



NEWSLETTER



Special Newsletter from:

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Montana

Our primary mission at USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) is to assist farmers and ranchers with timely delivery of federal FSA programs such as farm loans, commodity price support, disaster relief and conservation. The first page of this newsletter outlines several important dates and deadlines for FSA programs in Montana. We encourage you to call and/or stop by your local FSA office to learn more about these programs. Our user friendly website at www.fsa.usda.gov/mt can help you access program information online and locate your local FSA office and USDA Service Center.

Important FSA Deadlines for Montana Farmers and Ranchers

- ⇒ **NOW!!:** File form CCC-633 EZ with FSA to protect potential Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) eligibility (See *page 3 for more information about LDPs.*)
- ⇒ **July 15** was the deadline for timely 2016 Acreage Reporting/Crop Certification to FSA for Spring Seeded Alfalfa Seed, Forage Seeding, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Fruit (except cherries), Vegetables, Christmas Trees, and all Spring-Seeded Crops and any other crops not required to be reported by previously announced deadlines. **(Annual acreage reports are required in order to maintain program benefits. Acreage reports filed after the July 15th deadline may be subject to late-file fees.)**
- ⇒ **Sept. 1:** 2017 NAP Application Closing Date for Value-Loss Crops such as nursery, Christmas trees, grass sod, ginseng, aquaculture, floriculture, root stock sets and mushrooms (*See next page for NAP info*)
- ⇒ **Sept. 30:** 2017 NAP Application Closing Date for Annual Fall-Seeded Crops, Perennial Forage and Grazing, Mixed Forage Crops including spring seeded annual types of mixed forage, Rye, Speltz, Triticale, Wheat and Garlic
- ⇒ **Sept. 30:** Final date for some CRP producers to complete mid-contract management activity on CRP
- ⇒ **Sept. 30:** Final date to enroll in the 2017 Margin Protection Program-Dairy (MPP-Dairy)
- ⇒ **Nov. 1:** 2016 Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees & Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) Application for Payment Deadline
- ⇒ **Nov. 7:** County Committee Election Ballots will be Mailed to Eligible Voters
- ⇒ **Nov. 12:** All Hay Bales Must be Removed from CRP
- ⇒ **Nov. 15:** 2017 Acreage Reporting Deadline for Apiculture, Perennial Forage, Pasture, Rangeland & Forage (PRF) including Native Grass, Fall Wheat (Hard Red Winter – HRW), and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains
- ⇒ **Nov. 15:** Deadline for 2016 NAP Production Reports for Annual Fall-Seeded Crops, Perennial Forage, Mixed Forage Crops, Rye, Speltz, Triticale, Wheat and Garlic
- ⇒ **Dec. 1:** 2017 NAP Application Closing Date for Honey Producers
- ⇒ **Dec. 5:** Last Day to Return Voted County Committee Election Ballots to local FSA offices

Don't forget to VOTE in your FSA County Committee Election!

Ongoing FSA Notice of Loss Requirements:

NAP: Submit Notice of Loss with FSA within 15 calendar days of the earlier of a natural disaster occurrence, the final planting date if planting is prevented by a natural disaster, the date that damage to the crop or loss of production becomes apparent; or the normal harvest date.

ELAP: Submit Notice of Loss the earlier of 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent or Nov. 1st after the end of the program year in which the loss occurred.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP): Submit Notice of Loss within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent.

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) - Montana

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State Executive

Director:

Bruce Nelson

State Committee:

Steve Carney, Chair

Floyd Dahlman

Kelly Flaherty-Settle

Anita Matt

Patricia Quisno

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 the agency's Civil Rights Coordinator Jennifer Cole at (406) 654.1333, ext. 117 or jennifer.cole@mt.usda.gov.

Do You Grow Organic Crops? Ask FSA about the Organic NAP Option!

Do you have NAP Crop Coverage? 2017 Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

NAP provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occurs as the result of natural disasters. The 2014 Farm Bill expanded NAP to include buy-up coverage levels, similar to buy-up provisions offered by crop insurance. Producers may elect additional coverage levels ranging from 50 to 65 percent of production, in 5 percent increments, at 100 percent of the average market price. Producers who elect additional coverage must pay a premium in addition to the service fee. Crops intended for grazing are not eligible for additional coverage. **Beginning, limited resource and underserved producers are eligible for a waiver of the service fee and a 50 percent premium reduction.**

Call FSA today!

