

Feb. 24, 2014



MONTANA FSA: February eNewsletter

**USDA Montana
Farm Service Agency**

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Montana FSA Directories:
[*Click here for online directory
of Montana FSA county offices.](#)
&

[*Click here for a pdf of the
Montana FSA State & County
Office Directory](#)

**Reasonable
Accommodations:**
People with disabilities who
require accommodations to
participate in FSA programs
should contact the County
Executive Director in the FSA
Office in your area or Federal
Relay Service at 1-800-877-
8339. Alternatively, you may
also contact Montana FSA Civil
Rights Coordinator Jennifer
Cole at (406) 587-6786 or
jennifer.cole@mt.usda.gov.

2014 NAP - Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program: March 17th Sales Closing Date

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to eligible producers affected by a natural disaster. The program covers crops for which Federal Crop Insurance is not available. NAP covers losses greater than 50% of your expected production, based upon your approved yield and reported acreage. To apply for 2014 crop coverage, producers must complete a CCC-471 application for coverage and pay the service fee. The application and service fee must be filed by the applicable sales closing date. The service fee is \$250 per crop per county or \$750 per producer per county, not to exceed \$1875 per producer in all counties. Producers must purchase NAP policies for all spring planted crops, including grass for hay and grazing, by the 2014 sales closing date of March 17, 2014. For questions on NAP, contact your local FSA county office.

Important NAP Policy Change Affects 2014 Crop Eligibility in Some Montana Counties for Dryland Corn

On Feb. 26, 2014, the national FSA office approved Montana FSA's request for an exemption in specific counties to allow the use of NAP coverage for nonirrigated corn intended for grain and silage (NAP practice of forage) beginning the 2014 crop year. Prior to January 2014, if catastrophic (CAT) risk protection level of crop insurance was available on any crop, type and intended use in the county then NAP could not be offered for those crops within that county for any practice. National procedure was recently amended to allow states to request exemptions to that provision. Effective Feb. 6, 2014, nonirrigated corn intended for grain and nonirrigated corn intended for silage (forage) is available for NAP coverage beginning in 2014 for producers in the following counties that were previously not approved for NAP due to crop insurance being available on the irrigated practice: Big Horn, Blaine, Carbon, Carter, Fergus, Hill, Judith Basin, McCone, Musselshell, Phillips, Powder River, Rosebud, Stillwater, Treasure, Valley and Yellowstone. In addition, nonirrigated corn intended for grain is available for 2014 NAP coverage for the following counties that were previously not approved for NAP due to crop insurance being available on the irrigated practice: Custer, Dawson, Fallon, Garfield, Prairie, Richland, Roosevelt and Wibaux. However, because crop insurance is available for nonirrigated corn silage (NAP practice of forage), in these counties, NAP cannot be offered for the intended use of silage (forage). The sales closing date is **March 17**.

2014 FARM BILL: Livestock Forage Disaster Program & Livestock Indemnity Program Factsheets Released

FSA County Offices are not accepting LIP or LFP applications at this time. Stay tuned for the official FSA signup announcement!

Livestock Indemnity Payments (LIP): Factsheet Overview: The 2014 Farm Bill makes the Livestock Indemnity Payments (LIP) a permanent program and provides retroactive authority to cover eligible livestock losses back to Oct. 1, 2011. LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the Federal Government or protected by Federal law, including wolves and avian predators. LIP payments are equal to 75 percent of the market value of the applicable livestock on the day before the date of death of the livestock as determined by the Secretary. Sign-up will begin on or before April 15th, 2014, at any local FSA service center. Additional details on the types of information required for an application will be provided as part of the sign-up announcement. Some eligibility restrictions may apply. Additional information regarding LIP assistance can be found at fsa.usda.gov or by clicking on the factsheet below.

LIP FACTSHEET: Click here for a pdf of the [Livestock Indemnity Program Factsheet](#) dated 2/14/2014.

Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP): Factsheet Overview: The 2014 Farm Bill makes the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) a permanent program and provides retroactive authority to cover eligible losses back to October 1, 2011. LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire. LFP payments for drought are equal to 60 percent of the monthly feed cost for up to 5 months. LFP payments for fire on federally managed rangeland are equal to 50 percent of the monthly feed cost for the number of days the producer is prohibited from grazing the managed rangeland, not to exceed 180 calendar days. The grazing losses must have occurred on or after Oct. 1, 2011. Sign-up will begin on or before April 15, 2014, at any local FSA service center. Additional details on the types of information required for an application will be provided as part of the sign-up announcement. Some eligibility restrictions may apply. Additional information regarding LFP assistance can be found at fsa.usda.gov or by click on a factsheet below.

