

Blaine County FSA Office  
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#### County Committee Members

Alan Van Voast  
Patty Quisno  
John D. Tilleman

#### Dates to Remember:

**March 15** – Spring grazing on CRP acres begins

**March 16** – NAP Sales closing date for all crops except value loss crops and honey

**March 16** – Crop insurance sales closing date for 2008 spring-seeded crops

**March 25-28** – FFA Convention – Great Falls.

**March 31** – Final loan/LDP availability date for various crops harvested in 2008

**NAP Pull off date** – April 30, 2009

**May 14** – Spring grazing on CRP acres ends

**May 15** – Beginning date of Primary Nesting Season

**June 1** – DCP sign-up deadline



# Blaine County FSA

## March 6, 2009

### Spring Grazing on Conservation Reserve Program Acres

The 2009 grazing period for managed grazing of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres is March 15<sup>th</sup> through May 14<sup>th</sup>. CRP participants who want to graze their CRP contracts this spring must sign up at the office.

Grazing cannot begin until the participant (s) receives written approval from the local FSA county committee or its designee. Spring managed grazing must end before May 15<sup>th</sup>, which is the start of Montana's Primary Nesting and Brood rearing Season.

Participants may graze CRP acres based on the rotation period (once every three years or once every 5 years) and other limitations that are included in their Conservation Plan of Operations. Producers wishing to graze CRP acres must first receive written notification of approval from the FSA county committee before managed grazing can begin. Livestock producers, who rent or lease acreage from the CRP participant, shall sign a statement agreeing not to sublease the CRP acreage and receive notification of approval from the FSA county committee, a copy of which they should provide to the CRP participant. All livestock must be removed from the CRP acreage when the calculated AUM's are utilized, but no later than May 14<sup>th</sup> for spring grazing. CRP participants will be assessed a payment reduction for managed grazing which is calculated by taking the number of acres grazed, times the CRP per acre annual rental payment, times 25 percent.

Managed grazing *and* managed haying of CRP will be allowed in 2009, however, a starting date for the summer/fall managed grazing *and* managed haying for CRP will be announced later.



**NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK is March 15-21, 2009.** 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.

### **NAP Deadline March 16**

For the 2009 crop year it is imperative to purchase Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and catastrophic (CAT) level of crop insurance for all insurable and non-insurable crops. This is not only for production coverage but also for eligibility for the new permanent disaster programs created in the 2008 Farm Bill. 2009 NAP fees are \$250 per crop.

In order for producers to be **eligible** for assistance under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance (**SURE**) Program and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, and Honey Bees, (**ELAP**), and the Tree Assistance Program (**TAP**) producers must obtain a plan of insurance for each insurable and non-insurable commodity on the farm, **excluding grazing**. To be eligible for assistance under the Livestock Forage Program (**LFP**) producers must obtain either coverage under the Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage Rainfall Index Pilot Program through crop insurance, or NAP coverage, or both on their grazing land. Please keep in mind that if you elected not to insure 100% of you grazing acres under the Forage Rainfall Plan through RMA, unless you also purchase NAP coverage, you will be ineligible for LFP.

Producers must file the required paperwork and pay the administrative fee by the NAP closing date of **March 16, 2009** for all crops except value-loss and honey. The deadline for value-loss and honey for 2009 has passed.

**Please contact the office to ensure your eligibility for the new disaster assistance programs by March 16<sup>th</sup>.**

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

March 31 is the final loan/LDP availability date for Barley, Canola, Flaxseed, Oats, Rapeseed, Crambe and Wheat and Honey. For the 2008 crop of the commodities listed above, loans and LDP's will no longer be available after March 31, 2009.

### **2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) Signup**

Sign up for the 2009 DCP program for farms with base acres began Dec. 22, 2008. Signup will continue until June 1, 2009. Farms may not be enrolled after June 1 of the applicable contract period. There are no late filed provisions for contract years 2009-2012, meaning if the June 1 deadline is missed, there will be no opportunity to participate in DCP or ACRE in 2009.

In addition to certain commodities, specific pulse crops have been added as an eligible commodity for the 2009 crop year for counter-cyclical payments only.

A producer with the sum of the base acreage on the farm with 10 acres or less must be a socially disadvantaged or limited resource farmer or rancher to be eligible for DCP payments on the 10 acre base farm.

Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) signup is tentatively scheduled to begin April 1. Producers who are unsure about whether they will be participating in ACRE may enroll in DCP prior to April 1, then change to ACRE if they so decide. MSU Extension has scheduled ACRE workshops in this area; some are listed on Page 4 of this newsletter.

