Montana FSA: August 2020 Newsletter

All Montana USDA Service Centers are open for business, including some that are open to visitors to conduct business in person by appointment only. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, or any other Service Center agency should call ahead and schedule an appointment. Service Centers that are open for appointments will pre-screen visitors based on health concerns or recent travel and visitors must adhere to social distancing guidelines. Visitors may also be required to wear a face covering during their appointment. Field work will continue with appropriate social distancing. Our program delivery staff will be in the office, and they will be working with our producers in office, by phone, by mail, by email and using online tools. More information can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus.
Message from State Executive Director Mike Foster

You work long hours to provide essential resources for us all, and in these challenging times, I want you to know that USDA is here to support you and your operation through our Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, or CFAP. Whether you farm one acre or many more, grow food for local markets or big supply chains, CFAP can help. We’re accepting applications through August 28 and encouraging producers to apply now.

In Montana, we have already approved 8,148 applications and disbursed $118,842,967 as of Aug. 3rd. Of that, 7,056 Montana producers received $107 million in livestock CFAP relief. Many of you have applied for CFAP already, but the numbers indicate that some who are eligible have not. If you’re still unsure about CFAP and your operation, I encourage you to take five minutes today to visit farmers.gov/cfap or call 877-508-8364 to learn about eligibility and options to apply. Whether you’ve worked with FSA for years or this will be a first, we’re here to help you every step of the way.

CFAP provides direct relief to producers who faced price declines and additional marketing costs due to COVID-19. A range of commodities are eligible for CFAP in Montana, including Cattle, Hard Red Spring Wheat, Swine, Corn and Lambs. You can access the full list of eligible non-specialty, specialty, livestock, dairy, and wool commodities by visiting farmers.gov/cfap.

Last month, USDA made some changes to potatoes for CFAP, which resulted in increased eligibility of potatoes for CFAP. Some specific varieties and uses of potato are now eligible for higher payment amounts, and potatoes subject to price risk as of Jan. 15, 2020 that were sold between Jan. 15, 2020 and April 15, 2020 are now eligible for a payment. Please contact your local county FSA office for specifics on these changes or to apply.

We know you’re busy, so we’ve outlined options to apply at the top of farmers.gov/cfap. We offer a CFAP Application Portal where those of you with eAuthentication accounts can submit your application online. Don’t have an eAuthentication account? You can enroll at farmers.gov/sign-in. We also offer a manual application option, and a CFAP Application Generator and Payment Calculator that allows you to input information specific to your operation to determine estimated payments and populate the application form.

You can apply now for the commodities that are currently eligible, and if any other commodities you produce are added to the program, we will happily amend your application.

If you have questions, please let us know. You can call our CFAP Call Center for one-on-one support with the CFAP application process. Call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer personalized assistance. And, as always, the FSA office at your local USDA Service Center is also there to help you prepare your application.

I want to recognize the Montana farmers and ranchers who put their name in the hat for county committee elections across Montana this fall. Thank you for being part of this important process. Ballots will be mailed out in early November so voters can submit their ballots by Dec. 7.

As COVID-19 cases still rise and fall in our counties, please continue to be patient with your local FSA office as we do our best to provide high quality and timely producer service while also striving to protect the health and safety of our employees and customers.

On behalf of USDA and FSA offices across Montana, we look forward to serving you.
New USDA Survey to Measure Areas for Improvement

The USDA today announced a new annual survey of farmers, ranchers and private forestland owners. The survey will help USDA understand what it is doing well and where improvements are needed, specifically at the Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Risk Management Agency (RMA).

A selection of 28,000 producers will receive the survey over the next few weeks, but all farmers are encouraged to take the survey at farmers.gov/survey.

This survey is part of the President’s Management Agenda. It requires High Impact Service Provider agencies across the federal government, including FSA and NRCS, to conduct annual surveys to measure and respond to areas needing improvement.

