



NEWSLETTER



Broadwater County FSA
415 South Front Street
Townsend, MT 59644
Telephone: (406) 266-4253
Fax: (406) 266-5429

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

County Committee

Tom Williams, Chair
Charles Plymale, Vice-Chair
Bob Wilson, Member
Marie Hoeffner, Advisor

County Committee Meetings:
Second Thursday of the month

FSA Office Personnel

Nina Fonk, Co. Exec. Director
Tamie Hahn, Program Tech.
Laura Cazier, Program Tech.
Alan Jenne, Farm Loan Manager

Agricultural Loan Opportunities

For questions regarding obtaining credit to start or enlarge a farming or ranching operation; financing agricultural operating expenses or livestock and machinery purchases call:
Alan Jenne, FLM (406) 683-3831

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.

Voting for FSA County Committee Begins

On November 5, 2010, county committee election ballots were mailed to eligible voters in Local Administrative Area (LAA) number 2 which is currently represented by Bob Wilson and generally covers the area from Cottonwood Road to Toston. The election provides an opportunity for farmers and ranchers to elect candidates to serve on the local FSA County Committee. Anyone who participates or cooperates in a local FSA program and meets certain voter criteria is eligible to vote. A complete explanation of voter eligibility requirements is available at the local FSA office.

Eligible voters in the local administrative area open for election who do not receive ballots should contact the FSA office. Ballots must be returned to the office or postmarked by December 6, 2010.

FSA county committees make important decisions about disaster and conservation programs, commodity price support loans and other agricultural issues affecting the local natural resource needs. The county committee serves as your voice in how the programs are administered in our county. Make a difference by voting in the upcoming FSA county committee election.

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 from Washington D.C. to producers who have not submitted forms:

CCC-927: "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Individual"

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

Individuals and legal entities, including members of legal entities, must submit a completed CCC-927 or CCC-928 to IRS if they received program benefits directly or indirectly as a member of a joint operation or entity. If you were notified that you are missing one or more of these forms, please contact the FSA office immediately for further information. It is extremely important that these forms are submitted to IRS. Failure to submit the required forms will result in having to refund all program payments received for 2009 and 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, 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 up to \$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.

Marketing Assistance Loans

Marketing assistance loans (MAL), also referred to as commodity loans, provide temporary financing for current crops offered as collateral. Loans are available for a number of 2010 crops, including wheat, barley, oats, soybeans, other oilseeds, pulse crops (such as peas), honey, wool and mohair. This assistance is available to eligible producers beginning with harvest or shearing and extending through the program year.

The interest rate offered on loans disbursed during November 2010 is 1.25%. A new interest rate is announced the first day of each month. The interest rate is adjusted on all outstanding loans to the newly announced interest rate in effect on January 1.

The final loan availability date varies by crop. March 31, 2011 is the final date a loan may be disbursed for 2010 wheat, barley and oats. Loans mature nine months from the date of disbursement.

The 2008 Farm Bill provides the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to establish a loan repayment rate that may be determined as the lesser of the loan rate plus interest and a rate based on: 1) average market prices during the previous 30 days, or 2) an alternative method the secretary of agriculture may develop.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan, and denial of future farm-stored loans. One of the most common violations is unauthorized disposition or movement of the commodity. The financial penalties for unauthorized disposition or movement are severe and a producer's name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Possible criminal penalties may also result. Always call the office before you move any grain that is currently under loan.

If you are interested in obtaining a loan on your agricultural commodity, please contact the FSA office.

Changing Banks

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. To keep your payments arriving in a timely manner, it is critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions. If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued, uninterrupted service.

2011 Farm Program Signup

The 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) program and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program signup for farms with base acres has started and will continue until June 1. Farms may not be enrolled for 2011 after June 1, 2011. There are no late file provisions. Over the next several months we will be mailing appointment notifications to those who normally participate. If you do not receive an appointment notification by April 15 and you wish to participate, please contact the FSA Office.

