

September 2016



Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

- [Have you filed your paperwork with FSA? Upcoming 2016 FSA Deadlines](#)
- [2017 NAP: USDA Encourages Producers to Consider Risk Protection Coverage; Sept. 30th Deadline](#)
- [Filing for 2016 NAP Losses](#)
- [2016 Livestock Forage Disaster Program \(LFP\) Triggered in Carter, Fallon and Powder River Counties: Jan. 30, 2017 Application Deadline](#)
- [Requesting Loan Deficiency Payments \(LDP\) Benefits](#)
- [Distressed Loans](#)
- [2016 Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program \(ELAP\)](#)
- [Emergency Loans – Disaster Designations in Montana](#)
- [Upcoming USDA Town Hall Listening Sessions in Cut Bank, Browning, Pablo, Anaconda, Rocky Boy Agency, Big Sandy, Chinook, Fort Belknap Agency and Chester](#)
- [USDA Climate Hub Building Block: Conservation of Sensitive Lands](#)

Montana FSA: September 2016 eNewsletter

USDA Farm Service Agency - Montana

P.O. Box 670
Bozeman, MT 59771

Phone: 406.587.6872

Fax: 855.546.0264

Web: www.fsa.usda.gov/mt

State Executive Director:
Bruce Nelson

State Committee:
Steve Carney, Chair
Floyd Dahlman
Kelly Flaherty-Settle

Have you filed your paperwork with FSA? Upcoming 2016 FSA Deadlines

NOW!!: File form CCC-633 EZ page 1 with FSA before losing beneficial interest to maintain Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) eligibility. (To request payments, producers need to submit page 2 of the CCC-633EZ.)
- See article below for more details.

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 - See article below for more details.

Sept. 30: Last day of the 2016 ARC-PLC Contract Period. Deadline to submit any succession-in-interest contracts to FSA.

Anita Matt
Patricia Quisno

Montana USDA Office Directories

[Online Directory of FSA Offices in Montana](#)

[PDF of Montana FSA Directory](#)

[PDF of Montana USDA Directory](#)

FSA Factsheets Website

Reasonable

Accommodations:

People with disabilities who require accommodations to participate in FSA programs and/or events 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.

Sept. 30: Final date for some CRP producers to complete mid-contract management activity on CRP

Nov. 1: 2016 Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees & Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) Application for Payment Deadline - See article below for more details.

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

Dec. 16: Final date to enroll in the 2017 Margin Protection Program Dairy (MPP-Dairy). The MPP Dairy Program 2017 Registration was extended to Dec. 16.

Ongoing FSA Notice of Loss Requirements:

Montana farmers and ranchers are reminded to timely report all crop and livestock losses to your local FSA office. For any questions, please contact your local FSA county office.

NAP – Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program: Submit Notice of Loss 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 – Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program: 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.

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

TAP - Tree Assistance Program: Final Date to Submit an Application and Supporting Documentation is the later of 90 calendar days of the disaster event or the date when the loss is apparent

Visit FSA's national disaster assistance [website](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/index) at:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/index>.

2017 NAP: USDA Encourages Producers to Consider Risk Protection Coverage; Sept. 30th Deadline

FSA encourages producers to examine available USDA crop risk protection options, including federal crop insurance and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, before the applicable crop sales deadline.

Montana's Upcoming 2017 Crop Year NAP Sales Closing Dates:

- **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

Producers are reminded that crops not covered by insurance may be eligible for the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). The 2014 Farm Bill expanded NAP to include higher levels of protection. Beginning, underserved and limited resource farmers are now eligible for free catastrophic level coverage, as well as discounted premiums for additional levels of protection.

Federal crop insurance covers crop losses from natural adversities such as drought, hail and excessive moisture. NAP covers losses from natural disasters on crops for which no permanent federal crop insurance program is available, including perennial grass forage and grazing crops, fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, bioenergy, and industrial crops.

USDA has partnered with Michigan State University and the University of Illinois to create an online tool at www.fsa.usda.gov/nap that allows producers to determine whether their crops are eligible for federal crop insurance or NAP and to explore the best level of protection for their operation. NAP basic coverage is available at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production, with higher levels of coverage, up to 65 percent of their expected production at 100 percent of the average market price, including coverage for organics and crops marketed directly to consumers.