The survey consists of 20 questions and takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. Responses are confidential, and individual responses will be aggregated. The survey will be open for at least six weeks and will be closed once USDA receives a 30 percent response rate.

Learn more and take the survey at www.farmers.gov/survey.

Montana FSA Program Dates and Deadlines

**March 23:** Signup Began for Excess Moisture and Drought (D-3 and Above) Losses Under WHIP+. Signup deadline to be determined.

**Aug. 15:** 2020 Acreage Reporting Deadline for Hemp

**Aug. 15:** Deadline to signup for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Transition Incentive Program (TIP)

**Aug. 21:** Last day of CRP Soil Health and Income Protection Program (SHIPP) Pilot Signup Period

**Aug. 28:** Last day of Coronavirus Food Assistance Program Signup

**Aug. 31:** Last day of 2020 CRP Summer/Fall Non-Emergency Haying Period (prior approval required)

**Aug. 31:** All Hay Bales Must be Removed from Non-Emergency CRP Acreage

**Sept. 1:** 2021 Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Coverage Application Closing Date for all Canola (Winter and Spring Seeded) and Value-Loss Crops such as Nursery, Christmas Trees, Grass Sod, Ginseng, Aquaculture, Floriculture, Root Stock Sets and Mushrooms

**Sept. 30:** Deadline to update Price Loss Coverage (PLC) payment yields

**Sept. 30:** 2021 NAP Application for Coverage Deadline 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

**Oct. 12:** First day of 2021 Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) Sign-up

**Nov. 1:** Last day of 2020 CRP Summer/Fall Non-Emergency Grazing Period (prior approval required)

**Early November:** 2020 County Committee Election Ballots to be Mailed to Voters

**Nov. 16:** 2021 Acreage Reporting Deadline for Apiculture, Fall Wheat (Hard Red Winter), and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains. Please note that this is the final date that FSA can accept late-filed 2020 reports for these crops.
Dec. 1: 2021 NAP Coverage Application Closing Date for Honey

Dec. 7: Voted FSA County Committee Election Ballots due to FSA

Dec. 11: Last day of 2021 Dairy Margin Coverage Sign-up

Ongoing: FSA Farm Loan Applications are accepted and processed year-round.

Ongoing: Contact FSA right away for notice of loss deadlines and disaster program requirements.

For more information, contact your local FSA office and/or visit www.farmers.gov.

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**Transitioning Expiring CRP Land to Beginning, Veteran or Underserved Farmers and Ranchers - August 15 Deadline**

CRP contract holders are encouraged to transition their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to beginning, veteran or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers through the Transition Incentives Program (TIP). TIP provides annual rental payments to the landowner or operator for up to two additional years after the CRP contract expires, provided the transition is not to a family member.

Enrollment in TIP is on a continuous basis through 2023 or until the new statutory limit of $50 million under the 2018 Farm Bill is reached.

CRP contract holders no longer need to be a retired or retiring owner or operator to transition their land. TIP participants must agree to sell, have a contract to sell, or agree to lease long term (at least five years) land enrolled in an expiring CRP contract to a beginning, veteran, or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher who is not a family member.

Beginning, veteran or socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and CRP participants may enroll in TIP beginning two years before the expiration date of the CRP contract. For example, if a CRP contract is scheduled to expire on Sept. 30, 2022, the land may be offered for enrollment in TIP from October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2022. The TIP application must be submitted prior to completing the lease or sale of the affected lands.

New landowners or renters that return the land to production must use sustainable grazing or farming methods with a conservation plan from NRCS.

The deadline to sign-up for CRP Transition Incentive Program is Aug. 15. For more information on TIP, visit https://www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation.

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**USDA Offers Annual Installment Deferral Option for Farm Storage Facility Loan Borrowers**

To assist Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) borrowers experiencing financial hardship from the pandemic and other challenges in production agriculture, USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) is offering a one-time annual installment payment deferral option. No fees or prepayment penalties apply for borrowers who choose this FSFL loan flexibility option.

