

Jefferson-Madison-Silver Bow  
FSA County Office  
3 Whitetail Rd  
Whitehall, MT 59759  
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### County Committee Members

Janet Endecott, Chair  
Lillie J Carmody, Vice Chair  
Heath Rieder, Member  
Dan High, Member  
Jack Kambich, Member

**Next County Committee Meeting:**  
September 21, 2010 @ 10:00 am

### FSA Office Personnel

Bonita Kober, CED  
Kathleen Ballard, PT  
Amanda Lucas, PT  
Terrie Casagrande, TF

### 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:*

**Alan Jenne, FLM**  
**406-683-3830**

### Dates to Remember:

**Sept. 1** - NAP Application Sales Deadline for Value Loss Crops (2011 Crop Year)  
**Sept. 30** - NAP Acreage Reporting Deadline for Value Loss Crops  
**Sept. 30** - RMA (**crop insurance**) deadline to purchase Forage Production Policy (2011 Crop Year)  
**Sept. 30** - SURE Application Deadline for 2008 Crop Year  
**Sept. 30** - Transition Incentive Program deadline for CRP contracts expiring in 2010.  
**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.



Jefferson-Madison-Silver Bow  
September 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.

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. Specific to grazing land, however, 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.

### Conservation Loan Program Announced

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes and guarantees conservation loans to promote conservation on farms and ranches throughout the United States to conserve our natural resources.

Many farmers who need and want to implement conservation measures on their land do not have the "up front" funds available to implement these practices.

The goal of FSA's Conservation Loan (CL) program is to provide farmers access to credit to implement these practices.

Unlike FSA's traditional farm ownership and operating loan programs that are targeted toward smaller and less financially established farmers, eligibility requirements are expanded to permit the agency to provide assistance to some applicants who may be large and financially strong.

Additional information may be obtained at local FSA offices or through the FSA website at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

### CRP - Transition Incentives Program

The Transition Incentives Program (TIP) encourages retired or retiring owners or operators to transition their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers. TIP sign-up opened May 17, 2010. If all program requirements are met, TIP provides annual rental payments to the retiring farmer for up to two additional years after the expiration of the CRP contract, provided the transition is not to a family member. For eligibility requirements producers should visit the FSA county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov). **The deadline for contracts expiring this year to sign up for TIP is 9/30/2010!!**

### 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](mailto: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>.



### 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, **including wolf depredation**. 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.

## September Interest Rates

September rates for commodity loans and for CCC borrowing rate-based interest charges remain unchanged from August rates. Interest rates for farm storage facility loans (FSFL) decreased for the 4th month in a row. September rates are:

- 1.250 percent for crop year commodity loans
- 2.250 percent for 7 year farm storage facility loans
- 2.875 percent for 10 year farm storage facility loans
- 3.125 percent for 12 year farm storage facility loans

## Commodity Loans Available

The 2008 Farm Bill reauthorizes nonrecourse marketing assistance loans (MAL) and loan deficiency payment (LDP) and makes them available for the 2008-2012 crops of wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, extra-long staple cotton, long grain rice, medium grain rice, soybeans, other oilseeds (including sunflower seed, rapeseed, canola, safflower, flaxseed, mustard seed, crambe and sesame seed), dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas, large chickpeas, graded wool, nongraded wool, mohair, honey and peanuts. There are currently no LDP rates above \$0.00; however, loans are always an option.

MALs and LDPs are marketing tools available to producers beginning upon harvest or shearing. The MAL provides an influx of cash when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows, which allows the producer to delay the sale of the commodity until more favorable market conditions emerge. Allowing producers to store production at harvest or shearing provides for a more orderly marketing of commodities throughout the year.

MALs for commodities are considered nonrecourse when the MAL can either be redeemed by the repayment of the MAL or by delivering the pledged collateral to the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) as full payment for the MAL at maturity. MAL repayment provisions specify, under certain circumstances, that producers may repay MALs at less than loan rate (principal) plus accrued interest and other charges. Alternatively, loan deficiency payment (LDP) provisions specify that, in lieu of securing a MAL, producers may elect to receive an LDP.

For more information about FSA programs, contact your local FSA office or USDA Service Center, or visit the World Wide Web at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## Commodity Loan Rates:

Hard Red Spring Wheat	\$3.92/bu
Hard Red Winter Wheat	\$2.75/bu
Soft White Wheat	\$2.98/bu
Barley	\$1.99/bu
Oats	\$1.32/bu

These are just a few of the commodities for which MALs are available. Loan rates may vary slightly by county.

Jefferson-Madison-Silver Bow  
 County FSA Office  
 3 Whitetail Rd  
 Whitehall, MT 59759



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

### 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.

**Access Montana Farm Service Agency news  
 and program deadlines online @  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/mt](http://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](http://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.*

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%

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