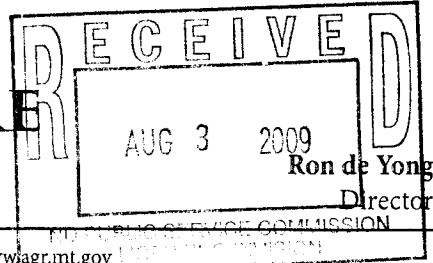




MONTANA  
Department of

AGRICULTURE

303 N Roberts, PO Box 200201  
Helena, Montana 59620-0201



Brian Schweitzer  
Governor

406.444-3144 • Fax: 406.444.5409 • agr@mt.gov • www.agr.mt.gov

July 27, 2009

**CERTIFIED MAIL 7006 0810 0006 2860 1209**

Clara Michels  
672 Black Diamond Road E  
Beach ND 58621

RE: Partial payment from the liquidation of Sustainable Systems, LLC

Dear Clara Michels,

The Montana Department of Agriculture (department) is providing this partial payment for dollars owed to you by Sustainable Systems, LLC in Culbertson, Montana. This is the second in a series of payments to growers who delivered on their 2008 safflower contracts. These funds include proceeds from the liquidation of Sustainable Systems' commodity assets. To be as fair and equitable as possible, the department is administering these funds on a percentage basis. In other words, every grower will receive an equal share before another grower is paid in full.

This payment brings the amount owed to each grower up to 90% of the total amount owed; assuming North Dakota growers receive the expected bond amounts later this year. A final payment will be sent when the department has collected the remaining funds from the liquidation of Sustainable Systems' inventory of oilseed commodities. The timing and payment amounts will be dependent on the collection process.

As indicated during the grower meeting recently held in Culbertson, the department anticipates being able to pay close to 100% of the amount owed to safflower growers who delivered seed to the plant.

Thank you for your patience in this matter.

Sincerely,

Ron de Yong  
Director

cc: Brent Sarchet, Business Examiner