

Sheridan County FSA News

January 2010

Sheridan Co. FSA Office
119 N. Jackson
Plentywood, MT 59254
406-765-1550, ext. 2

County Committee

Gordon French	Chairman
Kevin Wilson	Vice Chairman
Jody Lagerquist	Member
Ellen Sedgwick	Advisor

FSA Office Personnel

Donna Hilyard	CED, ext. 102
Donelda Buckalew	PT, ext. 105
Karen Budd	PT, ext. 104
Kathy Gray	PT, ext. 100
Josie Johnson	PT, ext. 109
Marcia Rice	PT, ext. 112
Michael Sandoval	PT, ext. 110

Farm Loan personnel for Sheridan Co:

Pat Turner, Loan Manager
Bruce Johnson, Loan Officer
Patti McGinnis, Farm Loan Program
Technician
Contact them at Richland Co.,
406-433-2103, ext. 108

Dates to Remember:

Feb. 1: Deadline to apply for loan/
LDP on 2009 clip wool, mohair.

Feb. 1: Deadline to file 2009
application for payment for ELAP
and LIP

Feb. 15: Office closed in
observance of Presidents' Day

Mar. 15: Deadline for NAP
coverage for '10 crops; crop
insurance sales deadline for spring
seeded crops.

Notice of Loss for LIP File
within 30 calendar days of when
the loss of livestock happens or is
apparent.

2nd Wednesday every month –
County Committee meetings.

For more information on the SURE
program, please the FSA office or
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mnt>



SURE Signup

Signup for the 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program (SURE) began on January 4, 2010. At this time, we are taking names of those interested in applying for SURE, and we will develop the application then call to set up an appointment for you to review it and sign. The current SURE signup is for those who suffered crop losses due to a natural disaster during crop year 2008.

SURE provides crop disaster payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred crop production or quality losses, taking into consideration losses on all crops grown by a producer nationwide. SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60% 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 NAP coverage, for all economically significant crops. Remember that a crop of economic significance is one which is expected to contribute at least 5% to the value of all crops grown on all acres you have an interest in nationwide (this is not just on the crops you sell, it is on all crops you grow, including hay and other crops you utilize yourself). In addition, producers must have suffered at least a 10% production loss on at least one crop of economic significance.

If you want to be eligible for possible SURE disaster program benefits in 2010, the following applies to you!! The insurance deadline for spring-seeded crops is March 15, 2010 (hay coverage under PRF – Rainfall Index insurance and APH insurance has already passed). The deadline at the FSA Office for NAP coverage on 2010 non-insurable hay (hay crops that don't have alfalfa in them) and non-insurable spring seeded crops is March 15, 2010

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

SURE ELIGIBILITY

There are a couple of exceptions to the “risk management purchase requirements” listed on page 1. Crop insurance and NAP coverage are not required if the criteria are met for Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer and Rancher producers. Also, there are two “De Minimis” exceptions that apply only to the SURE program that give producers the option to waive the insurance or NAP requirements for crops. Insurance and/or NAP are not needed for crops that are not economically significant (see page 1), or a crop for which the administrative fee for NAP coverage exceeds 10% of the value of that coverage. Note: crop insurance or NAP coverage on **grazing land** does not have to be purchased in order to be eligible for SURE or ELAP, but it **is required for LFP eligibility**.

NAP Deadline Approaching

The deadline is **March 15, 2010** to purchase 2010 Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on all crops except honey. NAP provides assistance on non-insurable crops when low yields occur as a result of natural disaster. Eligible crops are those commercially produced for food and livestock consumption and for which regular crop insurance is not available. Perennial crops covered by NAP and intended for mechanical harvest as hay or silage can not be grazed after May 1. For perennial crops intended for seed, the pull off date is April 1.

The administrative service fees for NAP are \$250 per crop, \$750 per county, and a maximum of \$1,875 per producer for all counties.

For the 2010 crop year, in order for producers to be eligible for assistance under the SURE and ELAP disaster programs, producers must obtain a plan of insurance for each insurable and non-insurable commodity on the farm, **excluding grazing**. To be eligible for assistance under LFP (Livestock Forage Disaster Program), producers must obtain either coverage under crop insurance’s Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage Rainfall Index Pilot Program, or NAP coverage, or both on their grazing.

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 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 are reduced by 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 final 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.

CRP Managed Haying and Grazing

Don’t like to wait in line? Like to have some of your summer’s work done ahead of time? If you think you’d like to participate in CRP managed haying and/or grazing in 2010, you can check with the office this winter to find out what acres are available for haying or grazing, and get the paperwork completed. If you sign up this winter, and end up not haying or grazing some or all of the acres you sign up for, that’s OK – we have you sign a form next summer for the acres actually hayed or grazed.

