

Valley County FSA Office
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Mike Hagfeldt, CED
Stephanie Meier, PT
Roberta Hopstad, PT
Sheri Daggett, PT
Darlene Otten, PT
Jodie Berg, PT
Britney Cornwell, PT
Sharon Baillargeon, FLM
Jaylein Nickels, FLO
Del Mullins, TO

Dates to Remember:

- ▶ **March 15 – May 14**
CRP Spring Managed Grazing
- ▶ **March 17** – NAP sales closing date for all crops except value loss and honey
- ▶ **March 17** – Crop insurance sales closing date for 2007 spring-seeded crops
- ▶ **March 31** – Final loan/LDP availability date for barley, canola, crambe, flaxseed, honey, oats, rapeseed, wheat and sesame seed harvested in 2007
- ▶ **April 1** – Deadline for payment limitation changes
- ▶ **NAP Pull-Off Date** – May 1, 2008
- ▶ **June 2** - Final loan/LDP availability date for corn, dry peas, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard, safflower, soybeans, small chickpeas, sunflowers harvested in 2007



Farm Service Agency

Valley County FSA

March 2008

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Deadline is March 17, 2008

Contact Person: Roberta Hopstad

NAP provides financial assistance to producers of Noninsurable crops when low yields occur as a result of natural disaster. 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 other eligibility requirements that must be met. ***The Application Closing Date for all crops except value loss and honey is March 17, 2008.*** Contact the office for further 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 Valley County is May 1, 2008. The pull off date for crops intended for grass seed is April 1 in all counties.

Remember to submit 2007 production records for crops insured under the NAP program. These records shall be submitted no later than July 15, 2008.

Payment Limitation Status Date

Contact Person: Stephanie Meier

The status of an individual or entity is determined as of April 1st of the applicable crop or program year for which a "person" determination is made. Changes made in an operation after April 1st shall not increase the number of persons determined for the applicable year. A child that is not 18 years of age on or before April 1st is considered a minor child and will be combined with the parent or guardian as "1 person".

CRP Managed Grazing & Haying

Contact Person: Stephanie Meier

Rules regarding CRP managed grazing and haying have changed!

Managed grazing and haying must end by September 30th. Previously, the September 30th date only applied to emergency grazing and haying, and managed grazing was allowed to end November 12th. Because of new procedure, the Montana State FSA Committee (STC) had to review the grazing periods. Procedure allows the Montana STC to establish either a single grazing period of up to 120 days or two separate grazing periods of not more than 60 days each. The Montana STC requested the National Office waive the September 30th deadline for managed grazing in Montana and asked that the November 12th deadline be reauthorized. Since no answer has been received at this time, the Montana STC decided to establish two 60 day managed grazing periods for 2008.

- **Spring managed grazing from March 15th thru May 14th**
- **Summer managed grazing from July 16th thru September 13th**

CRP contracts which fall under the settlement with the National Wildlife Federation, will not be able to begin grazing until August 2nd and only be allowed to graze through September 13th. If the National Office approved the waiver request, the Montana STC will review the grazing periods again.

Prevented Planting for 2008

Contact Person: Roberta Hopstad

Prevented planting acreage report for all crops is required to be submitted no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date for the applicable crop. **A CCC-576 Notice of Loss must be filed with your county office within the 15 day timeframe.** The final planting date for each crop are established by RMA for insurable crops and the National Crop table for non-insurable crops.

Eligibility Deadline Extended through 2007 for Disaster Assistance Programs

Contact Person: Sheri Daggett or Stephanie Meier

Signup is still underway for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) and the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP).

The 2005/2006/2007 Disaster Program ending date has not yet been determined. One of the changes that has been made to the program is the extension of the 2007 planting date to December 31, 2007, not February 28, 2007.

A producer would choose one of the three years in which they could receive benefits. The quantity loss threshold for eligibility is 35% and the payment rate is set at 42% of the established crop insurance price. ***Only producers with crop insurance coverage or that signed up for the Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) would be eligible for assistance.***

Those who have not yet applied, or who applied for 2005 or 2006 and may have had a greater loss in 2007, please contact your local FSA Office for an appointment.

**Planting Fruits and Vegetables or Wild Rice on Base Acres:**

Contact Person: Roberta Hopstad

Planting fruits, vegetables, or wild rice on base acres may adversely affect your program benefits. Please contact this office **before** you plant or lease land for production of fruits, vegetables or wild rice. Prevention of possible violation of program provisions, payment reductions, severe penalties and acreage reporting needs to be discussed. *Any type of dry edible beans, such as garbanzo, desi or kabuli, are considered a vegetable.*

Wool LDP Applications

Contact Person: Sheri Daggett

The wool LDP program has been extended to March 15, 2008 until further notice on the Farm Bill. **The law extends the program to March 15, with no exceptions, the Wool, Mohair, and/or Unshorn LDP request must be delivered to the office on or before March 15, 2008. If mailed to the COF, it must be post-marked on or before March 15, 2008, to be considered acceptable.**

To be eligible for a loan or LDP, a producer must maintain beneficial interest (title, risk of loss, and control of the commodity) through the date on which the loan is repaid or LDP is requested. Beneficial interest will be considered to be lost upon the earlier of delivery to the wool pool or delivery to an agent of the wool pool.

Page 1 of the CCC-633EZ must be filed before beneficial interest is lost and before the final loan availability date of the commodity. Producers only need to file in one County Office for all counties in which they have an interest in an eligible commodity. Filing a CCC-633EZ, page 1, does not make the producer ineligible to take a loan on that commodity. Only specific quantities for which an LDP is requested on Page 2 will be ineligible for loans.

**National Agriculture Week is March 16-22, 2008.**

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.

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

Contact Person: Sheri Daggett

March 31 is the final loan/LDP availability date for Barley, Canola, Flaxseed, Oats, Rapeseed, Crambe and Wheat for the 2007 crop year.

**Mixed Grain/Hay Loan LDP Eligibility**

Contact Person: Sheri Daggett

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.

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Change in Farming Operation *Contact Person: Stephanie Meier*

Producers are reminded to notify this office to report changes of ownership or leases. Our records are not updated without your information. This is vital to assist this office in keeping up-to-date records and keeping you informed about Farm Service Agency programs in a timely and efficient manner.

Change in Direct Deposit Account *Contact Person: Darlene Otten*

The Debt Collection Act of 1996 mandates that payments from FSA be directly deposited into a producer's checking or savings bank account. It is important that **any** change in the producer's account be updated at the Farm Service Agency. Please call or stop by the office to update your direct deposit accounts when changes occur. Incorrect direct deposits will delay a payment for up to two to four weeks.

Change of Address *Contact Person: Darlene Otten*

Producers are reminded to notify this office to report a change of address. This is vital to assist this office in keeping up-to-date records and keeping you informed about Farm Service Agency programs in a timely manner.

Beware of Crop Insurance Rebating Schemes!

With the spring sales closing date for many Federal crop insurance policies right around the corner, crop insurance agents have stepped up their marketing efforts. The Risk Management Agency (RMA) has received reports from producers and agents that some aggressive marketers have been approaching producers with rebating offers. These schemes promise lower insurance premiums, refunds, dividends, or items of value tied to crop insurance purchases. Most of these activities are illegal. RMA reminds all Federal crop insurance program participants that it is now coordinating with state regulators to take appropriate regulatory action against all those who are found to promote or participate in such schemes.

Producers who are found to participate in illegal rebating activities will not only lose their crop insurance coverage but will also lose eligibility in all USDA programs. **Producers and agents can report suspicions of illegal rebating to the OIG Hotline: 1-800-424-9121.**