Eligible borrowers can request a one-time only annual installment payment deferral for loans having terms of three, five, seven or ten years. The installment deferral option is not available for 12-year term loans.

The FSFL installment payments will remain the same, except for the last year. The original loan interest rate and annual payment due date will remain the same. However, because the installment payment deferral is a one-year loan term extension, the final payment will be higher due to additional accrued interest.
Borrowers interested in exercising the one-time annual installment deferral option should contact FSA to make the request and to obtain, complete and sign required forms.

FSFLs provide low-interest financing for producers to store, handle and transport eligible commodities.

**More Information**

In addition to offering flexibilities for FSFLs, FSA has also made other flexibilities to help producers impacted by the pandemic, including relaxing the loan-making process for farm operating and ownership loans and implementing the Disaster Set-Aside provision that enables an upcoming installment on a direct loan to be set aside for the year. More information on these flexibilities can be found at [farmers.gov/coronavirus](http://farmers.gov/coronavirus).

For more information, contact your local USDA Service Center. To locate your local FSA office, visit [farmers.gov/service-center-locator](http://farmers.gov/service-center-locator).

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**2020 CRP Summer/Fall Non-Emergency Haying and Grazing**

**Summer/Fall Non-Emergency Grazing Period:** July 16 – Nov. 1

**Summer/Fall Non-Emergency Haying Period:** July 16 – Aug. 31

The Conservation Reserve Program 2020 Summer/Fall Non-Emergency Haying Period began July 16 following Montana's Primary Nesting Season and ends no later than Aug. 31. All Hay Bales must be removed from CRP by Aug. 31.

The frequency of non-emergency haying and grazing requests are determined by the last completed activity on the acreage, not by the activity being requested. Non-emergency Haying is authorized 1 out of every 3 years. If haying was conducted in 2017, the CRP will rest in 2018 and 2019, and be eligible to be hayed or grazed in 2020. Producers are authorized to hay 75 percent of the contract acres that meet the applicable rest interval.

The CRP 2020 Summer/Fall Grazing Period begins July 16 and ends when the calculated AUMs have been utilized or no later than Nov. 1. Non-emergency Grazing is authorized 1 out of 2 years. If grazing was conducted in 2018, the CRP will rest in 2019 and be eligible to be hayed or grazed in 2020. Producers are authorized to graze 100 percent of the contract acres that meet the rest interval.

Producers must sign up at their local FSA office and complete a CRP-117 form for office approval before conducting any non-emergency haying and/or grazing activity. If your conservation plan was established under previous Farm Bills, and you would like to bring it up to date to the current procedure, you will also need to work with NRCS to modify your conservation plan. Any haying and/or grazing activity without prior approval is a violation of the CRP contract, and standard payment reductions, or possible termination of contract will apply.

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**Aug. 21 Deadline for New Conservation Pilot Program for Prairie Pothole Producers to Plant Perennial Cover Crops**

*The Soil Health and Income Protection Program (SHIPP) is a land conservation program administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency.*

USDA Farm Service Agency announced a new pilot program that enables farmers in Prairie Pothole states to receive payments for planting perennial cover crops on their land for three to five years. The new Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Soil Health and Income Protection Program (SHIPP) pilot is available to producers in Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota. The signup for this pilot started March 30, 2020 and ends **August 21**.

Through SHIPP, producers have the option of three-, four- or five-year CRP contracts to establish perennial cover crops on less productive cropland in exchange for payments. This pilot enables producers to plant perennial cover crops that,
among other benefits, will improve soil health and water quality while having the option to harvest, hay and graze during certain times of the year. Up to 50,000 acres can be enrolled.

Perennial cover crops, whether used in a single crop rotation or over multiple years, can improve the productivity of soils and soil health on a farm for generations and increase the bottom line for the farmer. Soil health, or soil quality, by definition, is the capacity of soil to function as a vital living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals and humans.

