



2011 Acreage Reports due by July 15th

Farm operators are reminded that crop acreage reports **MUST** be filed with FSA by no later than July 15, 2011. Producers with land enrolled in the DCP, ACRE, NAP, or CRP programs will not receive payments through those programs if crop acreage reports are not filed with FSA annually. Additionally, to be eligible for benefits under the SURE program, all crops in all counties must be reported, including non-cropland that will be hayed and/or grazed. Producers are reminded that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. Producers that have not yet filed their 2011 crop acreage report with FSA should contact our office immediately to schedule an appointment. Acreage reports filed after July 15th will be considered as "late filed", and will not be accepted by FSA until the applicable "late file" fees have been paid. "Late-file" fees will be a minimum of \$46/farm.

FSA's "Prevented Planting" reporting date extended to July 15th

The FSA national office has extended the 2011 deadline for reporting acreage that was "prevented from planting" until July 15th. Therefore, "prevented planting" acreage claims filed with FSA by July 15, 2011 will be considered as timely filed. It is important that any request for "prevented planting" credit be timely filed on form FSA-576. The approval of a "prevented planting" claim by the FSA Committee will maintain your potential eligibility for 2011 crop disaster program (SURE) program benefits, and/or acreage history credit. Approved "prevented planting" acreage may also be eligible for ACRE payments. If a request for "prevented planting" is filed after July 15, 2011, the request will be considered as late filed. Late-filed "prevented planting" claims may require that an on-site inspection be performed by FSA (and paid for by the producer). If evidence of the conditions that prevented the acreage from being planted does not exist at the time of the on-site inspection, the prevented planting claim may be denied.

Sign-up for 2009 SURE program ends on July 29th

Signup for the 2009 crop year SURE (crop disaster) program began on Jan. 10, 2011 and will end on July 29, 2011. To be eligible for SURE, a producer must have suffered a 10 percent or greater production loss on at least one crop of economic significance. A crop is considered to be of "economic significance" if the expected value of the crop was at least 5% of the total expected value of all crops intended for mechanical harvest in the farming operation. SURE participants were required to carry MPCI or NAP coverage on ALL crops that were "economically significant" to the farming operation. Note: Certain exceptions to the insurance requirement apply to beginning farmers, limited resource producers, and socially disadvantaged producers. An additional exception to the insurance requirement applies to NAP crops for which the value of the NAP coverage would have been \$2500 or less. Producers that feel that they may be eligible for this program MUST contact FSA by July 29th and request that a 2009 SURE application be processed. We are NOT processing SURE applications for every producer in Chouteau County. You must initiate the process by July 29th. This requirement applies to both landowners and tenants. The FSA office will contact applicants by letter when the SURE application is ready to be reviewed and/or signed. We are currently processing several hundred applications for this program. If you previously requested that your name be added to our list of applicants, you do not need to contact us again. We will do our best to process your SURE application as quickly as possible. The application process is very complicated and labor intensive. We appreciate your patience.

Chouteau County FSA Office

July 2011

Address:
1210 25th Street
PO Box 309
Fort Benton, MT 59442

Office:
(406) 622-5401 ext. 2
Fax: (406) 622-3728
www.fsa.usda.gov/mt

Hours: 8:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Monday to Friday

FSA Office Personnel:
Bill Evans, CED
Jim Freeman
Debbie Capps
Tracy Steinbacher
Sharon Roudebush
Kistia Golie
Vanessa Furuli

Farm Loan Program
Janet Smith, FLM

**County Committee
Members**

Rod DeBruycker
Mark Gasvoda
Chuck Davis
Jayne LeFurgey

Next Committee Meeting
July 14, 2011

Accommodations:
Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in any FSA programs should contact the County FSA Office or the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

Thousands of Montana FSA participants urged to submit consent forms to IRS to avoid repayment of full FSA benefits from 2009 to present

Roughly 5,000 Montana agricultural producers and members of entities who participated in Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs in 2009 and 2010 have not submitted consent forms to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and must submit form(s) or they will not receive future USDA program benefits and can be required to repay program benefits since 2009 in full, Montana FSA Acting State Executive Director Richard "Dick" Deschamps said in a statewide news release on June 2.

