

Valley County FSA Office
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County Committee Members

Mike Wesen, Chairman
Richard Fulton, Vice-Chairman
Arden Unrau, Member
Theresa Shipp, Advisor

FSA Office Personnel

Mike Hagfeldt, County Executive Director
Stephanie Meier, Program Technician
Roberta Hopstad, Program Technician
Sheri Daggett, Program Technician
Darlene Otten, Program Technician
Britney Cornwell, Program Technician
Sharon Baillargeon, Farm Loan Manager
Jaylein Nickels, Farm Loan Officer
Jodie Berg, Farm Loan Program Technician

Dates to Remember:

Aug. 2 – Sept. 30 – Managed Haying Period (New Rules)
Aug. 2 – Sept. 30 – Summer/Fall Managed Grazing Period
Oct. 7 & 8 – Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium



Valley County September

Sign-up for Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) Has Begun!

Contact Person: *Stephanie Meier*

Signup for LIP began July 13th. 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.

To Apply for LIP:

- A **notice of loss must be filed** according to the following table.

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

- 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 and private insurance documents.
- Documentation must provide sufficient data that identifies the kind/type, weight range 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 and 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.

LOAN DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS (LDP'S) *Contact Person: Sheri Daggett*

Be sure to contact your local FSA Office to file a CCC-633 EZ page 1 **prior to losing beneficial interest** in your commodity. You must have "beneficial interest" in the commodity from the time of planting to the date the LDP is requested to be eligible to apply for an LDP on the commodity. With commodity prices falling, be sure to check on the daily LDP rates. Barley and Durum currently have an LDP.

The LDP rates can be found posted at the county office, on the KLTZ/KLAN web site at <http://kltz.com> under services, by calling 228-4321 and taking option 7 or by logging on to the Montana FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.

New Methods for Loan Repayment for Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) and Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) Rates

Contact Person: Sheri Daggett

Beginning April 15, the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) will begin using an improved and more stable system for determining loan repayment rates for non-recourse marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payment rates for wheat, feed grains, pulse crops, oilseeds, wool, mohair and honey.

The 2008 Farm Bill provides the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to establish a loan repayment rate that may be determined as the lesser of the loan rate plus interest and a rate based on:

- 1) average market prices during the previous 30 days,
or
2) an alternative method the secretary of agriculture may develop.

The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) will determine and publish daily loan repayment rates based on the average market prices during the preceding 30 days for wheat, corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, barley, oats, canola, flaxseed and sunflower seed. At the same time, CCC will begin announcing, each day, a repayment rate based on the preceding five days. The effective alternative repayment rate will be the lower of either the 30-day average or the 5-day average.

The repayment rate for pulse crops (lentils, dry peas, small chickpeas – and starting with the 2009-crop year, large chickpeas), crambe, mustard seed, rapeseed, safflower, sesame seed, wool, mohair and honey will also change. CCC will determine and publish loan repayment rates once a week based on average market prices during the preceding 30 days. CCC will also announce an alternative repayment rate using current methodology each week. The effective repayment rate will be the lower of either the 30-day average or the alternative repayment rate. An alternative repayment rate will not be available for honey.



New Provisions for Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments *Contact Person: Sheri Daggett*

The 2008 Farm Bill included several changes to the Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) and Loan Deficiency Payment program (LDP).

Some of the changes include:

- * Adding Large chickpeas as an eligible pulse crop beginning with the 2009 crop year
- * Beginning with the 2009 crop year, MAL's and LDP's will no longer be subject to a per person payment limit
- * Loan rates will no longer be adjusted on warehouse-stored loans by premiums and discounts at loan making time
- * Beginning with the 2009 crop year, warehouse-stored loans will be adjusted by premiums and discounts only at loan settlement, if the commodity is either farm-stored delivered or warehouse stored forfeited
- * The Commodity Credit Corporation will no longer require the execution of a storage agreement in storage facilities that are either 1) federally-licensed or 2) in compliance with applicable state laws and issue warehouse receipts (2009 crop year)

CRP Managed Haying & Grazing Ends September 30. *Contact Person: Britney Cornwell*

Managed Grazing on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres begins August 2 and ends September 30, 2009. **All livestock must be removed by the earlier of your calculated AUM removal date or September 30th.**

Managed Haying on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres ends September 30, 2009. **All bales must be removed by September 30th. All documentation (DF-25) must be submitted prior to September 18, 2009 in order to receive CRP Payments on contracts with managed haying or grazing.**

DCP, ACRE & Pulse-crop Signup Deadline – August 14 *Contact Person: Darlene Otten*

The deadline for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP), Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) and adding pulse crop bases and yields was August 14, 2009. Final date to provide leases and all documentation relating to **Pulse Crops and new DCP contracts with pulse crop base revisions is September 30, 2009**

Non-insured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) *Contact Person: Roberta Hopstad*

If you applied for NAP assistance for 2009 non-insurable crops and suffered a loss, a Notice of Loss is required to be filed within 15 days of the disaster occurrence or date damage to the specific crop is apparent. *Late-filed Notice of Losses will require a field visit to determine if the cause of loss can be verified at the time of the inspection. **The COC cannot approve a Notice of Loss that cannot be verified.***

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.

Please remember to contact your local FSA office at 406-228-4321 if you have had a change in your direct deposit account. Closed or changed accounts will result in a lengthy delay of payments.



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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.

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.

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. 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. Pre-registration information should be submitted by September 15, 2009.