The SHIPP pilot is the latest option in a full suite of opportunities available to producers through CRP and other conservation programs offered by USDA. Farmers and ranchers are encouraged to talk to their FSA county office soon about whether this pilot fits their operation or consider another longer-term option such as the CRP General signup that ends February 28 or CRP Continuous signup that is ongoing.

For more information, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/crp and contact your local office. To find your local USDA Service Center office, visit https://www.farmers.gov/service-locator.

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**One-Time PLC Yield Updates – Deadline September 30**

Farm owners have a one-time opportunity to update PLC yields of covered commodities on the farm, regardless of Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program election. The deadline to request a PLC yield update is September 30, 2020.

The updated yield will be equal to 90 percent of the average yield per planted acre in crop years 2013-2017 (excluding any year where the applicable covered commodity was not planted), subject to the ratio obtained by dividing the 2008-2012 average national yield by the 2013-2017 average national yield for the covered commodity. If the reported yield in any year is less than 75 percent of the 2013-2017 average county yield, then the yield will be substituted with 75 percent of the county average yield.

The chart below provides the ratio obtained by dividing the 2008-2012 average national yield by the 2013-2017 average national yield for each covered commodity.

It is the owner’s choice whether to update or keep existing PLC yields. If a yield update is not made, then no action is required to maintain the existing PLC yield. An existing or updated PLC yield will be maintained and effective for crop years 2020 through 2023 (life of the 2018 Farm Bill).

PLC yields may be updated on a covered commodity-by-covered commodity basis using FSA form CCC-867.

For more information, reference resources and decision tools, visit farmers.gov/arc-plc. Contact your local Farm Service Agency Office for assistance – farmers.gov/service-center-locator.
USDA Farm Service Agency Distress Loans Available in Cascade, Chouteau and Liberty counties

USDA Farm Service Agency in Montana recently announced the availability of distress loans for crop producers in Cascade, Chouteau and Liberty counties for the 2020 harvest. FSA is offering the distress loan program because there is not enough storage available for the 2020 crop harvest in Cascade, Chouteau and Liberty counties.

There may be additional distress loans available in other counties with limited storage opportunities for the high production in other areas in the state. FSA will look at each request on a county-by-county basis.

Producers will be able to pledge their commodity as loan collateral to receive a 90-day distress loan on 75 percent of their eligible quantity. The only storage restrictions are that the commodity must be protected from animals and must be located so that water drainage will not seriously impact the quality or quantity of the crop.

Loan rates for distress loans are based on the county where the crop is stored. Distress loans mature not later than 90 days after the date the loan is disbursed and must be repaid at principal, plus interest. If a producer can find an approved storage facility within the 90-day distress loan period, the commodity can be transferred into a non-recourse loan, also

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Covered Commodity</th>
<th>National Yield Factor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barley</td>
<td>0.9437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola</td>
<td>0.9643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chickpeas, Large</td>
<td>1.0000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chickpeas, Small</td>
<td>0.9760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>0.9000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crambe</td>
<td>1.0000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flaxseed</td>
<td>1.0000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grain Sorghum</td>
<td>0.9077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lentils</td>
<td>1.0000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mustard Seed</td>
<td>0.9460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oats</td>
<td>0.9524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peanuts</td>
<td>0.9273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peas, Dry</td>
<td>0.9988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rapeseed</td>
<td>1.0000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice, Long</td>
<td>0.9330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice, Medium</td>
<td>0.9887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice, Temp Japonica</td>
<td>0.9591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safflower</td>
<td>1.0000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seed Cotton</td>
<td>0.9000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sesame Seed</td>
<td>0.9673</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soybeans</td>
<td>0.9000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunflower Seed</td>
<td>0.9396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>0.9545</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
called a Marketing Assistance Loan, for up to nine months including the time the commodity was placed in the distress loan. Loan requests must be completed and signed within 30 calendar days after the completion of the producer’s harvest.