Producers who participated in 2009, 2010, and/or 2011 FSA programs subject to adjusted gross income limitations (AGI) had to certify compliance with AGI rules on form CCC-926. The consent form authorizes IRS to verify for FSA whether a payment recipient's AGI meets the eligibility requirements for FSA programs. The form became a requirement for payment eligibility beginning with the 2009 crop year, however many program participants have not complied with this requirement. On Oct. 6, 2010, a letter was mailed to participants filing CCC-926 who have not submitted for 2009 and 2010: CCC-927. The deadline to submit the forms to IRS for 2011 was June 1st, 2011. Individuals must submit form CCC-927 and legal entities must submit form CCC-928.

"For 2009, 2010 and 2011, the deadline has passed, but individuals and legal entities, including members of entities, regardless of whether they received program benefits directly or indirectly, who have not submitted the form to IRS for any of these years, need to do so immediately in order to avoid a demand for refund of program payments and benefits received," Deschamps said. "Even if these producers do not normally file federal income taxes, they must still submit the appropriate CCC-927 or CCC-928. If you're unsure if you have submitted the appropriate form, you can contact your local county FSA office to see if you're on the list. Forms are available on the state FSA website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/mt".

FSA is aware that in some instances such as Native American participants with little federally reportable income, or individuals and entities that are members of participating entities and have little or no IRS-reportable income on their own, who may not file federal taxes and may have had their CCC-927 or CCC-928 rejected by the IRS as a result. If individuals filed CCC-927 or CCC-928 and it was rejected because of lack of income data, please contact your FSA county office and provide them with a copy of the rejected form and IRS letter. For more info, contact your FSA county office.

2011 COC Election Nominations

Producers in the Fort Benton/Carter/Knees area of Chouteau County are strongly encouraged to consider running for a position on the FSA County Committee. Rod DeBruycker has served as your FSA Committee representative for the past 9 years, and is not eligible to run for re-election. To become a nominee, producers must sign form FSA-669A. The completed form must be signed and provided to the Chouteau County FSA office by no later than August 1. A copy of the nomination form is found on page 3 of this newsletter. It is extremely important that FSA receive strong representation from producers in our county. The FSA committee meets monthly, and makes determinations and recommendations that directly affect your eligibility for many USDA-administered programs. Please contact CED Bill Evans if you have any questions concerning the FSA Committee process.

ACRE Production Reporting Deadline Extended

The production reporting deadline for ACRE participants has been extended to COB September 1, 2011. Because of this extension, using a register on Sept. 1, 2011, is **not** authorized. For more details contact the county FSA office.

2011 Crop Loan Rates

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Regular rate</u>	<u>ACRE rate</u>
HRW	\$2.92/bushel	\$2.044/bushel
HRS	\$3.19/bushel	\$2.233/bushel
Durum	\$4.04/bushel	\$2.828/bushel
Barley	\$1.87/bushel	\$1.309/bushel
Dry Peas	\$5.13/cwt	\$3.591/cwt
Lentils	\$11.06/cwt	\$7.742/cwt

Sodbusting

To be eligible for USDA benefits, producers planting agricultural commodities on highly erodible fields are required to do so according to the provisions of an acceptable conservation system. Producers wishing to break land that has been in native sod should visit the local FSA office prior to beginning any sodbusting activities. Once the sod has been broken, it may be impossible to maintain compliance with the applicable regulations. The local NRCS office can assist you in developing a plan that will ensure continued "conservation compliance".

2011 Managed Haying and Grazing of CRP

CRP participants wishing to hay or graze CRP acreage must request authorization from Farm Service Agency. If the necessary paperwork has been completed and approved by FSA, managed haying or grazing may begin as early as July 16, 2011. Failure to get written approval before beginning managed haying and managed grazing of CRP acreage could result in termination of the CRP contract on the affected acreage. The Montana managed haying provisions allow haying of CRP acreage every 5th year. 50% of each field, or contiguous field, must be left standing for wildlife. Grazing of CRP acreage is allowed every 3rd year. Producers cannot hay and graze the same acreage in the same year. The cost of managed haying or grazing is equal to 25% of the CRP annual rental payment on the acreage this is hayed or grazed. The 2011 summer-fall managed grazing period is July 16th through September 13th. The 2011 managed haying period is July 16th through September 30th.