June 1 is an earlier deadline that we have ever had for DCP. In order to complete the signup process, we must average enrolling nine farms per day. If at all possible, please enroll early in order to avoid the May rush.

### **2009 Payment Eligibility**

All producers requesting payments through FSA will be required to file new payment eligibility forms. Kari is scheduling meetings at the county office to help producers fill out the payment eligibility forms, as well as the Adjusted Gross Income forms. The meetings will take about 2 hours, hopefully producers will be able to fill the forms out completely and enroll in DCP within that 2 hour time frame. Please call the county office at 357-2320 if you want to take part in one of the meetings. Kari will also schedule an individual appointment for you if you so choose.

### **Mixed Grain/Hay Loan LDP Eligibility**

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.

### **Ensure Benefits Are Received in a Timely Manner**

To ensure USDA program benefits are received in a timely manner, please ensure you are consistent in the way you are presenting your operation to all USDA agencies including NRCS, Risk Management Agency (RMA), FSA and any other USDA agency programs you may partake in. For example, if you have signed up for program benefits with FSA as Joe Farmer, please sign up with NRCS as Joe Farmer. This will ensure Joe Farmer has completed all program paperwork and is eligible to receive payments. When in doubt, ask your county office.

### **Dairy Prices to Trigger MILC Payments**

Due to low milk prices, FSA will be making payments in April to producers through the FSA's Milk Income Loss Contract, or MILC, program. The 2008 Farm Bill made changes to the MILC program, most notably the addition of a dairy feed ration cost adjustment in addition to changes to the payment rate and modifications to the per-operation poundage limit, depending on when the milk is produced.

FSA issues payment no later than 60 calendar days after FSA receives production evidence for the applicable month or the entire month's National Average Dairy Feed Ration Cost is posted for the applicable month, whichever is later.

**Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to participate in FSA programs should contact Tracy Harshman, CED, PO Box 307, Chinook MT 59523. Telephone 406-357-2320, e-mail, [tracy.harshman@mt.usda.gov](mailto:tracy.harshman@mt.usda.gov)**

### **Changes to FSA Payment Processing**

FSA will be deploying a new payment processing system the first part of December.

Through the new system, all payments made through direct deposit will be processed through the Federal Reserve Bank and will be received in the participants account within 2-3 days of processing.

### **Blaine County Committee Election Results**

*Patricia Quisno was re-elected to another three year term on the Blaine County FSA Committee.*

USDA-Blaine County FSA  
 PO Box 307  
 Chinook MT 59523

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**Extension Service to Conduct ACRE/SURE Workshops**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Contact</b>
<b>March 2</b>	9 a.m. – noon	Plentywood	Jubilee Room - Courthouse	Terry Angvick 765-3406
	3 p.m. – 6p.m.	Wolf Point	Community Room, Dumont Building, Ft Peck Community College	Carrie Archdale 768-6321
<b>March 3</b>	9 a.m. – noon	Glasgow	Cottonwood Inn	Verlin Koenig 228-6241
	3 p.m. – 6p.m.	Malta	Great Northern Hotel	Marko Manoukian 654-2543
<b>March 4</b>	9 a.m. – noon	Havre	Hensler Auditorium Applied Technology Center, MSU-Northern Campus	Joe Broesder 265-5481
	3 p.m. – 6p.m.	Ft. Benton	Ag Center	Judee Wargo 622-3751
<b>March 5</b>	9 a.m. – noon	Conrad	Norley Hall	Dan Picard 271-4054
	3 p.m. – 6p.m.	Great Falls	Heritage Hall – MSU College of Technology	Wade Crouch 454-6980
<b>March 6</b>	9 a.m. – noon	Choteau	Choteau Public Library	Mark Major 466-2491
	2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Helena	Bill Hamilton Building - Fairgrounds	Larry Hoffman 447-8346
<b>March 10</b>	2 p.m. – 5p.m.	Sidney	USDA ARS Lab	Ben Larson 433-1206
<b>March 11</b>	2 p.m. – 5p.m.	Miles City	Courthouse Conference Room	Cindy Berg 874-3370
<b>March 12</b>	5:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Billings	Billings Hotel & Convention Center	Steve Lackman 256-2828
<b>March 13</b>	9 a.m. – noon	Lewistown	Fergus County Sheriff's Complex	Darren Crawford 535-3919