Commodities covered by DCP/ACRE include: wheat, corn, grain sorghum, including dual purpose varieties that can be harvested as grain; barley, oats, soybeans, canola, flaxseed, mustard seed, safflower, crambe, sesame seed, rapeseed and sunflowers including oil and non-oil varieties.

A farm with the sum of the base acreage on the farm with 10 acres or less must be owned by a minority or limited resource farmer or rancher to be eligible for DCP payments.

Planting flexibility is allowed but planting restrictions are included for fruits and vegetables on base acreage without farm or producer history. To maintain eligibility a producer must: 1) meet highly erodible land and wetland provision requirements; 2) report all cropland acres on the farm; 3) meet actively engaged in farming requirements; and 4) comply with adjusted gross income provisions. Payment limitation amounts are \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments.

The Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. In exchange for participating in ACRE, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20 percent, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30 percent.

The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.

Test 2010 Crops Affected With Quality Issues

If you have experienced quality issues with any of your 2010 crops, we urge you to have the crop officially tested prior to January 1, 2011. 2010 quality losses may be eligible to be covered, but only if they are properly documented. Testing should be completed by a state lab or other facility acceptable to FSA.

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 a 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 Loan Year End Reviews

Producers that have a farm loan with FSA are reminded they must provide data for their Year-End Analysis to their loan officer each year. Borrowers are urged to provide this information timely so that their files can be maintained.

Applications for FSA Farm Loan Assistance

Farmers and ranchers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Failure to apply early may result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications. For more details and assistance in applying, contact Alan Jenne at (406) 683-3831.

FSA Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office.
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities.

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact the local FSA office.

Online Services

Producers with Internet access can fill out a variety of FSA forms online. Producers can also register for secure electronic access that will allow them to electronically sign and transmit some forms directly to the county office staff. If you are new to the website, first you will want to obtain a Level 2 USDA Service Center Customer ID and password at: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> and then click on "Create an Account Page" link.

If you already have a Customer ID and password, then click on the following eForms website at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainervlet> and then click on the "Sign In" button. A disclaimer window will open and after you read the "warning message" click on the "Continue" button.

Then the USDA Web services page will open to the eAuthentication login page. Enter your login User ID and password and then click on the "Login" button. To sign and transmit forms electronically, you must sign-up and get a User ID and password.

Montana Department of Livestock Reminds Brand Owners to Update Addresses

With brand renewals 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.

Selling Land

If you're planning to sell farm land, there may be some program consequences you should be aware of. For example, if you're planning to sell land that's enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer doesn't want to continue the CRP contract, you might have to refund all of the payments you've received to date. Reviewing program implications with your local Farm Service Agency staff before completing a sale of farmland is always a prudent precaution.

BROADWATER COUNTY FSA
415 S Front Street
Townsend, MT 59644



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

Selected Interest Rates - November 2010	
Farm Operating - Direct	2.000%
Farm Ownership and Conservation Loan - Direct	4.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
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%

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. 25	Thanksgiving Day Holiday
November	2009 ACRE Payments to be issued
Dec. 1	NAP sales closing date for honey
Dec. 6	Final day to return committee election ballots
March 15, 2011	NAP sales closing date for all other crops
June 1, 2011	2011 DCP / ACRE Filing Deadline

New Financial Management Web Page

Producers who have level 2 e-Authentication access can use the new Public Financial Management Information web page. The website allows producers to generate reports that show both current and historical financial information. This resource will allow users to view details on payments, collections and outstanding debt. The website is a great tool for producers to conveniently access financial information at any time. To view the Financial Management Information web page, visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/fmi>. Please contact your county office if you have any questions regarding the web page.

Note: Website use requires level 2 e-Authentication access. Follow the steps below to obtain level 2 access.

1. Go to www.eauth.egov.usda.gov, complete a customer profile and submit it online
2. After submitting your customer profile, you will receive a confirmation email, and you must respond to it within 7 days to activate your account
3. Then you must complete the "Identity Proofing" process by visiting a local USDA Service Center and presenting a photo ID, such as your driver's license

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