

**Big Horn County FSA**  
724 West Third Street  
Hardin, MT 59034  
(406) 665-3442

**County Committee Members**

Shawn Nedens- Member  
Shawn Fredericks- Member  
Ellis Murdock- Member  
Thomas Whiteman- Advisor  
Carolyn Holmen- Advisor

**FSA Office Personnel**

Keshia Lind, CED  
Katie Berkram, PT  
Diane Schanaman, PT  
Marie Weibert, PT  
Jill Uffelman, PT  
Lorraine Woody, PT

**Agricultural Lending Opportunities**

*Questions regarding obtaining credit to start or enlarge a farming or ranching operation; financing agricultural operating expenses; or livestock, machinery purchases call:*

**406 657-6135**

*Mike Turley, FLM  
Karen Sims, FLPT*

**Dates to Remember:**

**January 1** – Office Closed, New Year's

**January 18** – Holiday – Office closed

**February 1** – Deadline to file 2009 application for LFP

**February 1** – Deadline to file 2009 application for payment for ELAP and LIP

**February 1** – Final loan/LDP availability date for wool/mohair shorn in 2009

**February 1** – Final LDP availability date for 2009 unshorn pelts

**March 15** – Final day to purchase NAP on rangeland and other non-insurable crops

**March 15** – Final day to purchase FCIC crop insurance on small grains

**March 31** – Final day to obtain loans or LDP's on small grains



**Big Horn County**  
**January 2010**

**HEADS UP**

- SURE signup up for 2008 began on **January 4, 2010.**
- Deadline to file 2009 application for payment for LIP and ELAP is **February 1, 2010**
- **DCP contracts will NOT be mailed this year. Please call the office for an appointment.**
- **LEASES-** If you have any changes with your leases come in immediately to make changes. Failure to do so could **PROHIBIT** payment.
- **March 15, 2010** is that last day to purchase **NAP** for rangeland and non-insurable crops. Keep in mind that you have to have NAP or crop insurance to be eligible for Disaster Programs
- The Big Horn County office will be holding a public meeting on **FEBRUARY 10, 2010 at 1:00 PM at the Fair Grounds** to discuss: Eligibility Requirements for Disaster Programs, New Payment Limitation Requirements **AND LEASES**

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### **SURE Signup**

Signup for the 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program (SURE) began on January 4, 2010. SURE 2008 is for those who suffered crop production losses during crop year 2008. SURE is an important component of the disaster portion of the 2008 Farm Bill and will provide financial assistance to producers who have suffered crop losses due to natural disaster.

SURE provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred crop production or crop quality losses. The program takes into consideration crop losses on all crops grown by a producer nationwide. SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE farm guarantee and total farm revenue. The farm guarantee is based on the amount of crop insurance and Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on the farm. Total farm revenue takes into account the actual value of production on the farm as well as insurance indemnities and certain farm program payments.

To be eligible for SURE, producers must meet the risk management purchase requirement by either obtaining a policy or plan of insurance, under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, for all economically significant crops (more than 5% of the total value of all the crops nationwide). For 2008 crops, producers had the opportunity to obtain a waiver of the risk management purchase requirement through a buy-in provision. In addition, producers must have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on at least one crop of economic significance.

Producers may be eligible for SURE if they have a farming interest physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Agriculture Secretary under a Secretarial Disaster Designation or in the absence of a Secretarial Disaster Designation, individual producers may also be eligible for SURE if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster. For SURE, a farm is defined as all crops in which a producer had an interest nationwide.

Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage.

For more information on the new SURE program, please visit your local FSA county office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.

### **Public Meeting**

The Big Horn County office will be holding a public meeting on **February 10, 2010 at 1:00 pm located at the Big Horn County Fair Grounds.**

Discussion will be on requirements for the disaster programs SURE, LIP, ELAP and LFP. Examples will also be provided on what will be expected for supporting documentation on Disaster Applications for 2010.

Information will also be provided on the new Adjusted Gross Income form as well as what will be required on the Payment Limitation forms for 2010.

**Important information regarding Allotment Lease requirements will be discussed. It will be beneficial for all producers in the Big Horn County to attend.**

#### **Deadline for Calendar Year 2009 Losses for LFP and ELAP**

Applications for 2009 calendar year losses for the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) must be filed by **February 1, 2010**. For 2010 and subsequent years signup, applications must be filed no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the losses occurred. The losses must occur in the calendar year the application is being filed.

