDA. ♣



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

The Natural Resources Conservation Service continues to wait for final rules to be released regarding the new farm bill. Please be advised that we are expecting there to be an additional signup period for EQIP for fiscal year 2009 funds. This signup is expected to have a very short window, possibly opening early February and closing March 13, 2009. EQIP is a program to help fund conservation practices that will benefit our nation's natural resources (soil, water, air, plants, animals). Some examples of common conservation practices that apply in Toole county include: cross fencing and water developments to improve grazing distribution on native rangeland, improving nutrient management application on cropland, reducing soil erosion by seeding marginal cropland, improving water quality by treating saline seep recharges areas, as well as planting trees for wind protection or wildlife habitat. Please call or stop by the NRCS if you have additional questions. NRCS can provide you with an application for the program as well as the baseline information worksheets that need completed, 406-434-5234 ext. 3.

♣

WANT YOUR COWS TO EAT WEEDS?

By: Misty Vermulm

A growing concept in the world of ranching is the notion of training cows to eat weeds, either noxious and or nuisance weeds. And while there are plenty of nay-sayers that are quick to voice their skepticism, research and real-world trials are proving this is possible more and more. While many people believe that sheep and goats will eat such weeds, those same people do not think that cows will. Sure, the training process requires time, labor, and commitment, but it is much easier to train a cow to eat weeds than it is to convince a cow-man to raise sheep!

The idea of training cows to eat weeds is based on human influence over seven grazing behavior principles that apply to livestock. Let's explore those briefly:

1. **Behavior depends on consequences.** It follows logic that positive consequences (obtaining energy and nutrients) will result in the likelihood of repeating a particular behavior. It is important to know the nutritional value of the weed that you want your animals to eat. Leafy spurge and spotted knapweed are both very close to alfalfa in the protein and total digestible nutrients available. However, some weeds may have adequate nutrients but are toxic if consumed in excess quantities.
2. **Mother knows best.** Young animals learn best from moms and that knowledge carries on for a long time. Trained animals will pass along their grazing behavior to their offspring. Every rancher has probably experienced this to some extent – if Mom climbed fences, then her heifer that you kept grows up to be a fence-climber too. So the idea here is to keep offspring of trained animals or at least of animals with desirable traits. Animals will also adopt behaviors by observing their peers such that trained animals can help you to train their herd-mates.
3. **Animals are “neophobic”:** or cautious of new foods, habitats, activities and may not try them without some pressure. For this behavior characteristic, the goal is to overcome that fear of trying new things with slight pressure that will of course give them positive feedback and

encourage them to adopt this new behavior. If consequences are negative when trying a new food, pasture, or activity, then this can backfire and make animals even less likely to try new things. So researching a plant and being prepared are especially key to a successful training program.

4. **Palatability is more than a matter of taste.** How a food tastes is a function of the nutrients and toxins it contains. Animals will learn to eat foods that provide the nutrition that they need and will avoid foods low in nutrients or high in toxins.
5. **Variety is the spice of life.** Animals will mix foods to meet their individual nutritional needs. In addition, a variety of foods will allow animals to increase their intake of foods with toxins. The toxins in certain plants can be off-set by other plants and this biological feedback may be learned by grazing livestock.
6. **Even old dogs can learn new tricks:** Regardless of age, grazing behavior can be changed with either reinforcement or punishment. However, positive reinforcement has the strongest and longest-lasting change.
7. **Relationships make all the difference:** all of the above principles cannot be considered exclusive to the others. The different principles impact and influence each other for unique results in behavior.

Knowing these principles and how to manipulate grazing behavior can enable you to ‘train’ your cows to eat weeds, to better utilize uplands, or to better utilize feed supplements. Certainly, this is not meant to be a cure-all solution to weed problems, but can become one more ‘tool’ to draw from in your efforts to properly manage the land and resources.

There are many skeptics out there, but research and real ranch implementation increasingly support the idea. A couple of websites to reference are: www.behave.net and www.livestockforlandscapes.com. In addition, you may contact either MSU Extension or NRCS to visit further about this or for more detailed information about the training process. ♣



MIXED GRAIN/HAY LOAN LDP ELIGIBILITY

USDA does not establish loan rates for mixed commodities. A mixed commodity harvested as grain that does not meet grading standards is not eligible for a loan or Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP). A mixed commodity that is hayed or harvested as silage is not eligible for an LDP.

Eligibility for Grain/Oilseeds/Pulse Crops Harvested as **Grain** – If a mixed commodity is harvested as grain and a farm-stored loan or LDP is applied for; a sample of the harvested crop must be taken to a licensed Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) laboratory for grading, at the producer's expense. Loan or LDP eligibility will be determined based on the results of the sample.

Eligibility for Grain/Oilseeds/Pulse Crops Harvested as **Other Than Grain** – If the mixed commodity is harvested as hay or silage, there is no test to determine the percentage of each commodity in the mixture to establish the grade and class. Therefore, crops planted in a mixture and hayed or harvested for silage are not eligible for an LDP.

