Broadwater County FSA News
April/May 2010

Broadwater County FSA
415 South Front Street
Townsend, MT 59644
Telephone: (406) 266-4253

County Committee
Tom Williams, Chair
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Bob Wilson, Member
Marie Hoeffner, Minority Advisor

FSA Office Personnel
Nina Fonk, Co. Executive Director
Tamie Hahn, Program Technician
Laura Cazier, Program Technician
Alan Jenne, Farm Loan Manager

Agricultural Loan Opportunities
For questions regarding obtaining credit to start or enlarge a farming or ranching operation; financing agricultural operating expenses or livestock and machinery purchases call:
Alan Jenne, Farm Loan Manager, (406) 683-3831

Dates to Remember:

May 1 - NAP Pull Off Date
May 15 – Beginning date of Primary Nesting Season
June 1 – 2010 DCP/ACRE Signup Deadline
June 1 – 2011 NRCS Program Signup Deadline
June 15 – IRS Form for AGI Compliance Due
July 15 – Production Report Deadline for ACRE
July 15 – Crop Acreage Reporting Deadline

DCP and ACRE Sign-up Deadline is June 1

Sign-up for the 2010 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment (DCP) Program and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program will continue until June 1, 2010. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.

FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm and makes direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of marketing prices. For 2010, direct payments may be requested in advance based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each of the farm's commodities. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary with market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

The ACRE program provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state olympic average yield and the 2-year national market year average price. Under ACRE, producers will receive a direct payment reduced by 20% of the rate of a DCP participant and ACRE farms are not eligible for counter-cyclical payments. In addition, the loan rate for an ACRE farm is reduced by 30%. If an eligible ACRE commodity meets both the state trigger and farm trigger, ACRE payments will be calculated using planted acreage of the commodity. The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year. Additional information on both DCP and ACRE can be found at http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp or contact your local FSA Office.

Farm Divisions/Combinations Must Be Requested By June 1

If you have sold, purchased, or leased a farm or part of a farm, please notify this office immediately. If you need to request a farm division or a farm combination for 2010, the deadline to submit the request is June 1, 2010 for those farms participating in DCP/ACRE. If requests are not filed timely, it may be difficult to complete a 2010 DCP/ACRE contract with all required signatures for the farm. Requests to change a farm after June 1, 2010, will be processed for 2011.

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

Durum Wheat Scab Assistance

The recent farm bill included funds of up to $10 million per year for 2009-2012, subject to appropriations, to compensate producers of durum wheat in an amount not to exceed 50% of the actual cost of fungicides applied to a crop of durum wheat to control Fusarium head blight also known as wheat scab. Funding may be appropriated in the near future for this program. Please contact the local FSA office if you are interested.

Farm Storage and Facility Loans

FSA's Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) Program provides low-interest financing for producers of eligible commodities to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The maximum amount of a loan through FSFL is $500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of seven, ten, or twelve years are available depending on the amount of the loan.

Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department. Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. You must be able to prove there is a need for the storage facility being financed by FSA.

A FSFL generally must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin. The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans: corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, oats, wheat, barley, or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain; corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats, or barley harvested as other than whole grain; hay; renewable biomass; fruits (including nuts) and vegetables—cold storage facilities. Contact your local FSA office for more information.

Before You Expand a Field or Till a New Field

It is important that you understand the status of land if you plan to participate in any USDA programs. A cultural resource survey and highly erodible land (HEL) and wetland determinations must be completed by the NRCS before you break out native vegetation (sod) and plant an agricultural commodity (such as wheat, barley, oats, corn, potatoes, etc.).

To be eligible for USDA benefits, all producers planting agricultural commodities on predominantly highly erodible fields after January 1, 1990, are required to do so according to the provisions of an acceptable conservation system/plan. The NRCS will assist you in developing an approved conservation system/plan, if applicable, for the farm.

Prior to planting land to an agricultural commodity, you may need to make an appointment with the local NRCS office to review the determinations on your land as well as the conservation system/plan. It is your responsibility to ensure that your land has an acceptable conservation system/plan and that you are actively applying an acceptable conservation system/plan to maintain eligibility for USDA benefits. Status reviews are conducted by NRCS to ensure producers follow a conservation plan on highly erodible land.

2010 Pulse Crop Loan Rates

Dry Peas	$5.20/cwt.
Lentils	$10.41/cwt.
Large chickpeas	$11.28/cwt.
Small chickpeas	$7.43/cwt.

