



**Powell-Deer Lodge-Granite
County FSA**
1002 Hollenback Rd, Suite B
Deer Lodge, MT 59722

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County Committee Members

Steve Graveley – LAA 1-1
Barb Conn – LAA 1-2
Marlin Gilman – LAA 1-3
Carl Johnson – LAA 1-4
Phil Ralston – LAA 1-5

FSA Office Personnel

Gary Thompson – ext. 233
Sandra Witt – ext. 232

Dates to Remember:

January – Sign-up begins for LCP

February 18 – President's Day,
Office closed

March 17 – Deadline to purchase NAP
for 2008 perennial and spring-seeded
crops.

Powell-Deer Lodge-Granite County January 2008 Newsletter

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)

As a result of recent procedural changes made in the Disaster Aid Program, **Powell County and Granite County** producers are eligible for the Livestock Compensation Program for the 2007 year. This program compensates livestock producers for feed losses due to natural disasters.

To be eligible for LCP, producers must have:

- Either owned or cash-leased eligible livestock (but not both for the same livestock) on the beginning date of the applicable disaster period (s); and
- Suffered an eligible feed loss from produced or purchased forage or feed, or incurred additional feed costs as a result of an eligible disaster event (s) during the applicable disaster period (s) and the feed lost or additional incurred feed costs were intended for use with eligible livestock.

To apply, producers must complete form FSA-901 at their local office; bring adequate proof that the feed loss or incurred additional feed costs were for the claimed eligible livestock and occurred as a direct result of an eligible disaster event during an eligible disaster period (s) in the calendar year for which the benefits are being requested.

For detailed explanations of eligible livestock and eligibility requirements, logon to the Montana FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.



Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

NAP provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields occur as a result of a natural disaster. Eligible crops are those commercially produced for food, livestock consumption, and some specialty crops. Eligible producers must pay an administrative service fee of \$100 per crop per administrative county or \$300 per producer per county, not to exceed \$900 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties. Service fees may be waived for limited-resource producers. Payment of a service fee does not guarantee coverage. There are many eligibility requirements that must be met.

The Application Closing Date for all crops except value loss and honey is March 17, 2008.
Contact the office for further information.

Change in Farming Operation or Address

Producers are reminded to notify this office to report change in address, land ownership or entity changes regarding percentages and/or adding or removing a member. This is vital to assist this office in keeping current records which reduce time spent when applying for different programs.

Change in Direct Deposit Account

The Debt Collection Act of 1996 mandates that payments from FSA be directly deposited into a producer's checking or savings bank account. It is important that **any** change in the producer's account such as type of account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

Farm Loans

FSA offers direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans programs to farmers and ranchers who are temporarily unable to obtain private commercial credit. Rural youth loans, beginning farmer and rancher, and assistance for socially disadvantaged persons are also available.

COC Election

Ballots for the County Committee (COC) election were counted on December 6, 2007 for administrative areas LAA 1-3 and LAA 1-4. LAA 1-3 candidate, Marlin Gilman and LAA 1-4 candidate Carl Johnson were re-elected to the Powell-Granite-Deer Lodge Counties FSA Committee. Marlin and Carl will serve another three year term representing their Local Administrative Area (LAA). The FSA County Committee makes important decisions about disaster and conservation programs, commodity price support loans and payments, and other agricultural issues affecting the local natural resource needs. Congratulations to Marlin and Carl along with a special thanks to all those voters that submitted a ballot.

Farm Service Agency Emergency Loans Available in Montana Counties

Powell and Granite are among the counties eligible for Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency loans. This Secretarial Disaster designation resulted from drought and excessive heat due to extreme temperatures.

Farmers are eligible to apply for emergency loans through the FSA offices servicing their area. Emergency loans are made to farmers/ranchers to cover losses resulting from designated disasters. To be eligible, applicants must be unable to obtain credit from other sources, be able to repay the loan and any other loans, and have adequate security.

This disaster designation also allows FSA the option of installment set-aside to eligible producers.

For more information contact your local FSA office:

Powell County producers contact Fred Smith, Farm Loan Manager in Ronan at (406) 676-2811.

Granite and Deer Lodge County producers contact Allen Jenne, Farm Loan Manager in Dillon at (406) 683-3830.

Foreign Buyers Notification:

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.

Foreign Person Rule

A foreign individual is someone who is not a citizen of the United States or a lawful alien possessing a valid Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-551 or I-151). A foreign entity is a corporation, trust, estate, limited partnership, limited liability company, or other similar organization that has more than 10 percent of its beneficial interest held by individuals who are not citizens of the United States or lawful aliens possessing a valid Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-551 or I-151). In addition to the requirements for "person" and "actively engaged in farming," the following significant contributions must be provided by an individual or entity considered to be a "foreign person." An individual determined to be a "foreign person" must provide a significant contribution of land, capital, and active personal labor. Each foreign individual who is a member of an entity determined to be a "foreign person" must provide active personal labor to enable the entity to provide a significant contribution of active personal labor.

Submission of Applications via E-Government

As required by the Freedom to E-File Act, eForms provides customers with the option to electronically access, fill out, and print paper forms, or obtain secure electronic access credentials for signing and transmitting forms and other documents electronically to their local Service Center. Level 2 access is required. Step-by-step instructions are available on the Montana FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt> explaining the Level 2 access process. Contact the local county FSA office to complete your Level 2 registration.

Reasonable Accommodation Statement

USDA is required to provide the reasonable accommodations statement semiannually in county office newsletters and on printed announcements of all public meetings, seminars or FSA sponsored training, and farm program orientation sessions.

Civil Rights/Discrimination Process

As a participant or applicant for programs or activities operated or sponsored by USDA, you have a right to be treated fairly. If you believe you have been discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, disability, or marital or familial status, you may file a discrimination complaint. The complaint should be filed with the USDA Office of Adjudication and Compliance within 180 days of the date you became aware the alleged discrimination occurred. To file a complaint of discrimination write: USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication and Compliance, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 326W, Whitten Building, Stop 9410, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD).

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance may be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting, possessing or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium poppies and other drug producing plants.

Under Represented Groups

FSA solicits and accepts nominations of under represented groups such as females and minority (American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander) producers for county committee representation. Please notify this office if you wish to be identified as a minority producer.

Website

Producers may access FSA information and forms on the Montana Internet site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>

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Postage Block

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