



NEWSLETTER



Big Horn County FSA Office

November 2010

**County Executive
Director:** Keshia Lind

724 West Third St.
Hardin, MT 59034

406-665-3442 phone
406-665-3916 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/mt

Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**County Committee
Members:**
Shawn Nedens: Chair
Ellis Murdock: ViceChair
Shawn Fredericks
Carrie Holmen: Advis
Thomas Whiteman: Advis

**Next County Committee
Meeting:**
November 10, 2010 (First
Wednesday of every month)

County Office Staff:
Katie Berkram
Jill Uffelman
Marie Weibert
Diane Schanaman

**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:
Mike Turley: 657-6135
Bruce Johnson: 657-6135

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.

Heads Up

- **FSA/Montana Farmers Union Producer Meeting on November 18th at the MSU Extension Room (317 N. Custer Ave.) in Hardin starting at 10 A.M. until 12:30 P.M. followed by an afternoon Meeting at the Little Big Horn College(Crow Agency)in the Sub-Conference Room starting at 1:30 P.M. Disaster Programs, the Direct and Counter-Cyclical (DCP), ACRE program, CRP and Non-insurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program will all be covered by Keshia Lind from FSA. Aeric Reilly and Chris Christiaens will present a perspective from Montana Farmers Union on upcoming legislation in the 2011 session. Coffee and donuts as well as cold cuts will be available for both meetings.**
- **November 11, 2010 - The Big Horn Office will be closed for Veterans Day.**
- **November 12, 2010- Final date for all hay bales to be removed from CRP**
- **November 25, 2010- The Big Horn Office will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday**
- **March 15, 2010- Last Day to Purchase Non-Insurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Coverage**

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 a variety of crops are coming up in the next few months. In Montana, the NAP sales closing deadlines are: **Dec. 1, 2010, for Honey; March 15, 2011, for all other NAP crops.** 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.

Voting for County Committee Begins

Ballots for this year's county committee election will be mailed to eligible voters on **November 5, 2010**. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 6, 2010. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 6, 2010.

The candidates in this year's election are:

- **Shawn Fredericks**

Eligible voters in a local administrative area **LAA 3** who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

Voter Requirements Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, are eligible to vote:

- 1.** Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either a) or b):
 - a) an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper, *or*
 - b) a partner in a general partnership or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper;
- 2.** Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; *and*
- 3.** Eligible to participate in any applicable FSA program that is provided by law, regardless of the status of funding.

Discrimination Prohibited No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

CCC-927 or CCC-928 Must Be Sent To IRS

Producers who participated in 2009 or 2010 programs subject to adjusted gross income limitations (AGI) had to certify compliance with AGI rules. The average AGI verification process for 2009 and 2010 payment eligibility requires all program participants to provide written consent to IRS for the disclosure of certain information to FSA.

On October 6, 2010, a letter was mailed to producers who have not submitted:

- CCC-927: "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Individual Form"
- CCC-928: "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Legal Entity"

Individuals and legal entities, including members of legal entities, that certified to average AGI compliance for 2009 and/or 2010 payment eligibility must submit a completed CCC-927 or CCC-928 to IRS regardless of whether they received program benefits directly or as a member of a joint operation or entity. These forms must be submitted to IRS in order to avoid a demand for refund of program payments and benefits received.

Disaster Assistance / Risk Management

FSA disaster assistance programs include: Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program; Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP); Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP); Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP) and Tree Assistance Program (TAP).

To be eligible for SURE, TAP, and ELAP, producers must purchase, at minimum, catastrophic risk protection insurance for all insurable crops and NAP coverage for non-insurable crops, except grazing. For LFP, grazed acres must be covered. In the case of honey, the term "farm" means all bees and beehives in all counties that are intended to be harvested for a honey crop by the eligible producer.

Producers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource Producer, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher, do not have to meet this risk management purchase requirement.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The 2008 Farm Bill provided changes to the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL). FSFL provides low-interest financing for producers of eligible commodities to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The maximum principle amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with the 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.

Loan terms are 7, 10, 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term and may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the treasury Department. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is complete.

Montana Department of Livestock Reminds Brand Owners to Update Addresses

With brand rerecord just around the corner, the Montana Department of Livestock is reminding brand holders to update their mailing addresses. John Grainger, administrator of MDOL's Brands Enforcement Division, said updating addresses is the only way brand holders can get a head start. "With rerecord coming up next year, we're starting to get a lot of calls and questions about the process," Grainger said.

"It's basically a two-step process, he added. "First, make sure the mailing address we have on file is up to date, especially if it changed within the past 10 years," Grainger said. "Incorrect addresses can delay the delivery of your rerecord notice."

Addresses can be updated on the www.rerecord.mt.gov web site; by calling the Rerecord Hotline at 460-444-4999 or secondary rerecord lines at 406-444-3812 or 406-444-9431; or by using mail-in cards available at brand offices, markets and other locations. The second step, he said, is waiting for your brand renewal notice, which should arrive in late January 2011. Brand holders who do not receive a brand renewal notice by late February 2011 should contact MDOL's Brands Recorder at 406-444-3812 of the Brands Rerecord Hotline at 406-444-4999.

Big Horn County FSA
724 West Third St.
Hardin, MT 59034



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

Selected Interest Rates - November 2010	
90-Day Treasury Bill	2.000%
Farm Operating - Direct	4.125%
Farm Ownership and Conservation Loan - Direct	1.500%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	3.750%
Emergency	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility - 7-year	1.875%
Farm Storage Facility - 10-year	2.500%
Farm Storage Facility - 12-year	2.750%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.250%
90-Day Treasury Bill	2.000%
Farm Operating - Direct	4.125%
Farm Ownership and Conservation Loan - Direct	0.125%

Dates to Remember	
Oct. 1	2011 ACRE Sign-Up Began
Oct. 1	2011 DCP Sign-Up Began
Nov. 5	County Committee ballots mailed to voters
Nov. 11	Veterans Day Holiday
Nov. 12	Final date for all hay bales to be removed from CRP
Nov. 25	Thanksgiving Day Holiday
November	2009 ACRE Payments to be issued
Dec. 1	NAP sales closing date for honey
Dec. 6	County Committee ballots due back to County Office
March 15, 2011	NAP sales closing date for all other crops
June 1, 2011	2011 DCP / ACRE Filing Deadline
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

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.