



NEWSLETTER



FSA's Prevented Planting final report date extended to July 15th

Due to flood and excessive moisture conditions throughout Montana, a request was submitted to the National Farm Service Agency (FSA) Office to extend the deadline for timely reporting prevented planting to coincide with the final crop reporting deadline of July 15th for the 2011 crop year. The request was approved on June 1st. Prevented Planted acreage claims filed by July 15, 2011 will be considered as timely filed. It is important that the FSA-576 be timely filed and approved for a possible 2011 crop disaster program (SURE) or for acreage history credit. Approved preventive planted acreage may also be eligible for ACRE payments. If a request for prevented planting is filed after July 15, 2011, it is considered late filed and will require a minimum of \$46 to have an on-site inspection completed to determine that the natural disaster condition was evident. If the disaster condition that prevented the crop from being planted is no longer apparent, then the FSA-576 will be denied and no benefits will be applicable. If you have insured crops that were prevented planted then you may be required to provide proof that you filed for prevented planting credit with crop insurance. The COC may also request that you provide receipts or invoices showing you had inputs (seed, chemical, fertilizer, etc.) available to plant the acres claimed as prevented to establish your intent of planting.

2011 Acreage Reports due by July 15

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Acreage reports must be filed for all cropland on the farm before any 2011 DCP or ACRE payments can be made or before eligibility can be established for marketing assistance loans and LDPs. Participants in CRP and NAP must report the specific acreage for which benefits are being requested. 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. The deadline for submitting a timely filed acreage report is July 15, 2011. 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.

FSA Disaster Assistance programs available

FSA would like to remind crop and livestock producers throughout states that have recently experienced severe damage from flooding, wildfires and tornadoes that FSA programs are available to assist with recovery. FSA administers several important programs that help producers recover from disaster damage and livestock deaths. Among the key programs available to address impacts from disasters are the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) (see ECP article for more info), the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP), the Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program and the Emergency Loan (EM) Program. Fact sheets for all of these programs can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov; click on Newsroom, then Fact Sheets, or on the state website at www.fsa.usda.gov/mt, under Programs. We encourage all who have suffered a disaster due to the recent severe weather conditions to read the fact sheets and visit the local FSA county office so they get a quick start in the recovery process.

SURE Sign-Up Continues for 2009 Crop Year, July 29 Deadline

Sign-up for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) for the 2009 Crop Year began on Jan. 10, 2011 and will end on **July 29, 2011**. To be eligible for SURE a producer must have at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance and a policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for all economically significant crops. 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. Producers that have a farming interest physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county by the Agriculture Secretary under a Secretarial Disaster Designation or a contiguous county and meet the above criteria are eligible for SURE. All but three counties - Carter, Fallon and Powell - were designated as a primary or contiguous disaster county in 2009. In the absence of the Secretarial Disaster Designation producers may be eligible if they suffer at least a 50% production loss on the entire SURE farm due to a natural disaster. Last fiscal year, Montana FSA administered more than \$36 million in the SURE program for the 2008 crop year. For more info, contact the county office.

JUDITH BASIN COUNTY FSA Office

June 2011

121 Central Ave
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Office:

(406) 566-2218 ext. 2

Fax: 406-566-2727

www.fsa.usda.gov/mt

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

FSA Office Personnel:

Mary Polzin, ext 103

Chris Schmitt, ext 100

Kevin Taylor, ext 106

County Committee Members

Terry Metcalfe, Chair

Carolyn Askins, Vice

Joe Kolar, Member

Agricultural Lending Opportunities:

Questions regarding obtaining credit to start or enlarge a farming or ranching operation; financing agricultural operating expenses; or livestock, machinery purchases may call the following at (406)538-3489, ext 113: Karen Boyles, FLM

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 maintain eligibility for 2009 and future years' program benefits

Roughly 5,000 Montana agricultural producers and members of entities who participated in USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs in 2009 and 2010 who have not submitted consent forms to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) are urged to do so now or they will not receive future USDA program benefits. Producers who fail to submit the consent forms to the IRS can be required to repay full program benefits received indirectly or directly since 2009, Montana FSA Acting State Executive Director Richard "Dick" Deschamps said in a statewide news release on June 3.

The consent form authorizes IRS to calculate a payment recipient's average adjusted gross income (AGI) and provide FSA an indicator of whether the payment recipient's average AGI meets or exceeds the limitation amounts for FSA programs. Producers who participated in 2009, 2010, and/or 2011 FSA programs subject to AGI had to certify compliance with AGI rules on form CCC-926. As part of the compliance process, individuals must submit consent form CCC-927 to the IRS and legal entities must submit consent form CCC-928 to the IRS, which are available at county FSA offices and online on the state FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/mt. 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 who certified AGI compliance who have not submitted consent forms for 2009 and 2010. The deadline to submit the forms to IRS for 2011 was June 1st, 2011.

"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. "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."

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

The election of agricultural producers to FSA county committee starts with the nomination of eligible candidates. To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form is available at FSA County Offices and online on the state FSA website at:

www.fsa.usda.gov/mt. Nomination forms for the 2011 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 1, 2011. Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. Nomination forms are filed for the county committee of the office that administers a producer's farm records.