Deadlines for coverage vary by state and crop. To learn more about NAP visit www.fsa.usda.gov/nap or contact your local USDA Service Center. To find your local USDA Service Centers go to <http://offices.usda.gov>.

Federal crop insurance coverage is sold and delivered solely through private insurance agents. Agent lists are available at all USDA Service Centers or at USDA's online Agent Locator: <http://prodwebnlb.rma.usda.gov/apps/AgentLocator/#>. Producers can use the USDA Cost Estimator, <https://ewebapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/costestimator/Default.aspx>, to predict insurance premium costs.

Filing for 2016 NAP Losses

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, documents a producer's loss or damage to a crop or commodity due to an eligible cause of loss, as well as failed acreage and prevented planting. A CCC-576, Notice of Loss must be provided for prevented planting claims, within 15 calendar days after the final planting date established for the crop, and for low yield claims, the earlier of:

- 15 calendar days after the disaster occurrence or date of loss or damage to the crop first becomes apparent
- 15 calendar days after the normal harvest date established for the crop.

Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the FSA County Office by the dates previously mentioned.

A Montana NAP factsheet is available electronically [HERE](#).

2016 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) Triggered in Carter, Fallon and Powder River Counties: Jan. 30, 2017 Application Deadline

Livestock Producers in Carter, Fallon and Powder River Counties are eligible to apply for 2016 LFP Benefits!

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, Fallon and Powder River Counties have met the qualifying drought criteria for 2016 in Montana.** Eligible livestock producers with land physically located in Carter County may qualify for four monthly payments under LFP; producers with land in Fallon and Powder River may qualify for one monthly payment. 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.

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.

Requesting Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) Benefits

Producers must submit page 2 of the CCC-633EZ form to the local FSA office to request Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) benefits. To be considered eligible for an LDP, producers must retain beneficial interest in the commodity from the time of planting through the date the producer filed form CCC-633EZ, Page 1 at the local FSA 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. A producer retains beneficial interest when control of and title to the commodity is maintained.

Before LDP disbursements can be made, producers must meet the requirements of actively engaged in farming, cash rent tenant and member contribution.

A producer who is eligible to obtain a Marketing Assistance loan, but agrees to forgo the loan, may obtain an LDP if such a payment is available.

Daily status of LDP payment rates in Montana can be found by clicking the following link:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Montana/ldp-rates/index>

The 2014 Farm Bill authorized 2014-2018 crop year Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs) and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs).

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>.

Visit [FSA's Price Support Website](#), Montana FSA online at www.fsa.usda.gov/mt and your local FSA office for more information.

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 Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)

Montana livestock producers, including Honeybee and Farm-raised Fish producers, are reminded that the 2016 Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) program year began Oct. 1, 2015 and continues through Sept. 30, 2016.

Producers who suffer livestock death losses not covered under LIP, or feed losses (must be in the bale or removed from the eligible acreage) and grazing losses not covered under LFP, or losses resulting from the cost of transporting water to livestock due to an eligible drought; colony-collapse disorder, etc, are reminded to report these losses **within 30 calendar days** of when the loss is apparent. In addition to filing a notice of loss, a timely filed acreage report for the 2016 program year must also be submitted with the administrative FSA County Office. For Honeybee producers who have become aware of colony collapse while in another state, the notice of loss can be filed with the local FSA office in that state.

After producers have timely filed their notice of loss and acreage report, the next step is to make the application for payment. The application for payment must be filed with the FSA county office no later than **Nov. 1, 2016**. Since ELAP funds are limited to \$20 million per fiscal year, the National Office must

determine if the requested ELAP payments exceed the \$20 million allocation. If the requested 2016 ELAP benefits exceed \$20 million, all payments will be factored.

[ELAP Program Factsheet](#) (pdf)

Emergency Loans – Disaster Designations in Montana

FSA's Emergency Loan Program is available for agricultural producers in counties designated as primary or contiguous natural disaster areas. See map below of current Disaster Designations in Montana by County. Contact your local FSA office for specific designations in your area and time frames to apply. 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.