NAP Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

Elected Coverage (Yield/Price)	Loss Triggers
50/55	50 percent
50/100	50 percent
55/100	45 percent
60/100	40 percent
65/100	35 percent

NAP Benefits

- Risk Management Tool
- Reasonable Price for Coverage
- Covers Crops for which Traditional Insurance is Not Available
- Provides Assurance to Lender(s)

Non Refundable Service Fee

Per crop	\$250
Maximum per county	\$750
Multi county maximum	\$1875

Fees waived for new, limited resource, traditionally underserved farmers

Ask your FSA office about the NAP service fee waiver today!

Quarterly Summary of Coverage		Applicable Program Forms	
Crops	Selected on CCC-471	NAP	General
Acres	Reported on Acreage Report	CCC-471	CCC-860
Coverage	Selected on CCC-471	CCC-471 BP	AD-1026
Premium	60 Days prior to subsequent year application closing date	CCC-452	CCC-941
Billing	30 Days after billing	CCC-576	CCC-902
Premium		CCC-576-1	FSA-578
Due Date			

Premium Calculation (For Value Loss Crops)		Premium Calculation (For Yield Based Crops)	
Multiply Producer's share		Multiplying the producer's share	
x	Elected Maximum Dollar Value	x	the number of eligible acres
x	coverage level	x	producer's approved yield
x	5.25% premium factor	x	coverage level
		x	of the applicable price
		x	5.25% premium factor

New, limited resource, and traditionally underserved farmers eligible for a 50% Reduction

New, limited resource, and traditionally underserved farmers eligible for a 50% Reduction

Visit FSA on the web: www.fsa.usda.gov
gov delivery: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFSA/subscriber/new/>
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Coverage

Report Acres

Report Loss

Production

Apply for Payment

Pay Premium

\$\$\$\$— NAP 2017 Crop Year Sales Closing Dates —\$\$\$\$

Sept. 1, 2016: 2017 NAP Application Closing Date for Value-Loss Crops such as nursery, Christmas trees, grass sod, ginseng, aquaculture, floriculture, root stock sets, and mushrooms

Sept. 30, 2016: 2017 NAP Application Closing Date for Annual Fall-Seeded Crops, Perennial Forage and Grazing, Mixed Forage Crops including spring seeded annual types of mixed forage, Rye, Speltz, Triticale, Wheat and Garlic

Dec. 1, 2016: 2017 NAP Application Closing Date for Honey Producers

March 15, 2017: 2017 NAP Application Closing Date for All Other Crops

Attention Montana Wheat Producers: Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs): With wheat prices falling at a range where LDPs may be applicable, producers should become familiar with the process to access this assistance. The 2014 Farm Bill authorized 2014-2018 crop year Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs) and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs). MALs and LDPs provide financing and marketing assistance for wheat, feed grains, soybeans, and other oilseeds, pulse crops, rice, peanuts, cotton, wool and honey. MALs provide producers interim financing after harvest to help them meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows. A producer who is eligible to obtain a loan, but agrees to forgo the loan, may obtain an LDP if such a payment is available.

Before MAL repayments with a market loan gain or LDP disbursements can be made, producers must meet the requirements of actively engaged in farming, cash rent tenant and member contribution. To be eligible for an MAL or an LDP, producers must have a beneficial interest in the commodity, in addition to other requirements. A producer retains beneficial interest when control of and title to the commodity is maintained. For an LDP, the producer must retain beneficial interest in the commodity from the time of planting through the date the producer filed Form CCC-633EZ (page 1) in the FSA County Office. If form CCC-633EZ is filed before loss of beneficial interest, the producer may obtain the LDP rate in effect on the date beneficial interest is lost. For more information, producers should contact their local FSA county office or view the LDP Fact Sheet at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/fact-sheets/index>.

Daily status of LDP payment rates in Montana can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov/mt or by clicking the following link: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/ldppcpStateInfo?mystate=mt&area=home&subject=dalp&topic=landing>

To be considered eligible for an LDP, producers must have form CCC-633EZ, Page 1 on file at their local FSA Office before losing beneficial interest in the crop. Pages 2, 3 or 4 of the form must be submitted when payment is requested.