Producers can consider FSA’s Farm Storage Facility Loan program for low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The maximum storage facility loan amount is $500,000 per loan request. Loan terms are three, five, seven, 10 or 12 years depending on the amount of the loan. The August 2020 interest rate for a farm storage facility loan ranges from 0.250 to 0.875 percent, depending on the length of the loan.

To apply for distress loans or for questions on any FSA program contact the local FSA office. To locate an office near you or learn more about FSA programs, visit https://www.farmers.gov.

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**USDA Announces Flexibilities for Producers Filing ‘Notice of Loss’ for Failed, Prevented Planted Acres**

*File a ‘Notice of Loss’ for Prevented Planted and Failed Acres*

USDA is providing additional flexibilities for producers to file on acres with failed crops or crops that were prevented from planting because of extreme weather events. USDA’s Farm Service Agency is adding these flexibilities for Notice of Loss on both insured and uninsured crops to enable Service Centers to best assist producers.

**Filing for Prevented Planted Acres**

For insured crops, producers who timely filed a prevented planted claim with the reinsurance company but filed a Notice of Loss (CCC-576) form after the deadline will be considered timely filed for FSA purposes. FSA can use data from the Risk Management Agency (RMA) for accepting the report of prevented planting with FSA. If the information is not available through RMA, the producer may also provide proper evidence to FSA that the prevented planted claim was timely filed with the reinsurance company.

For uninsured crops, producers may start a Notice of Loss (CCC-576) by calling their FSA county office, or they may print and complete the Notice of Loss (CCC-576) form from home and send to their county office. For prevented planted acreage, Notice of Loss forms mailed to the FSA office must be postmarked by the final acreage reporting date in the county to be considered timely filed. For all prevented planted cases, the Report of Acreage (FSA-578) form and the completed and signed Notice of Loss (CCC-576) must be filed by the applicable acreage reporting date.

**Filing for Failed Acres**

For failed acreage of uninsured crops, the Notice of Loss (CCC-576) must be completed, signed and verified before the disposition of the crop.

**When to File a ‘Notice of Loss’**

A Notice of Loss cannot be filed for a crop before the final planting date, but it can be filed before completing the crop acreage report.

**More Information**

Producers who miss FSA’s July 15 acreage reporting deadline will not face a late filing fee if filed within a month of the deadline.

For questions, please contact your FSA county office. To locate your FSA county office at your Service Center, visit farmers.gov/service-center-locator.

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**Inform FSA Promptly of All Changes in Farming Operation and Contact Information**

It is important to promptly report any changes in your farming operation to FSA. These changes can include, but are not limited to, changes in your address, phone, or email, name changes, changes to entity membership or shares, formation or dissolution of any entity (such as a trust, partnership, LLC, LLP or corporation) that owns or operates land or owns other farming assets used in your operation, sale or purchase of land, adding or dropping leases, and any changes to financing
Participants in FSA and NRCS programs are required to timely report changes in their farming operation to their local FSA office in writing and update their CCC-902 Farm Operating Plan with necessary changes, as applicable. Failure to timely notify your local FSA office may result in ineligibility for program benefits, or delays in issuance of program payments. If you have any updates or corrections to your records, please call your local FSA office to update your records.

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**FSA Reminds Producers of Ongoing Disaster Assistance Program Signup**

The USDA has started making payments through the *Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program – Plus (WHIP+)* to agricultural producers who suffered eligible losses because of drought or excess moisture in 2018 and 2019. Signup for these causes of loss opened March 23, and producers who suffered losses from drought (in counties designated D3 or above), excess moisture, hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, typhoons, volcanic activity, snowstorms or wildfires can still apply for assistance through WHIP+.

To be eligible for WHIP+, producers must have suffered losses of certain crops, trees, bushes or vines in counties with a Presidential Emergency Disaster Declaration or a Secretarial Disaster Designation (primary counties only) for qualifying natural disaster events that occurred in calendar years 2018 or 2019. Also, losses located in a county not designated by the Secretary as a primary county may be eligible if a producer provides documentation showing that the loss was due to a qualifying natural disaster event.

