

July 3, 2013



USDA Montana Farm Service Agency (FSA) July eNewsletter and Updates

**Montana FSA
State Office**
State Executive
Director Bruce Nelson
P.O. Box 670
Bozeman, MT 59771

Front Office Phone:
(406) 587-6872
Web:
www.fsa.usda.gov/mt

**Montana FSA
County Offices:**

[*Click on this link for a
directory of Montana FSA
county offices.](#)

2013 DCP Signup Deadline is Aug. 2

The sign-up period for Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) is coming to a close. Producers are encouraged to sign up for DCP before the Aug. 2, 2013, deadline. The deadline for ACRE was June 3, 2013. The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 had the option to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year, regardless of the previous year's election. Contact your local FSA office for more information or to make an appointment to enroll. [Click HERE for the 2013 DCP Program Fact Sheet](#)

2013 FSA Crop/Acreage Reporting Deadlines

Producers are reminded to file their acreage reports with their local FSA county office by the deadline of:

- **July 15, 2013: for Spring seeded crops and CRP**

Any crop reported after the applicable deadline for the crop will be considered late-filed.

- Nov. 15, 2012: Perennial Forage (alfalfa or grass hay), Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage, Native and Tame Pasture, Apiculture and all Fall-Seeded Small Grains
- Jan. 2, 2013 – (or 30 days after placement of colonies): Honey covered under NAP
- Jan. 15, 2013 – Established Stand Alfalfa Seed, Fall Alfalfa Seed, Cherries

Producers are encouraged to contact the local FSA county office for an appointment to complete your 2013 acreage report.

Importance of 2013 Acreage Reports

Acreage reports must be filed for all cropland on the farm before any 2013 Direct and Counter-Cyclical (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) payments can be made or before eligibility can be established for marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's). Participants of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must report the specific acreage for which benefits are being requested. The deadline for submitting a timely filed acreage report for spring seeded crops and CRP is **July 15, 2013**. Producers are reminded that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. Producers who request prevented planting acreage credit must report the acreage and complete a CCC-576, Notice of Loss,

within 15 calendar days after the final planting date for the respective crop as established by RMA or FSA. Producers must establish to the satisfaction of the County Committee that all cropland that was feasible to plant and prevented from being planted was affected by a natural disaster rather than a management decision. Additionally, producers are required to prove that preliminary efforts to plant the crop are evident, such as disking the land or orders for purchase or delivery of seed and fertilizer. Producers requesting failed acreage credit must report the acreage before disposition of the crop to receive credit for that crop. The County Committee must be satisfied that the acreage was planted under normal conditions, but failed as a result of a natural disaster and not a management decision.

2012 Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Production Evidence & Application for Payment Deadline is July 15

If you had 2012 NAP Coverage, you must provide acceptable production evidence by the subsequent year's acreage reporting date to calculate the APH yield for the NAP unit. When you make your appointment to report your 2013 acreages to FSA, take your 2012 NAP production evidence for NAP crops with you to the FSA office. The deadline to submit 2012 production evidence to update the APH yield is July 15, 2013. If you suffered a loss in 2012 and filed a Notice of Loss under NAP, the deadline to file an application for payment for 2012 losses is also July 15, 2013. [Click HERE for NAP Fact Sheet](#)

CRP Managed Haying

Managed haying of CRP acres is available after the primary nesting season beginning July 16 to September 30. Bales must be removed by November 12. A request to manage hay CRP acreage must be approved by FSA before managed haying begins. Up to 50 percent of eligible acres may be hayed provided the acres have not been hayed for five (5) years. A 25 percent payment reduction will be assessed. For more information, contact the county office.

Farm Reconstitutions - Aug. 1st deadline

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped 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 changes in the land associated with a farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by August 1 for farms enrolled in specific programs.

The following are the different methods used to divide base acres when doing a recon:

- **Estate Method** — The division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs when settling an estate.
 - **Designation by Landowner Method** — May be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method, the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding.
 - **DCP Cropland Method** — The division of bases in the same proportion as the DCP cropland is divided between each resulting tract.
 - **Default Method** — The division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.
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Election Nominations for FSA County Committees Open June 17 to August 1st

The nomination process is underway for the 2013 FSA County Committee elections which occur in counties across Montana. County Committee members help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers. County committees provide local input on commodity price support loans and payments, conservation programs, incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities, emergency programs and payment eligibility. FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal rules. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions. County committee members are paid hourly wages plus mileage. For election purposes, counties are divided into local administrative areas, or LAAs. Each LAA contributes one producer to serve a three-year term on the FSA county committee. [Click HERE for a description and map of LAAs that are up for election this year in Montana counties.](#) Nominees must complete and sign [Nomination Form FSA-669A](#) available at USDA Service Centers and online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>. Nomination forms for the 2013 election must be postmarked or received in the FSA County Office by close of business on **Aug. 1, 2013**. Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee.