2010 ACRE Certification Deadline Extended

The deadline for a 2010 production certification to comply with the ACRE provisions for production reports has been extended to COB Sept. 1, 2011. Because of this extension, using a register on Sept. 1, 2011, is **not** authorized. The extension is for completing both the farm benchmark yield (2005 through 2009) and the actual farm yield (2010). For more details contact the county FSA office.

Farm Divisions/Combinations Must Be Requested By August 1

If you have sold, purchased or leased a farm or part of a farm, please notify this office immediately. If you need to request a farm division or a farm combination for 2011, the deadline to submit the request is Aug. 1, 2011 for those farms participating in DCP/ACRE. If requests are not filed timely, it may be difficult to complete 2011 contracts with all required signatures for the farm. Requests received after Aug. 1, 2011, will be processed for 2012.

Soil or Gravel Removal and Other Land Changes - Caution

If you wish to plant an agricultural commodity on any land where any soil or gravel has been removed, please work with the local NRCS and FSA offices in advance to avoid the possibility of any non-compliance and loss of benefits. To be eligible for USDA benefits, all producers planting agricultural commodities on predominantly highly erodible fields are required to do so according to the provisions of an acceptable conservation system/plan to ensure adequate residue exists. The NRCS can assist you in developing an approved conservation system/plan, if applicable, for the farm.

2011 Managed Haying and Grazing of CRP

CRP participants with approved conservation plans (CPO) that include managed haying and managed grazing of CRP may begin haying and/or grazing on July 16, 2011, provided they have completed all of the necessary paperwork at the County FSA Office and have received **written approval** from the FSA County Committee or its designee before starting haying or grazing. Failure to get written approval before starting managed haying and managed grazing of CRP could result in termination of the acres that are hayed or grazed. CRP participants who do not already have the managed haying and managed grazing provisions in their CPOs should contact the county office to get an updated CPO to include the managed haying and managed grazing provisions. The Montana managed haying provisions allow managed haying 1 in 5 years and 50% of the acres must be set aside for wildlife. Producers may hay the 50% set aside in the following year. Grazing is allowed 1 in 3 years and 100% of the acres can be grazed. Producers cannot hay and graze the same acres. Producers will be assessed a 25% payment reduction for managed haying and grazing of CRP. The 2011 Summer-Fall Managed Grazing Period is July 16th through September 13th. The 2011 Managed Haying Period is July 16th through September 30th.

Judith Basin County accepting ECP applications for flood damage

Judith Basin County has been approved to implement the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) due to floods. Emergency Conservation Program is a cost share program which assists producers with damage caused by excessive rain and the floods that have occurred. Signup for the program begins on June 20, 2011 and ends on August 19, 2011.

The Judith Basin County Committee has received approval for the following conservation practices to correct damage due to the flood:

- EC1 - Removing Debris from Farmland: Practice is used for removing debris from farmland. A typical example of this is taking debris off cropland and fences.
- EC2- Grading, Shaping, Releveling, or Similar Measures: Practice is used for grading, shaping and leveling land that has been damaged by the flood and is returned to agricultural use. Example - Land has erosion caused by flood and leveling of the land is needed to restore it.
- EC3- Restoring Permanent Fences: Practice corrects damage to fences caused by the flood. Example - Fences in water gaps which have been washed out due to the high water.
Cost-share will be based upon the followings adjustments for age of the fence:

Age of fence: Cost Share Percentage is:

0-5 years old 100%

6-10 years old 75%

11-30 years old 60%

Over 30 years old 0%

- EC4 - Restoring Conservation Structures and Other Installations: Practice restores conservation structures and installations damaged by the flood. Example - Restoration of dams, ponds that have been destroyed by the flood.

Eligibility for cost share assistance is based on a minimum of \$1,000 of eligible damage. All requests for cost share are subject to the availability of funds. Producers are encouraged to provide the FSA office with the following data at the time of application: Location of the damage and Extent of the damage, such as length of fence, time needed to remove debris, damage to land or conservation structures with estimates of costs to repair. Please call the office at (406) 566-2218 to schedule an appointment so we can prepare some of the application data prior to the appointment.

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

Selected Interest Rates - June 2011

Farm Operating - Direct	2.75%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency - Actual Loss	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility - 7-year	2.625%
Farm Storage Facility - 10-year	3.250%
Farm Storage Facility - 12-year	3.50%

FSA: Upcoming Important Dates to Remember:

- June 1:** 2011 DCP & 2011 ACRE Programs Filing Deadline
- June 15:** 2011 County Committee Elections Nomination Period Begins
- June 20 – August 19:** ECP Signup Period for Flood damage
- July 15:** Acreage Reporting Deadline
- July 15:** Final NAP Production Reports Due for 2010
- July 15:** Final date to file 2010 crop application for NAP Payment
- 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
- Nov. 4:** County Committee Election Ballots to be mailed to eligible voters
- Dec. 5:** Last day to return voted ballots to the local FSA office.

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:

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