



Powell-Deer Lodge-Granite County September 2010

**Powell-Deer Lodge-Granite
County FSA**
1002 Hollenback Rd,
Deer Lodge, MT 59722
Phone: (406) 846-2337
Fax: (406) 846-3134

County Committee Members

Steve Graveley – LAA 1-1
Barb Conn – LAA 1-2
Marlin Gilman – LAA 1-3
Carl Johnson – LAA 1-4
Phil Ralston – LAA 1-5

FSA Office Personnel

Gary Thompson – ext. 233
Sandra Witt – ext. 232

Dates to Remember:

Sept. 30 - RMA deadline to purchase Forage Production Policy (2011 Crop Year)

Oct. 5-6 - Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium in Helena

Oct. 11 – Office Closed
Columbus Day

October 2010 – 2010 DCP and ACRE direct payments issued.

Notice of Loss for LIP File within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent



Market Assistance Loans

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) takes title to the commodity. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for 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 – even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring 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 use 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 and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans.

Violating provisions of a Marketing Assistance Loan may trigger procedures, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future commodity loans. The most common violations are removing or disposing of the commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

The final date to apply for a loan on a 2010 crop is March 31, 2011.

2010 County Loan Rates

Crop	Powell	Deer Lodge	Granite
Barley	\$1.95/bu.	\$1.95/bu.	\$2.00/bu.
Hard Red Spring Wheat	\$3.97/bu.	\$3.97/bu.	\$3.97/bu.
Hard Red Winter Wheat	\$2.75/bu.	\$2.79/bu.	\$2.79/bu.
Oats	\$1.32/bu.	\$1.32/bu.	\$1.32/bu.

Access Montana Farm Service Agency Online!

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 - just click on the 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.

"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."

ARE YOU PROTECTED FROM A 2011 DISASTER?

Crop Insurance & NAP Coverage

Required for 2011 Disaster Eligibility

For the 2011 crop year, it is **imperative** to purchase a catastrophic (CAT) level of crop insurance for ALL insurable crops and Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for ALL non-insurable crops. This is for production coverage and for eligibility for the disaster assistance programs authorized under the current farm bill.

For producers to be eligible for assistance under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) for crop losses, Tree Assistance Program (TAP) or the Emergency Assistance for Livestock and Honey Bees (ELAP), producers must obtain a plan of insurance for EACH insurable commodity on the farm and, NAP coverage for EACH non-insurable commodity. Coverage must be provided on all crops on all farms.

The deadline to purchase crop insurance coverage for fall seeded crops (winter wheat) or forage crops (alfalfa or grass-alfalfa mixed hay) is September 30, 2010.

The deadline to purchase NAP coverage for all non-insurable crops except value-loss and honey is March 15, 2011. Honey is December 1, 2011 and value loss crops is September 1, 2010.

Please contact your insurance agent and the FSA office to ensure you apply for 2011 crop insurance and NAP coverage by the application deadline dates.



Disaster Programs

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

Compensates producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality that occurred on or after January 1, 2008 and before October 1, 2011 due to adverse weather. (such as blizzards, disease, extreme cold, extreme heat, floods, lightening, wildfires). **Notice of Loss – Contact our office within 30 days of loss.**

Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)

Compensates producers who suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought conditions or fire on Federally managed land. **NAP Coverage Required on Grazing Land**

Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Program (SURE)

Provides financial assistance for crop production and or quality losses due to a natural disaster.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees & Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)

Provides emergency relief to producers of eligible livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish because of losses from disease, adverse weather or other conditions. **Contact our office for information about your loss.**

Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

Provides assistance to orchardists and eligible nursery tree growers who produce nursery, ornamental, fruit, nut or Christmas trees for commercial sales that lost trees because of a natural disaster.

Farm Loan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides direct and guaranteed loans to assist farmers and ranchers start, enlarge or continue with their farming operations. FSA has special programs designed to assist beginning farmers and ranchers and socially disadvantaged applicants to secure financing. Please stop into the local county office to learn more about all the programs FSA has to offer.

Farm Loan 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 %

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. More information, including a detailed agenda is available on the Montana NRCS website at:

<http://www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov/news/womenag.html>.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) - Continuous Signup

CRP is a voluntary program that offers annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term resource-conserving covers on eligible land. Land devoted to certain conservation practices may be enrolled in CRP at any time under CRP continuous sign-up. Offers are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements. Offers are not subject to competitive bidding.

Key provision of the continuous signup incentives include:

*An up-front CRP Signing Incentive Payment (SIP) of \$100 per acre. This one time payment will be made after the contract is approved and all payment eligibility criteria are met.

*A Practice Incentive Payment (PIP) equal to 40 percent of the eligible installation costs will be provided to eligible participants enrolling certain practices. This one-time payment will be issued after the practice is installed, eligible costs are verified and other payment eligibility criteria are met.

To be eligible under continuous signup, land must first meet the basic CRP eligibility requirements. Certain marginal pastureland that is suitable for use as a riparian buffer or for similar water quality purposes. In return for establishing long-term resource-conserving covers, FSA provides annual rental payments. In addition FSA will pay up to 50 percent of the participants' cost of establishing approved practices. Contracts are for no less than 10 years and no more than 15 years in duration. For additional information contact your local FSA office or through the Montana FSA Web site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>

Powell-Deer Lodge-Granite
County FSA
1002 Hollenback Rd, Suite B
Deer Lodge, MT 59722

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

Banking Changes?

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. It has been calculated that having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with direct deposit. Another benefit is that Direct Deposit to your account can be made within 48 hours. 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, please contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

Foreign Landowner Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.