



NEWSLETTER



January 2011

**Beaverhead
County
FSA Office**

420 Barrett Street
Dillon, MT 59725

406-683-3830 phone
406-683-3840 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/mt

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

County Committee

Members:

Jerry Meine
Todd Tash
Donna Hildreth

**Next County
Committee Meeting:**

February 3rd
10:00 a.m.

County Office Staff:

Alan Jenne,
FLM/Acting CED

Jenny Rose,
Program Technician

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:
Alan Jenne

Reasonable

Accommodations:

Persons with disabilities
who require
accommodations to attend
or participate in any FSA
programs should contact
the County Executive
Director at the FSA Office or
the Federal Relay Service
at 1-800-877-8339.

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Jerry Meine who was re-elected to represent farmers and ranchers from LAA 2 on the county committee. Jerry was elected to his third consecutive term.

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

NAP Coverage Deadlines for 2011 Crop Year

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to provide financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields or prevented planting occurs as the result of natural disasters. Statutes limit NAP coverage to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which the catastrophic (CAT) level of insurance is not available. Application deadlines for 2011 NAP coverage for all crops, except value-loss and honey, is **March 15, 2011**. The deadline for value-loss crops was Sept.1, 2010 and Dec. 1, 2010, for honey. Producers who choose to obtain NAP coverage for 2011 must file a CCC-471 application for coverage and pay the applicable service fee by the sales closing deadline. Eligible producers must pay a service fee of \$250 per crop per administrative county or \$750 per producer per county, not to exceed \$1875 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties. Service fees may be waived for limited-resource producers. Please contact your local FSA Office for additional information.

SURE Signup for 2009 Crop Year began Jan. 10

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) began on Jan. 10, 2011. SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. To be Eligible for SURE, all crops of economic significance (contributes at least 5% of total farm income) must be covered by crop insurance or NAP.

The SURE program is available to eligible producers when: a portion of the SURE farm is located in a county covered by a qualifying natural disaster declaration (USDA Secretarial Declarations only) or a contiguous county; or, the actual production for the SURE farm is less than 50% of the normal production.

2011 DCP/ACRE Signup

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP)/ Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2011. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit the FSA office to complete their 2011 DCP/ACRE contract.

Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices.

Loan and LDP Deadline for Wool, Mohair, and Unshorn Lamb Pelts

Eligible producers have until January 31, 2011, to apply for 2010 Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's) for wool, mohair, and unshorn pelts. January 31st is also the deadline for requesting 2010 Marketing Assistance Loans for Wool and Mohair. Unshorn pelts are not eligible for Marketing Assistance Loans. (continued)

To be eligible for a 2010 mohair or wool Marketing Assistance Loan or LDP, producers must: (a) have beneficial interest in the mohair or wool; (b) produce and shear eligible mohair or wool in the U.S. in 2010; and (c) own the sheep or goats that produced the mohair or wool for a period of not less than 30 days before shearing.

To be eligible for an unshorn pelt LDP, producers must: (a) have beneficial interest in the pelts; (b) own the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and before submitting the LDP request; and (c) sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter or slaughter the unshorn lamb for personal use. Producers must also comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands they operate or have interest in.

To qualify for payment, the wool, mohair, or pelts must have been produced by an eligible producer from live animals of domestic origin and located in the United States.

IRS Form 1099-G

Producers annually receive CCC-1099-Gs detailing payments producers have received from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The annual report of program payments on CCC-1099-Gs is a service intended to help our customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the producers' responsibilities to report income to IRS.

FSA staff cannot interpret IRS regulations or advise producers about which payments to report on their income tax returns. However, county office staff can review payments for accuracy.

Financial and Production Management Training Schedule

Farm Service Agency (FSA) in conjunction with Montana State University wants to inform Montana's agricultural producers that Financial and Production Management training will begin on Jan. 18 and will run through Feb. 22, 2011. The sessions will be held from 10 a.m. to Noon, and 1 to 3 p.m.

The cost to attend the six-week training is \$100 per family unit. A registration fee of \$20 will be charged for anyone interested in attending a single session. Anyone interested in attending should contact one of the locations listed below.

This continuing education class is available to anyone interested in learning more about managing their farm/ranch operation. This course also meets the requirements for production and financial management training for FSA loan recipients. In order to qualify for a

certificate, all six sessions must be attended. Participants will be asked to pay a registration fee to cover the cost of the video conferencing at the first session they attend. Contact the location of your choice for further information.

