



NEWSLETTER



December 2010

Carter County FSA Office

308 S Mormon St / PO Box 5
Ekalaka, MT 59324-0005

406-775-6355 phone
406-775-6671 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/mt

Hours: Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee Members:

Troy Harrington, Chairman
Gary Jardee, Vice-Chairman
Gail Brence, Regular Member

Next County Committee Meeting:
2nd Tues in January

County Office Staff:

Ronelia Parry, Co Executive Director
Robin Markuson, Farm Loan Officer
Jo Kittelmann, Program Technician
Karen Kreitel, Program Technician
Jitt Schneider, Program Technician
Georgia Bruski, Temporary PT

Agricultural Lending Opportunities

For questions re: obtaining credit to start or enlarge a farm or ranch operation, financing agricultural operating expenses; livestock, or machinery purchases, please call:

Farm Loan Program Technician:
Karen Kreitel 775-6355 x 107
Farm Loan Officer:
Robin Markuson 775-6355 x 110
Or Farm Loan Manager:
Jeff Janshen 232-7905 x 123

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.

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 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.**

Limited Resource Determination Information

A. Gross Farm Sales Determination:

In each of the last two years, was your direct or indirect **Gross Farm Sales** less than or equal to **\$146,400.00** per year?



Yes



No

Gross Farm Sales is defined as: Gross Income entered on IRS Form 1040, Schedule F, in the Farm Income Section. For FY 2011 Programs, the Gross Farm Sales level should be less than the 2008 and 2009 Farm Sales.

B. Adjusted Gross Income Determination:

In each of the last two years, was your **Total Household Income** less than the CARTER County "County/Area Value" of **\$22,050.00**?



Yes



No

Total Household Income is defined as Adjusted Gross Income for all members in your household or the amount you entered on IRS Form 1040, Adjusted Gross Income Section. See [IRS Web Site](#) for more information on the IRS form. For FY 2011 Programs, this should be compared with your Adjusted Gross Income for 2008 and 2009.

County/Area Value is calculated as the higher of the National Poverty level or 50% of the County/Area Median Household Income.

Gross Farm Sales for 2008 and 2009:

INCOME is less than or equal to \$146,400.00 per year

Adjusted Gross Income:

INCOME is less than \$22,050.00

Limited Resource Farmer/Rancher Status:

Based on your answers to the two questions: YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO QUALIFY AS A LIMITED RESOURCE PRODUCER. You may be required to provide sufficient documentation to verify your claim.

2011 DCP Signup

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2011. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit the FSA office to complete their 2011 DCP contract. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. FSA will issue advance direct payments beginning Dec. 1, 2010.

The ACRE Option

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.

The June 1, 2011, deadline is mandatory for all ACRE and DCP participants. FSA will not accept late-filed applications.

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.

Sample 2010 Crops for 2010 SURE Program

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. If we end up with a crop year 2010 SURE program (crop disaster program) quality losses may 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 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.

Livestock Indemnity Program

A Notice of Loss must be filed within 30 days of any livestock loss due to Adverse Weather causes. There are no late-filed notice of loss provisions. Last reporting date for 2010 losses is December 30, 2010. Applications for payment must be completed by January 30, 2011 for 2010 losses.

Land Changes

If you're planning to sell farmland, 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.

If you have purchased land, please provide us with a Recorded Copy of the Deed so we may update our records.

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.

"It's basically a two-step process," Grainger added. "First, make sure the mailing address we have on file is up to date, especially if it changed within the past 10 years. 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 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.

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

Changing Banks

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. To keep the system running smoothly, it's 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.

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. Contact our Farm Loan representatives for more details and assistance in applying.

Marketing Assistance Loans

Marketing assistance loans are commodity loans available to producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time of application. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity, responsibility for all risk of loss or damage to the commodity, and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan.

In addition, to be eligible for a marketing assistance loan, you must comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements, report how you use cropland acreage on the farm, and ensure that the commodity meets CCC minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition, and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program to be eligible for commodity loans.

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. The most common violations are unauthorized dispositions and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

Unauthorized Disposition of Loan Grain

If a producer receives a marketing assistance loan for a particular commodity and then disposes of that commodity by feeding, selling, or otherwise disposing of it without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered an unauthorized disposition violation. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions 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 before you haul or utilize any grain under loan.

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	0.125%
90-Day Treasury Bill	2.000%
Farm Operating - Direct	4.125%
Farm Ownership and Conservation Loan - Direct	0.125%



Wayne enters the next chapter of his life...

Retirement

Time has come to say good bye to an enjoyable career with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and retire. Where the future takes me, I do not know, but I'm sure it will be an adventure just like the last 36 plus years with the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has been. I will never forget the wonderful people who crossed my path.

This 36 year trek started in 1974 with a job share between the SCS and the Stillwater County Conservation District. I was a part-time Soil Conservation Technician Aid and a Conservation District Administrator in Columbus Montana. Then in 1977, I applied for a full-time position with the Soil Conservation Service anywhere in Montana. SCS offered me a Soil Conservation Technician position in McCone County. You can say, with that transfer I went from the mountains to the prairie. In 1978 while still in Circle Montana, SCS promoted me to a Soil Conservationist. In 1979 the District Conservation (DC) position in Prairie County came open and SCS thought I would make a good DC so they transferred me to Terry Montana where I spent 5 years as the District Conservationist. Here is where Deb and I started our family and Heidi and Devin joined the trip. Then the great year of 1984 came and on September 4, 1984, SCS thought I would be a better asset to them in Carter County. My family and I were transferred to Ekalaka. So for the next 26 years, Deb and I were able to raise our children and become part of this wonderful County.

Deb and I plan to remain Carter County citizens and continue with the many activities that we are involved in. Thank you for allowing me and my family to be part of your families.

OPEN HOUSE



Join us in honoring Wayne
for his 36 years of Service on
Tuesday, January 4, 2011
St. Joan of Arc Parish Hall
Ekalaka
- 2:00 to 4:00 pm.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Oct 1	2011 DCP & ACRE Signup Began	January 30	Last day to file Application for Payment
Dec 6	County Committee Election Ballots Due		for 2010 LIP & ELAP programs where
Dec 24	Office Closed for Christmas		timely Notice of losses were filed
Dec 31	Office Closed for New Years	January 31	2010 Wool LDP Deadline
Dec 31	Last day for 2010 Disaster Loss Reporting	March 15	NAP Sales Closing date
	(LIP & ELAP – Livestock Loss programs)	June 1	2011 DCP & ACRE Signup Deadline

**The County Office newsletter is an official agency record
and may be used to establish legal notice of program requirements.**

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