For losses due to drought, a producer is eligible if any area of the county in which the loss occurred was rated D3, or extreme drought, or higher on the U.S. Drought Monitor during calendar years 2018 or 2019. Producers who suffered losses should contact their FSA county office.

In addition to the recently added eligible losses of drought and excess moisture, FSA will implement a WHIP+ provision for crop quality loss that resulted in price deductions or penalties when marketing crops damaged by eligible disaster events. To ensure an effective program for all impacted farmers, the Agency is currently gathering information on the extent of quality loss from producers and stakeholder organizations.

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**Emergency Loans Available in Montana Disaster Areas**

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. 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 Loans Website](#)

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*The U.S. Drought Monitor’s reporting feature offers producers an opportunity to submit drought impact and condition reports.*

The USDA, in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, produced the U.S. Drought Monitor to include a reporting feature that allows producers to report local drought impacts and conditions.

The report allows producers to:

- Provide a written description of drought impacts on livelihood, activities, etc.;
• Select categories to show losses and gains as a result of the drought;
• Report on the duration of drought event;
• Select Affected Places – geographic areas ranging from an entire state to a small area within a state;
• Submit images that document the drought and its impact;
• Provide contact information (includes an option to keep information confidential).

The reporting tool for producers to record the effects of the drought can be accessed at the following link:
droughtreporter.unl.edu/submitreport/

More information can be found on the U. S. Drought Monitor site:

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**USDA Investigates Packages of Unsolicited Seeds from China**

USDA is aware that people across the country have received suspicious, unsolicited packages of seed that appear to be coming from China. USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is working closely with the Department of Homeland Security’s Customs and Border Protection, other federal agencies, and State departments of agriculture to investigate the situation.

USDA urges anyone who receives an unsolicited package of seeds to immediately contact their State plant regulatory official or APHIS State plant health director.

The contact information at the Montana Department of Agriculture Seed Program is (406) 444-3950 or bballensky@mt.gov.

The contact information at USDA APHIS-PPQ for Lori Witham, Plant Health Trade Compliance Officer, is (406) 449-5206 or lori.m.witham@usda.gov.

Please hold onto the seeds and packaging, including the mailing label, until someone from your State department of agriculture or APHIS contacts you with further instructions. Do not plant seeds from unknown origins.

At this time, we don’t have any evidence indicating this is something other than a “brushing scam” where people receive unsolicited items from a seller who then posts false customer reviews to boost sales. USDA is currently collecting seed packages from recipients and will test their contents and determine if they contain anything that could be of concern to U.S. agriculture or the environment. USDA is committed to preventing the unlawful entry of prohibited seeds and protecting U.S. agriculture from invasive pests and noxious weeds. Visit the APHIS’ website to learn more about USDA’s efforts to stop agricultural smuggling and promote trade compliance.

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**Conservation at Work Video Series**

A new video series from NRCS and farmers.gov, Conservation at Work, presents short and easy to understand videos about popular conservation practices. These videos feature producers explaining how an individual practice helps their land and why they are using it.

The videos shine the spotlight on farmers, ranchers, and forestland owners from across the U.S. who explain why they’ve implemented the conservation practices and how they work on their land. They also provide insight into how each practice is helping them protect and improve resources and save time and money.

The first 15 videos cover:

• Brush Management
• Cover Crop
• Forest Stand Improvement
• Grade Stabilization
• Grassed Waterway
The Conservation at Work video series can be found at farmers.gov/conserve/conservationatwork.

Montana Farm and Ranch Stress Resource Clearinghouse

Montana State University Extension and an associated statewide advisory council have developed an online clearinghouse of resources for a wide range of topics related to stress and mental health. The clearinghouse was created specifically for ag producers and their families, but it contains a wealth of information for anyone interested in learning more about causes of stress, stress prevention and management, and overall mental health. To access the site, please click on this link: https://msuextension.org/wellness/stress-management/mt_farm_stress_clearing_house/

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).