Nomination Form for County FSA Committee Election: Below is a nomination form for the 2011 FSA County Committee election. Persons nominated should actively participate in the operation of a farm or ranch and be well qualified for committee work. This year, a producer is eligible to be a FSA committee member if the producer resides in the Local Administrative Area #1 (Fort Benton/Carter/Knees). The duties of county committee members include administering farm program activities conducted by FSA, informing farmers of the purpose and provisions of the FSA programs, keeping the State FSA Committee informed of conditions, monitoring changes in farm programs, participating in county meetings as necessary, and performing other duties as assigned by the State FSA Committee. Signed nomination form(s) must be delivered to the FSA County Office or postmarked no later than **Aug. 1.**

FSA-669A
(03-31-11)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency

NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

1. NAME OF NOMINEE (<i>Type or Print Nominee's Full Name</i>)		TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE	
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE		4. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE RECEIVED	
		5. COUNTY	
3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION: <i>I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee. <input type="checkbox"/> I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.		6. LAA	
		7. STATE	
3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE		8. NOMINATOR'S CERTIFICATION: <i>If this nomination is by other than self, the following eligible voter or representative of a community based organization hereby nominates the afore-named person to be a candidate in the next County FSA Committee election for the county.</i>	
3B. DATE		8A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.		8B. DATE	
9. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE			

VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES: The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.

ETHNICITY	RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)	GENDER
<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native	<input type="checkbox"/> Male
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian	<input type="checkbox"/> Female
	<input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	
	<input type="checkbox"/> White	

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM

Complete the form as follows:

- ITEM 1** Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be:
 - A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election.
 - B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member.
 - C. Willing to serve if elected.
- ITEM 2** Enter the nominee's current address.
- ITEM 3** The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.
- ITEMS 3A & 3B** The nominee must sign and date.
- ITEMS 8A & 8B** The nominator must sign and date. (*If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required.*)
- ITEM 9** Completing this item is voluntary.

ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 1, 2011.

NOTE: The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a - as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246). The information will be used to obtain nominees for election to the County FSA Committee. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for County Personnel Records, USDA/FSA-6. Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination of ineligibility for nomination for election to the County FSA Committee.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The provisions of appropriate criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided. **RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE**

Flood Damage??

Land that was severely damaged by flooding may be eligible for cost-share assistance through the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). The ECP may provide producers with assistance on the restoration of farmland to its "pre-disaster" condition. Unfortunately, ECP assistance is not authorized for roads, corrals, or projects located within a stream channel. Furthermore, ECP does not provide assistance for crop production losses. Producers wishing to pursue assistance through this program must contact FSA prior to beginning project restoration activities.

FSA: Upcoming Important Dates to Remember:

- July 15:** Acreage Reporting Deadline
- July 15:** Final NAP Production Reports Due for 2010
- July 16:** CRP Managed Haying and Grazing begins
- July 4:** USDA Service Centers Closed for Independence Day holiday
- July 29:** SURE Sign-up Deadline for 2009 Crop Year
- Aug. 1:** Deadline for County Committee Election Nomination Form to be postmarked or received by FSA Office.
- Sept. 1:** 2010 ACRE Production Reporting Deadline
- Sept. 13:** CRP Managed Grazing Period Ends
- Sept. 30:** CRP Managed Haying Period Ends
- Jan. 2:** Elected County Committee members and alternates take office.
- Continues:** Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

VISIT FSA ONLINE: Information on FSA programs, the 2011 Montana FSA Farmer & Rancher Program Handbook, forms, state news releases, upcoming deadlines and state e-newsletters and county newsletters & more are available at: www.fsa.usda.gov/mt

Submission of Applications via E-Government:

USDA provides customers with the option to electronically access, fill out, and print paper forms and transmit those forms and other documents to their local Service Center, as required by the Freedom to E-File Act. Customers may also obtain secure payment summary information. A secure website is offered. Logon to: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> to register for a Customer ID and password.

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement/Complaint Process:

"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 Adjudication and Compliance, 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."