A commodity planted as a nurse crop with alfalfa may be eligible for an LDP if a full seeding is planted and the commodity is reported as the intended use for grain or forage. The County Committee may require documentation to support the seeding rate. ♣

ENSURE BENEFITS ARE RECEIVED IN A TIMELY MANNER

To ensure USDA program benefits are received in a timely manner, please ensure you are consistent in the way you are presenting your operation to all USDA agencies including NRCS, Risk Management Agency (RMA), FSA and any other USDA agency programs you may partake in. For example, if you have signed up for program benefits with FSA as Joe Farmer, please sign up with NRCS as Joe Farmer. This will ensure Joe Farmer has completed all program paperwork and is eligible to receive payments. When in doubt, ask your county office. ♣

DAIRY PRICES TO TRIGGER MILC PAYMENTS

Due to low milk prices, FSA will be making payments in April to producers through the FSA's Milk Income Loss Contract, or MILC, program. The 2008 Farm Bill made changes to the MILC program, most notably the addition of a dairy feed ration cost adjustment in addition to changes to the payment rate and modifications to the per-operation poundage limit, depending on when the milk is produced.

FSA issues payment no later than 60 calendar days after FSA receives production evidence for the applicable month or the entire month's National Average Dairy Feed Ration Cost is posted for the applicable month, whichever is later.

MILC participants must select a month for which FSA will begin issuing payments for each fiscal year. Starting with the dairy operation's selected month, FSA will issue MILC payments based on that month's milk production and each consecutive month's production until the operation reaches the production cap or the fiscal year ends.

When dairy producers sign up for the MILC program they may select the current month as their start month. For subsequent years or if they wish to change a previously selected start month the producer must select a start month prior to the 14th of the month for which they want to receive payments and before the selected month's Boston Class I milk price is announced to the public.

Producers may contact the office to sign up for the MILC program. ♣



CHANGES TO FSA PAYMENT PROCESSING

FSA will be deployed a new payment processing system the first part of December.

Through the new system, **all** payments (CRP, DCP, Grain Loans, etc.) will be routed to the National Payment Service (NPS) and processed through the Federal Reserve Bank.

How will this affect you?

- Those that receive payments by direct deposit won't notice a big difference.
- Those that receive payments by check could have a delay of three to 5 days from the date the payment is processed at the county office.
- The producers that will notice the biggest difference are those that request a grain loan and the bank has lien on the grain. Once the loan papers are signed in the office, there could be a delay in receiving the check of 7 to 10 days. ♣

MONTANA STATE FSA WEBSITE:

Producers may access FSA information and forms on the Montana Internet site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>. ♣

ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE WITH PLANTING AND HARVESTING



Farm Rescue is a non-profit organization which plants and harvests crops free of charge for farm families that have experienced a major injury, illness or natural disaster. Priority consideration is given to applications received by March 15. Visit <http://www.farmrescue.org> or call 701/252-2017 for further information, to refer a family in need or obtain an application. ♣



GETTING READY FOR CERTIFICATION

The county office is in the process of getting certification packets ready for the 2009 crop year. We are hoping to have them ready by April 15th for producers to visit the office to pick them up. The office is authorized to provide two sets of maps per farm, so if you need more sets than that your best bet would be to keep a master copy for yourself to make copies from. ♣

Extension Service to Conduct ACRE/SURE Workshops

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Town</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Contact</i>
March 5	9 a.m. – noon	Conrad	Norley Hall	Dan Picard 271-4054
	3 p.m. – 6p.m.	Great Falls	Heritage Hall – MSU College of Technology	Wade Crouch 454-6980
March 6	9 a.m. – noon	Choteau	Choteau Public Library	Mark Major 466-2491
	2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Helena	Bill Hamilton Building - Fairgrounds	Larry Hoffman 447-8346
March 10	2 p.m. – 5p.m.	Sidney	USDA ARS Lab	Ben Larson 433-1206
March 11	2 p.m. – 5p.m.	Miles City	Courthouse Conference Room	Kent Williams 874-3370
March 13	9 a.m. – noon	Lewistown	Fergus County Sheriff's Complex	Darren Crawford 535-3919

**Montana Farm Service Agency
SUMMER INTERN PROGRAM
RECRUITMENT ANNOUNCEMENT**

POSITION AND SALARY: JOB NO: FSA-
STATE-2009

Program Clerk/Technician

Name of State: Montana

GS-2/3/4/5 level, depending on the
qualifications of the applicant, \$22,454-
\$30,772 per annum.

LOCATION: USDA, Farm Service Agency
(FSA), Custer County FSA Office, Miles City,
Montana.