LFP FACTSHEET: Click here for a pdf of the [Livestock Forage Program Factsheet](#) dated 2/14/2014.

LFP & LIP: For LIP & LFP, the Risk Management Purchase Requirement (RMPR) from the 2008 farm bill does not apply Oct. 1, 2011 forward.

Congratulations to Montana's Newly Elected & Re-Elected FSA County Committee Members

Congratulations to the newly elected FSA County Committee members elected locally to serve on their FSA County Committee in communities across Montana! County committee members are an important component of the operations of FSA and provide a link between the agricultural community and USDA. Farmers and ranchers elected to county committees help deliver FSA programs at the local level. FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. Each committee consists of 3 to 11 members who serve three-year terms. Approximately one-third of county committee seats are up for election each year.

NEWLY ELECTED & RE-ELECTED MONTANA FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Beaverhead: Andrew Johnson
Big Horn: Leslie Evertz
Blaine: Ronald A Fox Jr.
Broadwater: Steven McCullough
Carbon: Scott Blain
Carter: Lucas Waterland
Cascade: Loretta M Standley
Chouteau: Charles N Davis
Custer: Jess Drange
Daniels: Murray J Dighans
Dawson: Jason A Wolf
Fallon: Maralee A Burdick
Fergus/Petroleum: Lance R Heggem
Flathead/Lincoln: Douglas W Manning

Gallatin: Robert Hofman
Garfield: Mary Ann Murray
Glacier: Lila J. Evans
Golden Valley: Gary L Heiken
Hill: Wade Bitz & Mary Ruth St Pierre
Jefferson/Madison/Silver Bow: Brett Owens & Kirk L Amos
Judith Basin: Joseph Kolar
Lake: James R Horner
Lewis & Clark: John H Baucus
Liberty: Martin K Lyders
McCone: Thomas Garoutte
Meagher: Elizabeth A Johnston
Missoula/Mineral: William Wheeler, Jr. & Steve Marcure
Musselshell: William E Bergin
Park: Allen R. Carter
Phillips: Margaret Demarais
Pondera: Eric Gunderson
Powder River: Barry James Russiff
Powell/Deer Lodge/Granite: Dean Dutton & David Beck
Prairie: Todd Ban
Ravalli: Dan C Rasmussen
Richland: Ted Simonson
Roosevelt: Mary R Grainger-Nesbit
Rosebud/Treasure: Elaine Arneson, Lyle Newman & Cavin Steiger
Sanders: *TBD - SPECIAL ELECTION
Sheridan: Cory Sampsen
Stillwater: Ervin Hossfeld
Sweet Grass: Kevin D Halverson
Teton: Chad Doheny
Toole: Robert Welker
Valley: Kathy Greenwood
Wheatland: Holly Schwers
Wibaux: Gerald Goroski & Steve Kreitinger
Yellowstone: Stephen Becker

Acreage Reporting Late-File Fees Waived for 2014 Crops

Montana producers who did not report their required fall crops by the November 15, 2013 reporting deadline can still do so without paying a late-file fee. Those crops include all fall seeded annual crops and all perennial forage crops including native and improved grasses intended for grazing or haying. Contact your local FSA office as soon as possible to certify all crops that were required to be reported by November 15, 2013.

DO YOU FAX TO FSA? All Montana FSA Offices have new fax numbers!

This month, all Montana FSA offices converted to a new fax system which required offices to have a new fax number. Below is a link to an updated Montana office directory featuring the new fax numbers. As of March 6th, 2014, any faxes sent to the old fax numbers will not be received. If you have any questions, contact your local FSA office. [Click here for the 2014 Montana FSA Office Directory \(pdf\)](#).

FSA Maps Moving to Color in Montana

USDA, in Montana and across the country, is acquiring a cost effective way to print FSA maps in color. Color maps allow producers and participants to see much more information and detail that will provide an easier acreage reporting experience and provide a better quality map product. USDA will be acquiring equipment with cost effective color capabilities over time, based on the age of existing equipment. As a result, some USDA Service Centers will have the ability to print in color and others will be printing in black & white until the new equipment is purchased. As offices come online with cost effective color printing capabilities you may see your maps in color. Please be patient as USDA moves toward this better quality product in a cost effective way.