ELAP

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock and honeybees that have losses due to disease, adverse weather or other conditions, including losses due to blizzards and wildfires. ELAP assistance is for losses not covered under LFP (Livestock Forage Disaster Program), the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE). ELAP is being implemented to fill in the gap and provide assistance under other conditions determined to be appropriate.

Producers who suffered losses Sept. 11, 2009, through Dec. 31, 2009, shall file a notice of loss within 30 days of when the loss is apparent to the participant, but no later than January 30, 2010. An application for payment shall be filed no later than January 30, 2010.

For 2010 and subsequent years, producers shall file a notice of loss the **earlier of 30 calendar days from when the loss occurred or was apparent, or 30 calendar days after the end of calendar year in which the loss occurred.** Applications for payment 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.

In order for an ELAP applicant to qualify for potential program benefits for 2010, the applicant must timely obtain a plan of insurance equal to Catastrophic (CAT) level coverage or FSA's NAP coverage on all crops planted on the entire farm. Producers who meet the requirements of a socially disadvantaged, limited resource, or beginning farmer/ rancher, are not required to purchase crop insurance or have NAP coverage.

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 call the Farm Loan team at the Richland County FSA Office (406-433-2103, ext. 108) to learn more about all the farm loan programs FSA has to offer.

Farm Records

It is critical that producers tell FSA how their operation is set up, and we get our records to match your farming operation. Program benefits depend on FSA records matching your operation!

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

LIP provides assistance to eligible producers for livestock deaths that result from a natural disaster. Livestock owners and contract growers may be 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. Livestock owners and contract growers who suffer livestock losses after July 13, 2009, and in subsequent years, in order to be eligible for LIP, must file a notice of loss within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent, and an application for payment no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss of livestock occurs. A notice of loss can be reported by the producer to the local county FSA office by phone, fax, and e-mail.

Proof of death of livestock must be provided and may include, but is not limited to, any or a combination of the following: veterinary records; tax assessor records; private insurance documents; a measurement service may be requested by the producer and completed by FSA. Documentation must provide sufficient data that identifies kind/type/weight range of livestock and number of livestock

A third party certification may be accepted for proof of death loss only when the participant certifies in writing that no other form of proof of death is available, and it includes the number and physical location of livestock in inventory at the time death occurred. The third party providing the certification must be a reliable source in a position to have knowledge of the dead livestock and shall not be affiliated with the operation such as a hired hand, etc., or be a family member

Documentation must also be provided to support the number of livestock in inventory at the time the deaths occurred.

County Committee Election Results

FSA County Committee Election was held Dec. 7, 2009 for Area 1 (which is generally north of Highway 5). Kevin Wilson, who farms northwest of Raymond, was re-elected to a 3-year term on the committee. Marlow Krowen is the first alternate for Area 1, and Randy Christensen is the second alternate. Thank you to everyone who participated in the County Committee election by agreeing to serve on the committee and by voting!

2009 Clip Wool Loan/LDP Deadline

The deadline to request a loan or LDP (Loan Deficiency Payment) on your 2009-clip wool and mohair is January 31, 2010

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to participate in FSA programs should contact Donna Hilyard, CED, at 119 N. Jackson, Plentywood, MT 59254; phone 406-765-1550 ext. 102; or email at donna.hilyard@mt.usda.gov.

Timely report any farm owner or operator changes, share changes, entity changes, owned and/or leased land changes, etc. Farm payments are dependent on correct farm records! Have you deeded any land to a trust for estate planning purposes? If so, you need to notify us, because we have to carry the trust as the landowner. It is also important that any change in the producer's bank account, such as type of account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly if you receive payments via direct deposit.

Monday, March 15, 2010 is the sales closing date for all NAP (non-insurable) crops except value loss and honey (it is also the crop insurance sales closing date for 2010 spring-seeded crops). Eligible crops in Sheridan County include, but are not limited to, rangeland (very important for livestock disaster program eligibility), barley hay, pea hay, oat hay, grass hay, camelina, corn, crambe, soybeans, sunflowers, potatoes, and pinto beans. To be eligible for new disaster programs, you must have NAP or insurance coverage on all crops of economic significance (including your grazing acres to be eligible for the livestock forage program).

Program information is available in the Sheridan County News every week, and daily on local radio KATQ at about 8:20 a.m. Stay informed about programs that can benefit your farming and ranching operation!!

Important Information and Deadlines Inside!

**U.S. Department of Agriculture
Sheridan County FSA Office
119 N. Jackson
Plentywood, MT 59254**

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