



# NEWSLETTER



## Big Horn County FSA Office

January, 2011

**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:**  
February 2, 2011

**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

- **January 10<sup>th</sup>**- SURE (Crop Disaster) signup starts. Come into the office and fill out an application for payment before July 29, 2011 deadline.
- **January 20<sup>th</sup>**-The Big Horn FSA, NRCS, and Montana State University Extension are having a “Ladies Ag. Night” on **January 20, 2011** at the Big Horn County Extension Office in Hardin. This program will be a fun program where you can hear experiences of other farm and ranch women, learn about FSA programs and how they can help your farm or ranch, get “in the know” about some of the plants on your farm. **The program will begin at 5:30 pm and dinner and door prizes will be provided.** There is no cost to attend, but we do ask that you **register by calling the Extension Office by January 14<sup>th</sup> at 665-9770.**
- **March 15<sup>th</sup>**- Last day to sign-up for the Non-Insurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP).
- **DCP**- DCP contracts will be mailed out starting in February. Review the shares that are shown on the contract for each person involved. If corrections need to be made please contact the County Office.

## **County Committee Election Results**

Congratulations to **Shawn Fredericks**! Shawn was re-elected to represent farmers and ranchers from Local Administrative Area 3. Shawn was elected to his 3rd 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. The committee members will hold their organizational meeting in February to determine who will serve as the county committee chairman and vice-chairman.

## **SURE Signup for 2009 Crop Year begins Jan. 10**

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) begins 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.

**For more information, call or visit the county FSA office.**

## **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 \$1,875 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.

## **Farming Operation Changes**

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have added or dropped leased land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

## **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 2011, but must be filed no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss of livestock occurred.

The Big Horn County Office would like to remind all Livestock Producers that when applying for the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) certain documentation will be required such as:

- Beginning inventory of Adult cattle-Tax records, Bank Statements, etc
- Beginning inventory for calves- Pregnancy check Records, calving records, etc
- Identify specific weather events by date that caused the death losses. Remember when documenting death loss be specific on how the animal died. For example on April 5, 2011 there was a blizzard and 4 calves and 2 cows died. When documenting the death loss on a calendar or in a record book it must specifically state that, 4 calves and 2 cows died due to a blizzard. (If the documentation does not state that the cows and calves died due to a blizzard or a natural disaster the County Office cannot make payments on those specific animals.)
- Ending Inventory of Adult and non adult cattle.

**We understand that it is time consuming to gather and document the information that is required for this program, however without this information payments cannot be made. If you have question or concerns about the LIP program please contact the Big Horn County Office. Note: The 2009 LIP program paid 15 producers a total of \$143,428.**

## **Financial and Production Management Training Schedule**

Bozeman, Dec. 30, 2010 - USDA 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](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt).

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



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

## **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.

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