IRS Reporting For Tax Year 2013

Producers which are recipients of program payments during calendar year 2013 will receive form IRS-1099-G detailing payments producers have received from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The annual report of program payments on IRS-1099-G is a service intended to help our customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace producer's responsibilities to report income to IRS. The mailing of form IRS-1099-G will occur in late January 2014. CCC will not issue form IRS 1099-G when CCC program payments total less than \$600. In addition, producers which receive program payments from multiple counties will receive only one IRS Form 1099-G showing all payments from all counties. FSA staff cannot interpret IRS regulations or advise producers about which payments to report on their income tax returns. However, county office staff can review payments for accuracy. Although refund information is not shown on the IRS 1099-G, a Customer's financial data including refund information, program payment amounts, and prior year CCC-1099 information is conveniently available via the internet through the FSA "Financial Inquiries" database (FSA-FI). Instructions for obtaining a FSA-FI user ID and password are available on the FSA web site at:

<http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/eauth/WhatIsAccount.html>.

Farm Loan Program Availability

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agricultural production. As a farmer or rancher, whether you are just starting out or have many years of experience, loans are available for farm operating purposes and/or to purchase or improve a farm or ranch. All qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs. As the "Lender of First Opportunity" FSA targets some of the direct and guaranteed loan funds for beginning and/or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers. For purposes of this program, a beginning farmer/rancher is defined as someone who started in farming or ranching less than 10 years ago; socially disadvantaged individuals are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Emergency Loan Program available in Montana disaster 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). At this time, for FSA, the Secretarial and Presidential designation only triggers the Emergency Loan Program. Eligible producers have eight months from the date of the 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. [Click here for a map of Montana disaster counties to date.](#)

Important FSA Dates and Deadlines

- **Feb. 18:** New County Committee Members and Alternates Took Office
 - **March 16:** Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Managed Spring Grazing Period Begins (with County Committee Approval of Request)
 - **March 17:** 2014 Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Sales Closing Date for 2014 Spring Planted and Forage Crops
 - **March 31:** Final Loan/LDP Availability Dates for Barley, Canola, Crambe, Flaxseed, Honey, Oats, Rapeseed, Sesame seed and Wheat
 - **May 14:** CRP Managed Spring Grazing Period Ends
 - **June 2:** Final Loan/LDP Availability Dates for Corn, Dry peas, Grain sorghum, Lentils, Mustard seed, Safflower, Small chickpeas, Large chickpeas, Soybeans and Sunflower seed.
 - **July 15:** 2014 Acreage Reporting Deadline for Spring Seeded Alfalfa Seed, Forage Seeding, all remaining crops not required to be reported by previously announced deadlines.
 - **July 15:** 2013 ACRE Program Deadline to Submit Record of Production & Yield Certification (FSA-658)
 - **July 15:** NAP production reporting date for 2013 crop year
 - **July 15:** NAP Application for Payment deadline for 2013 crop losses
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Upcoming USDA Community Meetings

- Feb. 26 from 5-7 p.m. at the Fort Peck Community College in Wolf Point
- March 11 from 5-7 p.m. at the Stone Child College John Morsette Vocational Building in Rocky Boy
- March 12 from 5-7 p.m. at the Hays Lodge Pole School in Hays
- April 1 from 12:30-4:30 p.m. (Open House) at the Blackfeet Community College in Browning
- April 2 from 5-7 p.m. at the Leon Community Hall in Charlo
- April 28 from 5-7 p.m. at the Dull Knife Community College in Lame Deer
- April 29 from 5-7 p.m. at the Little Big Horn College in Crow Agency

February Loan and Interest Rates

- Commodity Loans -1.125%
- Operating Loans - 2.000%
- Farm Ownership Loans - 4.25%
- Farm Ownership - Down Payment Loans - 1.50%
- Emergency - Amount of Actual Loss - 3.000%
- Farm Storage Facility Loan, 7-Year - 2.375%
- Farm Storage Facility Loan, 10-Year - 3.000 %
- Farm Storage Facility Loan, 12-Year -3.125%

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).