The 2014 Farm Bill also establishes payment limitations per individual or entity not to exceed \$125,000 annually on certain commodities for the following program benefits: price loss coverage payments, agriculture risk coverage payments, marketing loan gains (MLGs) and LDPs. These payment limitations do not apply to MAL loan disbursements or redemptions using commodity certificate exchange. Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) provisions were modified by the 2014 Farm Bill, which states that a producer whose total applicable three-year average AGI exceeds \$900,000 is not eligible to receive an MLG or LDP.

Distressed Loans: Distressed loans are requested and initiated when a commodity is stored on the ground or in a temporary facility when there is a shortage of storage at harvest time on the farm or in local warehouses. The commodity offered as collateral must be protected from animals and located where water drainage will not affect the quality or quantity of the commodity. The maximum quantity eligible for a distressed loan may not exceed 75% of the eligible quantity and the loan rate shall not be reduced. Distressed loans mature 90 calendar days after the date the loan was disbursed. Distressed loans can be re-pledged to secure a MAL, not to exceed the normal 9 month loan period from the original distressed loan disbursement. Distressed loans must be re-paid at principal plus interest on or before the 90 day loan maturity date. Loan requests must be made and all loan documents signed within 30 calendar days after harvest has been completed. The following Montana counties have requested distressed loans (as of Aug. 9): Blaine, Chouteau, Daniels, Pondera and Teton. For questions, contact your local FSA office.

2016 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP): LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers in qualifying counties for drought on dryland pasture. Eligible livestock producers must own or lease dryland pasture physically located in a qualifying county and livestock must use this ground during the normal grazing period for the county. **Carter County has met the qualifying drought criteria for 2016 in Montana.** Eligible producers with land physically located in Carter County may qualify for three monthly payments under LFP. Producers must complete an application and provide supporting documentation for 2016 losses by **Jan. 30, 2017**. Please contact the local FSA office ASAP to schedule an appointment to begin the application process. *(As of this mailing on Aug. 9, no other Montana counties have met the qualifying drought criteria for 2016. In the event that other counties trigger after this newsletter distribution, producers will be notified via a postcard mailing.)*

LFP also provides assistance to eligible livestock producers who suffer a grazing loss due to fire on Federally-managed land. Producers who are notified by a Federal agency that they cannot graze their permitted number of livestock or permitted number of days due to a fire should contact the county office for assistance.

Importance of Conducting CRP Mid-contract Management Activities: All CRP participants are required to perform a mid-contract management activity on all acres under a CRP contract by the end of year 6 of a 10 year contract and by the end of year 9 for a 15 year contract. Mid-contract management activities are included in the Conservation Plan of Operations CRP participants sign along with the CRP contract. CRP participants are reminded to review their Conservation Plan of Operations and perform the scheduled mid-contract management activity before the end of year 6. Failure to perform a mid-contract management activity is considered a violation and may result in termination of the CRP contract.

Visit Montana FSA online: www.fsa.usda.gov/mt

Changing Bank Accounts: All FSA payments should be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify your FSA office if you close your account or if your bank is purchased by another financial institution. Payments can be delayed if we are not aware of changes to account and routing numbers.

FSA Payments in Montana - FY 2015: In fiscal year 2015 (Oct. 1, 2014 to Sept. 30, 2015), Montana FSA administered \$ 243.1 million in federal program payments and loans to Montana farmers and ranchers. That figure includes \$56.4 million in commodity loan and program payments, \$56.3 million conservation payments, \$38.9 million in disaster assistance and \$91.4 million in farm loans. Visit us online for the FY'15 report summary.

**Total Payments by FY: FY'15 \$243.1 million - FY'14 \$316.5 million - FY'13 \$328 million - FY'12 \$312.1 million
FY'11 \$437.2 million - FY'10 \$363 million - FY'09 \$338 million - FY'08 \$361 million**

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New Phone Number, Mailing Address or Email Address?: If your mailing address, email address and/or phone number have changed please notify your local administrative FSA office to update your mailing records with FSA. To locate a local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov> and/or www.fsa.usda.gov/mt.

Montana FSA Online: www.fsa.usda.gov/mt

USDA New Farmers Website: www.newfarmers.usda.gov

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