



NEWSLETTER



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

Office 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.

New 2011 CRP General Sign-up?

It is very likely that a general CRP Signup will be announced soon. During a general CRP signup, producers may offer environmentally sensitive land for enrollment. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving cover to control erosion, improve water and air quality, and develop wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 to 15 years. FSA also offers a Conservation Loan Program that may assist producers with the expense of installing conservation practices.

To be eligible for enrollment in CRP, land must be cropland that is planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity four of the six crop years from 2002 to 2007, and which is physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner. Alfalfa or other multiyear grasses and legumes grown in a rotation not to exceed 12 years may be eligible for this sign-up.

Although the full eligibility requirements are not known at this time, additional eligibility requirements will apply. During the 2010 CRP general signup, the cropland must also have met one of the following: 1) Have a weighted average erosion index of eight or higher; or 2) Be expiring CRP acreage; or 3) Be located in a national or state CRP conservation priority area.

Each eligible offer is ranked in comparison to all other offers based on an environmental benefits index. FSA collects data on environmental indices primarily based on location, soils information and desired conservation practice for the land offered. After signup ends, the Secretary of Agriculture normally determines where to make the environmental benefits index (EBI) cutoff for offers to be accepted.

The FSA and NRCS office can work with you and your specific situation to enhance your specific offer. **If you wish to submit a CRP offer, please telephone the FSA office as soon as possible.** There will not be another newsletter announcing the signup.

Do You Receive Multiple Newsletters???

If you receive more than one newsletter at the same address, please contact us and let us know. We are working on updating our newsletter mailing list and it has come to our attention that many husbands, wives and entities are receiving the same newsletters several times due to various names that are on record with us.

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.

SURE Signup for 2009 Crop Year began January 10

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) began on January 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, please call or visit the county FSA office.

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Bob Wilson who was reelected to the county committee to represent farmers in Broadwater County.

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

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. 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.

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.

Before You Expand that Field or Till a New Field

It is important that you understand the status of land if you plan to participate in any USDA programs. A cultural resource survey and highly erodible land (HEL) and wetland determinations must be completed by the NRCS before you clear or drain wet areas and before you break out native vegetation (sod) and plant an agricultural commodity (such as wheat, barley, oats, corn, potatoes, etc.).

To be eligible for USDA benefits, all producers planting agricultural commodities on predominantly highly erodible fields after January 1, 1990, are required to do so according to the provisions of an acceptable conservation system/plan. The NRCS will assist you in developing an approved conservation system/plan, if applicable, for the farm.

Prior to breaking vegetative cover, conducting land clearing or drainage projects, you may need to make an appointment with the local office to review the determinations on your land as well as the conservation system/plan. It is your responsibility to ensure that your land has an acceptable conservation system/plan and that you are actively applying an acceptable conservation system/plan to maintain eligibility for USDA benefits. Status reviews are conducted by NRCS to ensure producers follow a conservation plan on highly erodible land.

IRS Form 1099-G

Each year producers receive 1099-G forms from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) detailing payments producers have received from the CCC. CCC's annual report of program payments on the 1099-Gs help our customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the producer's own responsibility to report income to the 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.



Maintaining the Quality of Loaned Grain

The 2010 grain crop has its obvious up side, but there is a downside too. Many producers are hard pressed to find adequate storage for every bushel harvested. Overfilled grain storage bins can lead to grain quality problems.

Bins are ideally designed to hold a maximum volume of grain. When bins are overfilled and grain is heaped up, airflow is hindered and the chance of spoilage increases. Producers who take out farm-stored marketing assistance loans should remember that they are responsible for maintaining the quality of the grain through the term of the loan. If you turn low quality grain over to the FSA to repay your loan, it will most likely cost you additional money.

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.

Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000. Many families have found the Youth Loan Program an excellent way to introduce the next generation to the business of agriculture. Is there someone in your family who may qualify?

Livestock Death Losses

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. Producers must file a notice of loss within 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 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.**

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available. If you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan, ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum of \$1,119,000. Direct farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained from FSA for a maximum of up to \$300,000.

Applicants who are referred to as socially disadvantaged or beginning farmers may receive priority funding specifically targeted for them. A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have historically been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his/her identity as a member of that group. To find out more about FSA loan programs and specific eligibility requirements, please contact Alan Jenne at (406) 683-3831.

BROADWATER COUNTY FSA
415 S Front Street
Townsend, MT 59644



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

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%

Dates to Remember	
Oct. 1, 2010	2011 ACRE Sign-Up Began & Continues
Oct. 1, 2010	2011 DCP Sign-Up Began & Continues
Jan. 10, 2011	SURE Program Signup for 2009 Crop Year Begins
Jan. 17, 2011	USDA Service Centers closed in observance of Martin Luther King Day federal holiday
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 Unshorn Pelt Marketing Assistance Loan and LDP Deadline
Feb. 21, 2011	USDA Service Centers closed in observance of President's Day federal holiday
March 15, 2011	NAP sales closing date for all other crops except
June 1, 2011	2011 DCP / ACRE Filing Deadline
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program

Cooperation with Risk Management Agency:

Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Risk Management Agency (RMA) are required to work together to improve program compliance and integrity of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. As a result, 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.

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.