

**Wibaux County FSA Office**  
**502 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. NW**  
**Wibaux, MT 59353 9040**  
Phone 406-796-2221

**County Committee Members**

Curt Begger, Chairman  
Steve Kreitinger, Vice Chairman  
Ted Dukart, Member  
Bettye Knight, COC Advisor

**FSA Office Personnel**

Candace Schneider, PT - Ext. 100  
Matt Shell, PT - Ext. 105  
Jan Just, CED, Ext. 102  
Jean Zinda, Temporary EX 104

**NRCS Office**

Katrina Johnson Ext. 101  
Amy Kaiser, Ext. 108

**Conservation District**

Renee Nelson Ext. 106

**Dates to Remember:**

**August 1** – Reconstitution  
Deadline for FY 2007

**August 1** – COC Nomination  
forms must be returned to county  
office by close of business

**August 3** – Signature deadline on  
2007 Direct and Counter-cyclical  
Program (DCP)

**August 4 - September 28** – DCP  
late filed fee of \$100 will be  
assessed

**September 3** – Holiday, Office  
closed

**September 24-27** – Tribal  
Outreach Forum, Gran Tree,  
Bozeman

**September 28** – Final date for late  
filed 2007 DCP contracts

**October 2 & 3** – Women Stepping  
Forward for Agriculture  
Symposium, Dillon

**November 2** – COC ballots will be  
mailed to eligible voters

Jean Zinda has been hired as a  
temporary office clerk. She has  
been helping out at the office  
completing several projects.

**Send in your Nomination**



# Wibaux County FSA

## July 2007

### 2007 Compliance Activities

FSA will be conducting compliance reviews and spot checks a little differently in 2007. Instead of selecting individual farms, contracts, loans, LDP's, etc. for spot check and review at the local level, a nationwide selection of producers was made by the national FSA office. Producers were selected based on their participation in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP), Loan Deficiency Program (LDP), Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL's), and the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). A representative sample of FSA employees, County Committee (COC) members, and other "required" producers were also selected for spot check and review.

FSA County offices may spot check additional producers if they have valid concerns that warrant the spot check and review.

For 2007, all producers selected shall be spot checked or reviewed for:

- Compliance with all programs in which they participated or received benefits, and;
- Acreage reporting accuracy.

Producers may be subject to a spot check or review if they participated in any of the following programs:

- Crop disaster program (CDP)
- CRP maintenance and practice checks
- DCP
- Acreage Reporting
- LDP's/Marketing Assistance Loans
- NAP

The reviews will take place throughout the year applicable to the certain program or activity.



### County Committee

ELECTION are a very

Important part of the FARM SERVICE AGENCY 's role in the  
agriculture community. Please do your part

### **COC Nominations Open**

Nominations for positions on the FSA County Committees are now open. Anyone interested in either nominating themselves or their neighbors are encouraged to submit a nomination form to the office by August 1.

A county or area served by the county committee 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. You must reside within the LAA that is open for election to be eligible to run for a position on the county committee. LAA 3 is open for nominations – South of I94 East of Hiw 7.

The nominee must be sure to sign the nomination form in order to be nominated as a COC member. All eligible voters will receive a ballot in the mail no later than November 2. At that time, all eligible voters will vote for their favorite candidate, sign the ballot and return the completed ballot to the county office by December 3.

Nomination forms are available at the office or by logging on to the Montana FSA website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.

### **Reminder: Providing Copies to Insurance Companies**

Private insurance representatives are now required to provide the FSA county office a signed statement from the insured individual specifying the crop year and the related documents the producer wants copied for the insurance agent.

The insurance agent will then be charged for these documents at the rate of \$0.20 per page/side for copies of the Acreage Report (FSA-578) and \$1.00 per copy for map photo copies. If the statement by the producer is not provided and payment received, the documents will not be released to the insurance agent or representative.