Keep Track of Disaster-Related Livestock Deaths

Livestock producers affected by natural disasters, including storms and flooding should keep thorough records of their livestock losses. FSA recommends that producers record all pertinent information of natural disaster consequences, including documentation of the number and kind of livestock that have died, supplemented by photographs of losses (with dates included on the photos); dates of death supported by birth records or purchase receipts; and documentation of livestock kind, type, and weight. Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA offices to obtain more information regarding documenting livestock losses. Although funding has not been appropriated for the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP); the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP); and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP) program, it is critical that livestock producers document their losses in the event funding becomes available at a later date.

Emergency Loan Program available in Montana disaster-designated counties

FSA's Emergency Loan Program is available for agricultural producers in counties designated as primary or contiguous natural disaster areas (link to Montana disaster counties to date is available below). Eligible producers have eight months from the date of the Secretarial disaster designation to apply for low-interest emergency loans to 1.) restore or replace essential property; 2.) pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year; 3.) pay essential family living expenses; or 4.) refinance certain debts, excluding real estate. Producers interested in applying for an emergency loan, or other FLP loans, should contact their local FSA office to set up an appointment with the Farm Loan Program staff serving your area.

[MAP OF MONTANA DISASTER COUNTIES TO DATE \(Click to access map\)](#)

Farm Loans for Minority Groups

FSA can make direct and guarantee loans to groups considered as minorities under USDA definition. These groups include women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Funds can be used to buy and operate family-sized farms and ranches. Individuals and entities primarily and directly engaged in farming and ranching on family-sized operations may apply. A family-sized

farm is considered to be one that a family can operate and manage itself. Applicants must meet all requirements for FSA's regular farm loan program assistance. Contact the FSA office for exact criteria. Repayment terms for direct operating loans depend on the collateral securing the loan and usually run from 1 to 7 years. Interest rates for direct loans are set periodically according to the Government's cost of borrowing. Repayment terms for direct farm ownership loans are up to 40 years. Interest rates for guaranteed loans are established by the lender. Applications for direct loans are made through the local FSA office. Applications for guaranteed loans are made with the lender.

Foreign Buyers Notification (AFIDA)

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of United States agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. FSA administers this program for USDA. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties up to 25% of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements. Please contact your local Farm Service Agency office if you have questions regarding the requirements for filing the FSA-153. [Click HERE for the FSA-253 Form.](#)

Important 2013 Dates:

- **Ongoing:** Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Continuous Signup
- **July 15:** 2013 Crop Year Acreage Reporting Deadline for Spring Seeded: Grass, Mixed Forage, Alfalfa, Clover, the year of seeding (annual & perennial types), Barley, Canola, Corn, Dry Beans, Dry Peas, Flax, Mustard, Spring Oats, Potatoes, Safflower, Sugar Beets, Sunflowers, Spring Wheat, CRP and all other crops
- **July 15:** 2012 Crop Year NAP Production Reporting Deadline & 2012 Crop Year NAP Application for Payment Deadline
- **July 15:** 2012 Crop Year ACRE Production Report Deadline
- **July 16:** CRP Managed Summer/Fall Grazing/ Haying Period Begins (with County Committee Approval of Request)
- **Aug. 1:** Last day to file County Committee Election Nomination Forms at the local FSA county office
- **Aug. 2:** 2013 DCP Program Signup Deadline
- **Sept. 13:** CRP Managed Summer/Fall Grazing Period Ends
- **Sept. 30:** MILC Contracts Expire & CRP Managed Summer/Fall Haying Ends
- **Nov. 4:** County Committee Election ballots mailed to eligible voters
- **Nov. 12:** All Hay Bales Must be Removed from CRP Acres
- **Nov. 15:** 2014 Crop Year FSA Acreage Reporting Deadline for Fall Seeded: Grass, Mixed Forage, Alfalfa, Clover, the year of seeding (annual and perennial types), Established Grass, Mixed Forage, Alfalfa, Clover in years subsequent to the year of seeding (perennial types), Apiculture, Fall Wheat, and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains
- **Dec. 2:** Last day to return voted ballots to the local FSA County Office

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).