For both programs, producers must have suffered losses that occurred on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011. Please contact the office for additional eligibility requirements. A list of eligible livestock is available at [www.fsa.usda.gov/mt](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt)

**Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE)**

Signup for the 2010 crop year for both DCP and ACRE is currently underway and ends June 1, 2010. Late-filed applications will not be accepted. DCP and ACRE provide producers an income safety net in the form of annual direct payments. DCP also offers assistance through counter-cyclical payments when commodity prices are below certain levels. ACRE protects against crop revenue shortfalls resulting from price and/or production declines at the State and farm levels. Counter-cyclical payments are not available under ACRE.

Participants may elect to receive a 22% advance direct payment in any month prior to the end of the contract period. The ACRE direct payments have an additional reduction of 20%. All final direct payments for DCP and ACRE will be issued beginning in October of the crop year. If a crop meets the revenue triggers under ACRE, the ACRE payment will be issued after the end of the marketing year.

All supporting documentation, such as CCC-902, AD-1026, and CCC-926, must be submitted before payments can be issued. Both programs require annual acreage reports indicating uses of all cropland on the farm. In addition, farms enrolled in ACRE must provide annual production reports. Land enrolled in the programs must be devoted to agricultural uses and protected from weeds and erosion. Fruit and vegetable planting restrictions are applicable. Contact FSA for more information or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp).

Payments		DCP	ACRE
Direct	Payment Rate	100% of the DCP direct payment rate.	80% of the DCP Direct Payment Rate.
	Payment Formula	Uses farm's base acreage.	Uses farm's base acreage.
	Advances	Available through 2011.	Available through 2011.
Counter-Cyclical (CC)	Payment Formula	Uses farm's base acreage.	
	Trigger	Low National Market Prices	
	Advances	40% advance of projected payment through 2010.	
Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE)	Payment Formula		Uses planted and considered planted (P&CP) acreages of commodity crops and peanuts.
	Triggers		Revenue must be below the historical state average and the farm average.
	Advances		Not available.
Loan Rates		100% of the Market Assistance Loan rates.	70% of the Market Assistance Loan rates.

**2009 Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) Deadline**

Livestock owners or contract growers who suffered livestock losses from July 13, 2009, through December 31, 2009, shall file a notice of loss no later than 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent to the participant. Eligible livestock owners or contract growers also must file an application for payment for 2009 calendar year losses no later than **February 1, 2010**.

LIP provides assistance to eligible producers for livestock deaths that result from a natural disaster. Livestock owners and contract growers are compensated for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather including losses due to floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat, and extreme cold.

**New Adjusted Gross Income Compliance Process**

USDA has finalized a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income provisions for programs administered by USDA's FSA and Natural Resources Conservation Service. This agreement will ensure that payments are not issued to producers whose adjusted gross income (AGI) exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

The electronic process that USDA developed with IRS reviews data from tax returns, performs a series of calculations, and compares these values to the AGI limitations from the 2008 Farm Bill FSA and NRCS will receive a record that indicates whether or not the program participant appears to meet the income limits. Written consent will be required from each producer or payment recipient for this process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to USDA. As part of the review and evaluation process, participants whose AGI may exceed the limits will be offered an opportunity to provide third party verification or other information to validate their income.

Any individual or entity that is required to file CCC-926 (Average Adjusted Gross Income Statement) as a condition of eligibility for FSA or NRCS programs for 2009 or 2010 must submit CCC-927 (for an individual) or CCC-928 (for an entity) directly to the IRS to authorize them to release data to the agency

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### Inside this Issue

#### *Important Dates to Remember*

**LFP/ELAP Signup Begins**  
**Farms Enrolled in ACRE**  
**Financial Management**  
**Workshops**  
**Linkage Requirement**  
**For SURE**  
**COC Ballots Received**

**Oct.** – CRP payments issued  
**Oct.** – DCP payments issued  
**Oct. 7 & 8** – Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium  
**Oct. 26** – Financial Management Workshop – Goals & Assessments  
**Nov. 6** – COC Ballots Mailed  
**Dec. 1** – NAP application closing date for 2010 honey  
**Dec. 10** – Deadline for LFP 2008 calendar year losses

### Farm Loan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides direct and guaranteed loans to assist farmers and ranchers start, enlarge or continue with their farming operations. FSA has special programs designed to assist beginning farmers and ranchers and socially disadvantaged applicants to secure financing. Please stop into the local county office to learn more about all the programs FSA has to offer.

### BIG HORN COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

The results of this year's election in Big Horn County are as follows: Ellis Murdock– COC member and Brian Uffelman – alternate. (The results of the election are subject to State Office concurrence.) Thanks to all who voted in this year's election.