[Current Disaster Designations in Montana](#) - (by county)

[Emergency Loan Factsheet](#) (pdf)

Upcoming USDA Town Hall Listening Sessions in Cut Bank, Browning, Pablo, Anaconda, Rocky Boy Agency, Big Sandy, Chinook, Fort Belknap Agency and Chester

USDA wants to hear from local citizens and community leaders about opportunities and barriers to maximizing access to USDA programs and services.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) agencies continue to host town hall listening sessions across Montana. The public meetings are being held to discuss opportunities to maximize access to USDA programs and services.

In early 2016, 13 Montana counties and the seven tribal nations were designated as "StrikeForce" areas, a rural growth and opportunity initiative launched by USDA in 2010 in economically challenged areas to improve USDA services by building partnerships to help challenged communities shape a future based on local assets and regional strengths. Montana leaders from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Rural Development (RD), and Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) will listen to concerns from local citizens and community leaders at the upcoming meetings:

- **Sept. 27, 2016:** Glacier County Extension Office (1210 E. Main St., **Cut Bank**) at 9:00 a.m. and Blackfeet Tribal Chambers (640 All Chiefs Rd., **Browning**) at 1:00 p.m.
- **Sept. 28, 2016:** Mission Valley Power (36079 Pablo West Rd, **Pablo**) at 1:00 p.m.
- **Sept. 29, 2016:** Anaconda Local Development Corporation (118 East 7th Street, **Anaconda**) at 2:00 p.m.
- **Oct. 3, 2016:** Chippewa Cree Tribal Chambers (31 Agency Square, **Rocky Boy Agency**, Box Elder) at 8:30 a.m. and Big Sandy Senior Citizens Center (224 2nd St., **Big Sandy**) at 1:00 p.m.
- **Oct. 4, 2016:** Chinook Wallner Hall (112 4th St., **Chinook**) at 9:00 a.m. and Fort Belknap Red Whip Gym (118 Chippewa Ave., **Fort Belknap Agency**, Harlem) at 1:00 p.m.

- **Oct. 5, 2016:** Havre Northern Ag Research Center (3710 Assinniboine Road, **Havre**) at 9:00 a.m. and Liberty County Senior Center (618 E Adams St., **Chester**) at 2:00 p.m.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend a meeting can contact John George at jonathan.george@mt.usda.gov or 406-449-5000 ext. 101.

USDA Montana StrikeForce Coordinators/Agency Contacts:

FSA Coordinator: Jennifer Cole, jennifer.cole@mt.usda.gov, 406.654.1333, ext. 117

NRCS Coordinator: John George, jonathan.george@mt.usda.gov or 406.449.5000, ext. 101

RD Coordinator: Janelle Gustafson, Janelle.gustafson@mt.usda.gov or 406.585.2508

USDA Climate Hub Building Block: Conservation of Sensitive Lands

USDA Climate Hubs are working with producers, ranchers, pasture and forest landowners to effectively partner in ways to help reduce climate change. To aid in this partnership, USDA established the 10 Building Blocks for Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry.

One such Building Block is the “Conservation of Sensitive Lands”. The term “sensitive lands” denotes soils and landscapes that are valuable due to properties (e.g., high organic matter, wet hydrology) and/or function (e.g., wildlife habitat, filtration, and hydrologic storage). Typical examples of these soils are organic rich histosols, floodplains, or wetlands along riparian areas. Properties and functions of these soils are easily disrupted from agricultural or urban land use.

Sensitive lands that are used for agricultural production can be protected by changes in land use (long-term cover). This reduction in land use intensity can provide multiple environmental benefits, including substantial GHG mitigation that occurs as carbon is sequestered or preserved in soils and vegetation. When land is removed from crop production, several activities—including tillage, nitrogen fertilization, and energy use—are substantially reduced or eliminated, generating additional GHG mitigation.

FSA and NRCS are committed to identifying these sensitive lands and encouraging landowners, farmers, and ranchers to voluntarily adopt conservation systems--using financial and technical assistance--to generate GHG benefits. To read more about Conservation of Sensitive Lands, click the following link: http://www.usda.gov/oce/climate_change/building_blocks/4_SensitiveLands.pdf.

For more information about the USDA Climate Hubs click here: <http://www.climatehubs.oce.usda.gov/>

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. 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).