MAJOR DUTIES: Working with agricultural
producers and county office staff in day-to-day
activities of the county office operations that
includes clerical support, office management,
providing service to farmers and/or ranchers
for loan processing and servicing, or
administering farm programs. Accompanying a
FSA Farm Loan Officer working with FSA
borrowers in the loan program. Working with
an FSA Appraiser conducting real estate and
chattel appraisals. Accompanying FSA field
employees performing measurement services
and compliance activities. Working with
agricultural producers reporting their acreage
to FSA. Participating in general FSA program
training.

- Access to Public Transportation
Vehicle Required

DESIRED MAJOR/COURSE WORK:
Economics, Finance, Agriculture,
Agribusiness, Business Management, or
Marketing. Computer/word processing skills
required. Skills in written communication,
public speaking and electronic business
processes are important, as well as a strong
background in the agricultural industry.

OPENING DATE: February 17, 2009

CLOSING DATE: March 20, 2009

APPLICATION PKG CONSISTS OF THE
FOLLOWING REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- Resume Cover Sheet
- Resume or OF-612
- Official copy of current transcript(s)

Incomplete application packages will be rated
ineligible.

PLEASE LIST WORK EXPERIENCE DATES
(MO/DAY/YR) AND HOW MANY HOURS
WORKED PER WEEK. WORK EXPERIENCE
WILL NOT BE CREDITED WITHOUT THIS
INFORMATION.

MAIL APPLICATIONS TO:

Montana State FSA Office

P.O. Box 670

Bozeman, MT 59771-0670

CONTACT PERSON: Linda Itoh (406) 587-6876

Applications must be received in the Montana
State FSA Office by the close of business on or
before the closing date of this announcement.

For additional information see

<http://www.usda.gov/da/employ/intern.htm>



USDA SERVICE CENTER

Phone: 406-434-5234

FAX: 406-434-2718

CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS

Terry Tomsheck, Chairman

Steve Ahrens, Vice Chairman

Bob Pace, Treasurer

Roger Smedsrud

Dick Steinbacher

Willie Wilson, Sunburst Urban Supervisor

Bob Aklestad, Associate Member

Sara Shepard, Administrator (Ext 113)

NRCS STAFF

Misty Vermulm (Ext 110)

Amy Kaiser (Ext 108)

Stacy Thornbrugh(Ext 115)

FSA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chuck Kelleher, Chairman

Connie Alme, Vice Chairman

Tim Fenger, Regular Member

FSA OFFICE STAFF

Bob Hermance, County Executive

Director (Ext 107)

email: robert.hermance@mt.usda.gov

Ed Daugherty, Farm Loan Manager

(Conrad-278-7611)

email: william.daugherty@mt.usda.gov

Rogene Halver- Grain, Bin, & Farm

Loans, NAP & LCP (Ext 103)

email: rogene.halver@mt.usda.gov

Carla McNamara-Payment Limitation &

Direct Counter Cyclical Payment Program

(Ext 101)

email: carla.mcnamara@mt.usda.gov

Dale White-CRP & Maps (Ext 106)

email: dale.white@mt.usda.gov

Lynda Fretheim-Crop Certification &

Maps (Ext 104)

email: lynda.fretheim@mt.usda.gov

RECEIVING THE TOOLE COUNTY NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

Are you interested in receiving the Toole County Newsletter by email? The office is in the process of compiling a list of producers that would like to receive a monthly newsletter by email. If you would like to be added to the list, please contact the office or send Rogene an email at rogene.halver@mt.usda.gov.

In addition to these newsletters, you will continue to receive the Toole County Connections which is mailed quarterly. If any of the individuals already on the list have any problems opening the attachment, etc., please let us know. ♣



TOOLE COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations are extended to Connie Alme who has been elected to serve a three year term on the Toole County Committee for the northern community. Committee members are responsible for County Committees are a unique system that offers producers participating or cooperating in federal programs a chance to administer the programs that affect the well-being of all producers in their COC jurisdiction. One of the reasons the Farm Service Agency is recognized for delivering its programs so well is because County Committees give FSA local expertise and guidance on information such as yields, productivity of the land, and local farming methods and practices.

The County Committee meetings are held at the Toole County Service Center on the first Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m. ♣

Calendar of Events

March 5	ACRE/SURE Workshop-Conrad
March 6	ACRE/SURE Workshop-Choteau
March 15	Spring Grazing of CRP
March 16	2009 NAP Deadline
March 31	2008 Grain Loan Deadline
May 14	Spring Grazing of CRP Ends
May 15	Beginning Date of Primary Nesting Season
June 1	DCP Sign-up Ends

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director; Office of Civil Rights; Room 326-W, Whitten Building; 1499 Independence Avenue, SW; Washington, D.C., 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD).

Toole County FSA
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Shelby, MT 59474

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“Special accommodations will be made for the physically handicapped, vision or hearing impaired person upon request. If accommodation is required, please contact Bob Hermance, County Executive Director at the above address; call 406-434-5234; or email: robert.hermance@mt.usda.gov