U.S. Department of Agriculture
Montana Farm Service Agency
Blaine County FSA
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County Committee Members

Donald Horn
Paulette Keller
John D Tilleman
Alan Van Voast

Next County Committee Meeting:
September 29, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.

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:
Richard Nicholson
Denise Reynolds
Mario Plummer
Miranda Skoyen
All can be reached at 406-357-2320

Dates to Remember:

Sept. 1 - NAP Application Sales Deadline for Value Loss Crops (2011 Crop Year)
Sept. 13 - Managed Grazing Period Ends
Sept. 15 - Durum Wheat Quality Program Application Sign-Up Deadline
Sept. 30 - Managed Haying Period Ends
Sept. 30 - NAP Acreage Reporting Deadline for Value Loss Crops
Sept. 30 - RMA deadline to purchase Forage Production Policy (2011 Crop Year)
Sept. 30 - SURE Application Deadline for 2008 Crop Year
Oct. 5-6 - Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium in Helena
October 2010 – 2010 DCP and ACRE direct payments issued. 2009 additional ACRE payments, if applicable, will also be issued this fall. CRP annual rental payments issued.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Blaine County FSA
September 8, 2010

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: **Sept. 1, 2010**, for value loss crops; **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.

For the 2011 crop year it is imperative that producers purchase either NAP or a catastrophic (CAT) level of crop insurance for all insurable and non-insurable crops. This is not only for production coverage, but also for eligibility for the new permanent disaster programs created in the 2008 Farm Bill.

In order for producers to be eligible for assistance under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) Program and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP), and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP), 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 the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), producers must obtain either coverage under the Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage Rainfall Index pilot Program offered through crop insurance, or NAP coverage, or both on their grazing. For more information please contact your local Farm Service Agency office.

September 30 Deadline for SURE Applications

The deadline to submit USDA Farm Service Agency 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) program payment applications is close of business on Sept. 30, 2010. Applications not filed by Sept. 30, 2010, will not receive a payment.

SURE provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred crop production or crop quality losses. The program takes into consideration crop losses on all crops grown by a producer nationwide. SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60 percent 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 have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance. In addition, 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. For 2008 crops, producers had the opportunity to obtain a waiver of the risk management purchase requirement through a buy-in provision. Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage. For more info, contact your local FSA office.

Access Montana Farm Service Agency news and program deadlines online @ www.fsa.usda.gov/mt

Montana Farm Service Agency's County Newsletters are available online! You can view and download your county's most recent newsletter on the Montana FSA Website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/mt - just click on Newsletters. Montana's farmers, ranchers and agriculture partners can view important Montana FSA program deadlines and news and sign up to receive email and/or RSS messages as soon as Montana news releases are issued. If you are interested in replacing the hard copy of the county newsletters with the online version, please contact your local county office for arrangements.

Durum Wheat Quality Program has Sept. 15 deadline

Farm Service Agency is currently taking applications for the Durum Wheat Quality Program (DWQP). The program will partially compensate producers for the costs associated with fungicide application on 2010 durum wheat. Under this program producers may be eligible to receive a 50 percent cost share for applying fungicides to the 2010 durum wheat crop to control Fusarium head blight, commonly known as wheat scab. Durum producers have until **Sept. 15, 2010**, to apply for fungicide application reimbursement under the DWQP program. The fungicide payment rate for the chemical will be established by National Office. The reimbursement rate for the cost of application is set by the state committee. Producers can prepare for DWQP signup by gathering their 2010 fungicide bills that document the Fusarium fighting efforts. For more information, producers can contact their local FSA office.

Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium set for Oct. 5-6 in Helena

The annual Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium will be held October 5 and 6, 2010 at the Montana Club in Helena, Mont. The event is hosted by USDA, in conjunction with the Montana Agri-Women, Montana Farm Bureau Women, Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE) and the Montana Cattlewomen.

The purpose of the symposium is to provide an avenue for Women involved in the promotion of Montana's agriculture to learn of issues affecting Montana's rural agricultural communities, promote leadership development and further support women's leadership roles within those communities.

Registration Information:

Pre-registration cost is $60.00. Make checks payable to WSFFA. Provide name, address, and phone number by **Sep. 22, 2010** to: Andrea Ceartin at USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service 3710 Fallon St., Suite B; Bozeman, MT 59718 or reach her at 406-522-4025 or andrea.ceartin@mt.usda.gov. More information, including a detailed agenda is available on the Montana NRCS website at: http://www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov/news/womenag.html.

CRP Managed Hay and Grazing

2010 Managed Grazing Period ends Sept. 13; 2010 Managed Haying ends Sept. 30

The 2010 Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Managed Grazing Period is limited to 60 days - July 16th through September 13th. All livestock must be removed by Sept. 13, 2010. The Managed Haying Period began on July 16th and ends on Sept. 30th. All bales must be removed by Nov. 12, 2010. For more information, please contact your local county FSA office.

