Fergus Petroleum Co FSA
211 McKinley St – Ste 2
Lewistown MT 59457
Phone (406) 538-3489
Fax (406) 538-9353

The Fergus-Petroleum County Committee regular scheduled meeting is the first Wednesday of each month.

County Committee Members

Dan Boyce, Chairperson
Stuart Skinner, Vice-Chairperson
Judy Hedman, Reg Member
Steve Morris, Reg Member
Jess Knerr, Reg Member

FSA Office Personnel & Phone Extension Numbers

Vacant, CED……..……108
Kim Billadeau, PT……..110
Karen Boyles, FLM……..……..113
Vickie Baumgartner. PT...……107
Michele Gilpatrick, PT...……106
Les Melichar, PT ……...105
Alta Pallett, PT...……109
Cheryl Tucek, CPT ……...104
John Ahlgren, Field

Agricultural Lending Opportunities

Questions regarding obtaining credit to start or enlarge a farming or ranching operation; financing agricultural operating expenses; or livestock, machinery purchases call:

Karen Boyles ……. Ext 113
Alta Pallett……Ext 109

Dates to Remember:

Aug. 2 – Sept. 30 – Managed Haying Period (New Rules)
Aug. 2 – Sept. 30 – Summer/Fall Managed Grazing Period
Aug. 14 – DCP, ACRE and pulse crops base deadline
Aug. 14 – Acreage Report deadline
Aug 18 & 19 – Office Closed, District meeting for all employees
Sept. 1 – NAP application closing date for value loss crops (2010 crop year)
Sept. 30 – NAP acreage reporting deadline for value loss crops
Oct. 7 & 8 – Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Fergus-Petroleum August 2009

Message from the State Executive Director - Bruce Nelson

I began as the State Executive Director for the Farm Service Agency on July 13th. After eight years of involvement in other venues, I am excited to assume my duties as the State Executive Director for the Farm Service Agency in Montana.

My most recent position was serving as the Chief of Staff to Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer. I have stepped down from my executive roles at Triangle N Farms since becoming FSA State Executive Director.

In every state the agricultural community is unique and has varied needs and concerns and my role, will be to work with USDA to ensure the needs of Montana agricultural producers are met.

Our primary mission at FSA is to assist Montana farmers and ranchers secure the greatest possible benefit from programs administered by FSA such as farm loans, commodity price support, disaster relief, conservation, or other available resources.

The hard working men and women of Montana's 49 FSA county offices are at the forefront of our efforts and remain the primary contact for program participation. We encourage you to speak with the staff at your local FSA office on how we can be of service.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) Has Begun

Signup for LIP began July 13th. If you had livestock losses from storms occurring during calendar year 2008 or 2009, you may be eligible to receive benefits from the LIP program.

To Apply:

- A notice of loss must be filed according to the following table.
- Proof of death of livestock must be provided and may include but is not limited to any or a combination of veterinary records, tax assessor records, private insurance documents.
- Documentation must provide sufficient data that identifies the kind/type weight range of the livestock and the number of livestock.
- A third party certification may be accepted only when the participant certifies in writing that no other form of proof of death is available and includes the number of physical location of livestock in inventory at the time the death occurred. Documentation must also be provided to support the number of livestock in the inventory at the time the deaths occurred. The third party providing the verification must be a reliable source and shall not be a relative associated with the operation or a hired man. **(cont. page 2)**

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

DCP, ACRE & Pulse-crop Signup Deadline – August 14

The deadline for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP), Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) and adding pulse crop bases and yields is **August 14**.

Signup for the 2009 DCP program continues through August 14. Participants may request an advance direct payment at 22% of the final payment rate with the final direct payments to be issued in October. All signatures to a share of the base acres must be received in the county office on or before August 14.

ACRE is a new farm revenue based program that provides producers an alternative to the counter-cyclical payment under DCP. Participants in ACRE will receive a reduced direct payment of 80% determined on the farm's base acreage and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30%. ACRE participants may request an advance direct payment at 22% with final direct payments to be issued in October. If both the state and farm's actual revenue is less than the historical revenue for the crop, an ACRE payment may be made on the planted acreage of eligible commodities. National market year average prices and actual state and farm yields are used in determining whether an ACRE payment is triggered. Owners have until **August 14th** to submit a CCC-524 to the office**.**

Producers with farms identified as having pulse crops planted during the 1998 through 2001 crop years will receive a letter notifying them of available options to add pulse crop bases and yields to their farm. Pulse crop are defined as dry peas, lentils, Desi garbanzo beans (small chickpeas), and Kabuli garbanzo beans (large chickpeas). Pulse crops may be eligible for counter-cyclical payments under DCP and are eligible commodities under the ACRE program. Counter-cyclical yields will be set at 75% of the county average unless growers elect to update the yield by using the farm's actual yields for the crop years 1998-2001. All owners on the farm must agree to the election no later than **August 14, 2009**.