**Report NAP production as soon as you have completed haying.  
Keep records NOW.**

### **Re-enrollment Opportunities for 2007 CRP Continuous Sign-up**

Producers and landowners may be eligible to re-enroll their land in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) continuous sign-up if their contracts expire on September 30, 2007

Producers with general sign-up CRP contracts that expire September 30, 2007, who did not take advantage of the last year's re-enrollment or extension offer may also be eligible for the continuous sign-up.

Nationwide, more than 300,000 acres enrolled in continuous sign-up are scheduled to expire at the end of September. Of those 300,000, Montana has 1,096 contracts totaling 135,000 acres that will expire this September.

Please contact the office if you were not notified by mail of this possibility.

### **Farm Reconstitutions Deadline is August 1**

In FSA terms, farms are constituted to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary.

The reconstitution – or recon – is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

*Remember*, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP). The farm producers may enroll the base acres for a crop year by signing a new DCP (CCC-509) for the resulting farm (s). This must be done by **August 3** or 30 days after written notification that the farm reconstitution has been completed.

If 2007 DCP direct payments have already been issued on the farm, the reconstitution will be effective for 2008 unless the payments are refunded.

**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 was not prevented from getting into the field and planting the crop. In 2005, the STC determined that drought is not an eligible cause of prevented planting for not only 2005, but also for future crop years. This determination applies only to crop acreage reporting for prevented planting acreage credit. Prevented planting needs be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

**Failed Acreage** – is acreage that timely planted with the intent to harvest but because of disaster related conditions, the crop failed before it could be brought to harvest.

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.



**FSA'S KIDS SUMMER  
FUN DRAWING EVENT**

Entry forms are available at the local library through the summer reading program. Visit the library and pick one up. When returned to the FSA Office a prize will be awarded.

Drawings will be posted on the FSA kids website at

[www.fsa.usda.gov/fsakids](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/fsakids)

**Deadline is Aug. 15**

**Yearly acreage reports**

are required for producers to be eligible for the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Non-insured Crop Disaster Program (NAP) and Price Support Programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported and certified to maintain this eligibility. Acreage reports will be accepted from an owner, operator or tenant as well as those with power of attorney for these individuals. It was hard getting the project done because of wet weather delaying planting. We thank you for keeping your appointments or rescheduling to meet the deadline. Reports filed after that date are subject to late-filed fees and a visual farm inspection unless the County Committee determines that the late filing was beyond the producer's control. Farms with late filed reports are subject to mandatory spot checks unless the County Committee determines it was beyond the producer's control.

Certification is mandatory if any of the following apply:

- You receive DCP payments
  - You have acres enrolled in CRP
  - Loans or LDP's will be requested; including Wool, Mohair and Honey *(All cropland on the farm must be certified to be eligible for DCP and loan program benefits).*
  - Acreage is covered by NAP
- Failure to report accurately may result in loss of program and price support benefits.

**Managed Haying and Grazing on CRP**

Producers interested in managed haying or grazing, must complete the necessary paper work at the county FSA office and receive written authorization before starting managed haying or grazing on CRP acres.

*See you at the FAIR*

**Wibaux County FSA**  
502 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. NW  
Wibaux, MT 59353 9040

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#### *Important Dates to Remember*

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**August 1 – COC nomination forms must be**  
**submitted to county office**  
**August 3 – Signature deadline on 2007 DCP**

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We are working with the County Library promoting  
summer fun for Kids.  
Visit the Library for details

### **Preventing Fraud & Waste**

FSA and Risk Management Agency (RMA) are partners in preventing fraud, waste and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. In addition, FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse to RMA. Producers can also report suspected cases to FSA or RMA.

### **Expiring CRP Contracts with Base Acres**

**Attention:** Currently, the 2002 Farm Bill provides for restoration of lost base acres when a CRP contract expires. That provision ends September 30, 2007 with the expiration of the 2002 Farm Bill.  
FSA will not know how base acres will be treated until the new Farm Bill is implemented.