ELAP Assistance Available

Aid from the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) is available to those producers who suffered losses in 2010 because of disease, adverse weather or other conditions. For 2010 and subsequent year losses, sign-up will end no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss occurred. See program details for other Notice of Loss deadlines. Under ELAP, producers will be compensated for losses that are not covered under other Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Payment programs established by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

Merit Heifer Program Offered at NILE

The Northern International Livestock Exposition (NILE) is providing youth the opportunity to become involved in the beef industry by awarding heifer calves to project participants. Any youth aged 13-17 who is a member of 4-H or FFA is eligible to enter.

Each program participant will own their calf jointly with NILE until the completion of the program, at which time NILE officials will sign off and the participant will take full ownership of the heifer and her off-spring. During the program duration, participants are responsible for raising the heifer, arranging for breeding, completing the record keeping procedure and bringing the animal to the 2011 NILE stock show as a bred replacement heifer. The program is completed after the heifer is determined bred, all record keeping has been completed and the heifer has been shown at the NILE stock show. Applicants will be chosen on their commitment to agriculture, future goals, financial need and the ability to raise the animal in a proper setting. Applications may be obtained at http://www.thenile.org or by calling 406/656-3615 or 671-5100. Applications must be postmarked by **Sept. 15, 2010**. The 2010 NILE dates are Oct. 9-16, 2010.

USDA Secretarial designation triggers second FSA disaster program

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack has declared Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation and Hill County primary natural disaster areas and three Montana counties - Blaine, Chouteau and Liberty - contiguous counties due to severe storms, with excessive rain, flooding and flash flooding that occurred from May 13 to June 28, 2010.

"The Secretarial Disaster Designation signed on Aug. 11, 2010 can help producers affected by the recent flooding," Montana FSA State Executive Director Bruce Nelson said. "The designation makes it easier for eligible producers to apply for assistance through the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program."

SURE was one of the disaster programs created under the 2008 Farm Bill that provides financial assistance for crop production and or quality losses due to a natural disaster. SURE Program applications for 2010 crop losses will not be accepted until 2011, when the 2010 National Average Market Prices become available.

Earlier this month, a Presidential Disaster Declaration was announced for Rocky Boy's Reservation and neighboring counties that triggered eligibility to apply for the Emergency Loan Program. For more information, visit your local FSA office or www.fsa.usda.gov/mt.

Presidential designations expand eligibility for FSA disaster program

Bruce Nelson, State Executive Director of USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Montana received the announcement in early August that a recent Presidential Disaster Declaration declaring Hill County and Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation as primary natural disaster areas due to severe storm and flooding was amended to include Chouteau County. As part of that amendment, eight Montana counties - Blaine, Cascade, Fergus, Hill, Judith Basin, Liberty, Pondera and Teton - were declared contiguous counties for storm and flood damage occurring from June 15 to July 30, 2010. In addition, FSA was also notified that two Montana counties - Missoula and Ravalli - were declared contiguous natural disaster areas to Idaho's Presidential Major Disaster Declaration due to losses caused by severe storms and flooding from June 2 to June 10, 2010.

The Presidential declaration triggers eligibility for the Emergency Loan Program for producers who suffered either a 30 percent production loss or sustained substantial physical losses to livestock, buildings or real estate caused by declared natural disaster(s). Producers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for emergency loan assistance. Those interested in applying for FSA disaster programs or learning about other FSA programs are encouraged to visit their local FSA Office or www.fsa.usda.gov/mt.

Blaine County FSA Office
PO Box 307
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USDA United States Department of Agriculture

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Succession in Interest changes must be reported by Sept. 30

If you have made any changes that affect your interest in base acres since you signed your last Direct and Counter-cyclical Program contract, you must report these ***successions-in-interest*** to the county committee by **Sept. 30,** so that a final determination can be made on who is eligible for the program on the farm.

Changes that qualify as a succession-in-interest include:

- A sale of land
- A change of operator or producer, including a an increase or decrease in the number of partners
- A foreclosure, bankruptcy or involuntary loss of the farm.
- A change in producer shares to reflect changes in the producer's share of the crop(s) that were originally approved on the contract.

If a succession-in-interest has taken place, you, as the "predecessor," are required to refund any advance DCP payments you received for the affected base acres before a payment can be made to the "successor."

Not reporting a succession-in-interest can result in contract termination and a loss of program benefits for all producers involved.

Selected Interest Rates for September 2010	
Farm Operating - Direct	2.375%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.375%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency – Actual Loss	3.750%

Conservation Loan Program

FSA now makes and guarantees conservation loans to promote conservation on farms and ranches. The goal of the program is to provide farmers access to credit to implement these conservation practices.

Conservation Loan (CL) funds can be used to implement a conservation practice approved by the NRCS, such as to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality and promote sustainable and organic agricultural practices.

Interested producers who don't have an NRCS approved plan should work with NRCS to develop a conservation plan. New or existing conservation plans must be approved by NRCS before FSA can provide funding.

For more information please contact the Farm Loan Staff at 406-357-2320.

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