Beginning May 1, 2010, the new differentials for Montana, are $1.13 per cwt. for dry peas and $2.76 for lentils

Farm Loans Available

The FSA is here to help the local farmers and ranchers. A number of loan programs are available to assist your operation.

As both commodity prices and agricultural inputs continue to be volatile, Farm Service Agency is here to help the American farmer/rancher in being successful to continue to produce high quality products. Please contact your local county FSA office to learn more about the many loan programs we have available.

Farm Loan Program Rates & Terms – April 2010

Program	Interest Rates	Years	Amount
Farm Operating-Direct	2.875%	1-7	$300,000
Farm Ownership-Direct	5.00%	40	$300,000
Youth - Operating	2.875%	1-7	$5,000
Farm Ownership-Down Pmt	1.50%	20	$225,000 Up to 45%
Emergency Loan-Amount of Actual Loss	3.75%	varies	$500,000

ACRE Information

Detailed ACRE information is posted on the Montana FSA website: www.fsa.usda.gov/mt on "Hot Links" "2008 Farm Bill", including a fact sheet, ACRE background information, 2009 state benchmark yields, and preliminary price guarantees. Many state extension and producer groups have also created decision tools to assist producers in evaluating whether ACRE is an option for your operation. Producers may do an internet search to find some of the decision tools. ACRE decision tools may be found at the following sites. FSA does not endorse any specific site.

www.montana.edu/softwaredownloads/
www.mgga.org/FarmPolicy/farmpolicy.html
www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/aginfo/farmmgmt/docs/ACRE_Analyzer.xls
www.card.iastate.edu/ag_risk_tools/acre/
www.fapri.missouri.edu/

Failed Acreage or Prevented Planting – Important Notice of Loss Requirements

If any crop fails or is prevented from being planted due to a natural disaster, producers must file a notice of loss on form FSA-576 with the FSA Office in order to be eligible for any future disaster benefits under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) Program and in order to have historical credit for base acreage. The notice of loss must be filed: for failed acreage, on the earlier of the final acreage reporting date or before disposition of the crop; for prevented planting, within 15 days of the final planting date for the crop. There are also provisions for late filed notices of loss. Please contact the FSA office for additional information.

Deadline Announced for 2008 and 2009 ELAP Disaster Signup

Late filed notices-of-loss and applications for payment for the 2008 and 2009 ELAP (Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm Raised Fish) program will be accepted through close of business on **May 5**, 2010. ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible produces of livestock, honey bees, and farm raised fish that are not already covered under any other FSA disaster program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill. The current signup includes but is not limited to 2009 grazing losses due to grasshopper damage and 2008-2010 livestock death losses due to wolf depredation. Crop insurance and NAP coverage on all crops is required to be eligible.

2008 Disaster

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) available for 2008 crop revenue losses suffered due to a natural disaster event is now being offered.

Please contact the local FSA office if you suffered crop revenue losses for 2008.

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Important Dates to Remember

May 14 – Managed grazing on CRP acres ends
May 15 –Primary Nesting Season Begin Date
June 1 – 2010 DCP/ACRE Signup Ends
June 1 – 2011 NRCS Program Signup Deadline
June 15 – IRS consent form for AGI compliance due
July 15 – Production Report Deadline for ACRE
July 15 – Crop Acreage Reporting Deadline

2011 Signup Deadline for USDA / NRCS Programs set for June 1, 2010

The fiscal year 2011 signup deadline for many of the USDA / NRCS programs has been set for June 1, 2010. Although NRCS accepts program applications throughout the year, the signup deadline is the cutoff for applications to be considered for funding in the 2011 fiscal year. If you are planning on applying conservation practices this coming year and would like to be considered for cost share in the EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program), AWEP (Agricultural Water Enhancement Program), WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program), WRP (Wetland Reserve Program), FRPP (Farm and Ranch land Protection Program) or GRP (Grassland Reserve Program), you will need to submit an application to the local NRCS office before June 1, 2010.

These programs can assist private landowners to improve or enhance their natural resources by installing conservation practices such as livestock water projects, cross fencing, grazing plans, irrigation improvement projects, stream restoration projects, wildlife habitat improvement projects, feedlot improvements, organic farming conversion, and forest stand improvement. The programs offer numerous incentive payments for improved management practices on forest, crop, and grazing lands.

If you have any questions about the conservation programs available through the NRCS, please come in or call the NRCS at (406) 266-4253 ext. 3.