Workshop locations and contact numbers are:

- Beaverhead County-Dillon USDA Service Center: (406) 683-3830
- Blaine County-Chinook USDA Service Center: (406) 357-2320, ext. 2
- Carter County-Ekalaka USDA Service Center: (406) 775-6359, ext. 2
- Cascade County-Great Falls USDA Service Center: (406) 727-7580, ext. 2
- Custer County-Miles City USDA Service Center: (406) 232-7905, ext. 2
- Fergus County-Lewistown USDA Service Center: (406) 538-3489, ext. 2
- Fort Peck Community College - Contact Carrie Sue Archdale or Tori Matejovsky: (406) 768-3025
- Gallatin County-Bozeman USDA Service Center: (406) 522-4000, ext. 2
- Glacier County-Cut Bank USDA Service Center: (406) 873-5618, ext. 2
- Hill County-Havre USDA Service Center: (406) 265-6792, ext. 2
- Lake County-Ronan USDA Service Center: (406) 676-2811, ext. 2
- Little Big Horn College - Contact Fredrica Lefthand: (406) 638-3131
- Teton County-Choteau USDA Service Center: (406) 466-5351, ext. 2

Topics to be covered are: 1) Crop and Livestock Marketing; 2) Introduction to Quicken 3) Crop Production; 4) Communicating about Estate Planning; 5) Taxation Issues; 6) Tools Estate Planning; 7) Livestock and Crop Production; 8) Advanced Quicken; 9) Financial Analysis I; 10) Financial Analysis and Risk Management; 11) Retirement Planning and 12) Family Business Issues/Goals and Assessments.

The workshops are designed to provide a variety of management and production tools to meet today's financial and production demands. The Production Records Session will discuss recommended recordkeeping for FSA and other government livestock and crop programs.

For further information contact the locations listed above or the MSU Extension Service. The training schedule, dates, location and local contacts are posted on the Montana Farm Service Agency website at www.fsa.usda.gov/mt.

Cooperation with Risk Management Agency

The Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 requires the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to work together to improve program compliance and integrity of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. As a result of the passage of the 2000 Act, RMA and FSA are required to coordinate a plan to identify, address and reconcile discrepancies of all relevant producer-derived information, and to coordinate a monitoring program to include fact finding relative to allegations of program fraud, waste, and abuse. FSA will assist RMA and insurance providers in monitoring conditions throughout the growing season and conduct growing season inspections. All suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse concerning the Federal Crop Insurance Program will be referred to RMA. FSA will also assist RMA with auditing claims. Producers may also report suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse to their local FSA County Office, the RMA Office or Office of Inspector General.

Conservation Loan Program

The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with the funds to implement conservation measures on their land. The available limit for a direct CL is \$300,000, and the limit for a guaranteed CL is \$1,119,000.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will work with applicants to develop a conservation plan containing approved conservation practices. Examples of some conservation practices are: water conservation structures, forest cover, permanent pastures, manure digesters and other installations.

Livestock Indemnity Program

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to eligible livestock owners and contract growers for eligible livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather including losses due to floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat, and extreme cold. For 2010 losses, producers must file a notice of loss no later than 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent. A notice of loss can be reported to the office by phone, fax, or e-mail. Eligible livestock deaths must have occurred in the calendar year for which benefits are being requested. An Application for payment may be filed at any time in 2010, but must be filed no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss of livestock occurred.

For 2010 losses, the Application for Payment must be filed no later than January 31, 2011. Please contact the office for additional eligibility requirements. A list of eligible livestock is available at www.fsa.usda.gov/mt.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA. All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan. Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to sod busting, new breaking, conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.

Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

Beaverhead County FSA
 420 Barrett ST
 Dillon, MT 59725



PRESORTED STANDARD
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 Bozeman, MT 59715
 PERMIT #54

Dates to Remember	
Jan. 10, 2011	SURE Program Signup for 2009 Crop Year Began
Jan. 17, 2011	Office Closed – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan. 31, 2011	Last Day to file Application for Payment for 2010 LIP & ELAP where timely Notices of Losses were filed
Jan. 31, 2011	2010 Wool, Mohair and Unshom Pelt Marketing Assistance Loan and LDP Deadline Loan and LDP Deadline
Feb. 21, 2011	Office Closed – President’s Day
March 15, 2011	NAP sales closing date for all other crops except value-loss and honey.
June 1, 2011	2011 DCP / ACRE Filing Deadline

Selected Interest Rates - January 2011	
Farm Operating - Direct	1.750%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.500%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Conservation Loan	4.500%
Emergency - Actual Loss	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility - 7-year	2.500%
Farm Storage Facility - 10-year	3.125%
Farm Storage Facility - 12-year	3.375%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.250%
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%

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