LIP (cont.)

The following table provides the final dates to file a notice of loss and/or application for payment for either 2008 or 2009 livestock losses:

Date of Livestock Death	Final Date to File a Notice of Loss	Final Date to Submit an Application for Payment
Calendar Year 2008	Sept. 13, 2009	Sept. 13, 2009
Jan. 1, 2009 to July 12, 2009	Sept. 13, 2009	Jan. 30, 2010
July 13, 2009 to Dec. 31, 2009	30 days after death is apparent	Jan. 30, 2010

LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have incurred livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality on or after Jan. 1, 2008 and before Oct. 1, 2011 due to adverse weather, such as blizzards, disease, extreme cold, extreme heat, floods, and wildfires. The Montana State FSA Committee established the normal mortality rates for each livestock kind/type and weight range.

CRP Managed Haying & Grazing Ends September 30.

Managed Grazing on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres begins August 2 and ends September 30, 2009. All livestock must be removed by September 30.

Managed Haying on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres ends September 30, 2009. All bales must be removed by September 30th.

Changes to Payment Eligibility, Payment Limitation and AGI for CRP Participants

The 2008 Farm Bill made specific changes to payment eligibility, payment limitation, and average AGI requirements for participants in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP):

- Annual payments are limited to $50,000, both directly and indirectly, to a person or legal entity by direct attribution;
- Permitted entity rules no longer apply;
- The average AGI limitation is now a $1million average gross nonfarm income limitation.
- The payment eligibility requirements of "actively engaged in farming" and the cash rent tenant rule are no longer applicable for participation in CRP for contracts approved **after** September 30, 2008.

Policy Changed on Dry Peas Intended Use

Producers of dry peas intended for forage for hay (FG), grazing (GZ), and GM (green manure) are now allowed to include acreage of those intended uses in determining pulse crop base history.

Producers with pulse crop history with the additional eligible intended uses are encouraged to make their election of pulse base acreage as soon as possible.

The farm must be enrolled in DCP or elected/enrolled in ACRE by September 30th to be eligible for either program.

Treasury Implementation Project Begins

Beginning August 3, 2009, any FSA/ or Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) payments made by direct deposit will be transmitted to the Department of Treasury through Kansas City.

The Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (DCIA) requires that all Federal payments be offset for delinquent Federal debt. All payments will be matched against debt referred to Treasury, including payments made by a Treasury check. Payments to assignees will be subject to the Treasury Offset Program (TOP) offset if the assignee has a delinquent Federal debt in TOP. If the TOP database finds a match for taxpayer identification number and name, the payment will be offset for the delinquent debt. The Treasury Department will notify the payment recipient of any offsets taken for debts due other agencies.

Currently, the description on the payee's bank statement reads, "USDA_FSAKCMOCDSP". After August 3, 2009, the description on the bank statement will read, "FSA TREAS 310" for all payments that are disbursed by Treasury.

If there are questions about a TOP offset, the payee may call the TOP Call Center at 1-800-304-3107 to obtain the contact information for the offsetting agency. The TOP Call Center only has access to provide the name of the offsetting agency and their contact information. The payee will need to call the offsetting agency to determine the origination of the debt.

U S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY
FERGUS-PETROLEUM COUNTY FSA
211 MCKINLEY ST – STE 2
LEWISTOWN MT 59457-2266

PRESORT STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BOZEMAN, MT 59715

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Important Dates to Remember

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Aug. 14 – Acreage Report deadline
Sept. 1 – NAP application closing date for value loss crops (2010 crop year)
Sept. 30 – CRP Managed Haying & Grazing ends
Sept. 30 – NAP acreage reporting deadline for value loss crops
Oct. 7 & 8 – Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium

Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium

The 9th Annual Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium will be held at the Eagles in Lewistown, October 7 & 8.

An exciting agenda has been developed for this year's symposium. A few of the highlights include a panel discussing Carbon Credit Options for Agriculture, Horse Processing Issues, Update on Montana's Brucellosis Status, Thoughts from Trent Loos, Agriculture Policy as we see it and Water Rights/Irrigation. Representatives from six of the USDA agencies will be present to provide a short presentation on new programs and issues production agriculture operators should be aware of.

Pre-registration information should be submitted by September 15, 2009. The cost of registration is $60.00. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Yogo Inn.

For further information or a registration form, logon to the Montana FSA website at http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt, contact any USDA Service Center or by calling Heidi Brewer at 406/232-7905 ext. 122.

The Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium is sponsored by the State Food and Agriculture Outreach Council and the MT Agri-women; Montana Cattlewomen; MT Farm Bureau Federation Women; and WIFE.