



# NEWSLETTER



## Valley County FSA Office

**December 2010**

**County Executive  
Director, Mike Hagfeldt**  
54062 Hwy 2 W, Suite 1  
Glasgow, MT 59230-2846

406-228-4321 phone  
406-228-8101 fax  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/mt](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt)

### Valley County Office Program Technicians:

**Stephanie Meier**  
**Roberta Hopstad**  
**Sheri Daggett**  
**Darlene Otten**  
**Britney Cornwell**  
*Karen Bergtoll, Temporary*

**Sharon Baillargeon, Farm  
Loan Manager**

**Jaylein Nickels, Farm Loan  
Officer**

**Jodie Berg, Farm Loan  
Program Technician**

### Hours

Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

### County Committee Members:

**Mike Wesen, Chair**  
**Richard Fulton, Vice-Chair**  
**Arden Unrau, Member**  
**Theresa Shipp, Advisor**

**Next County Committee  
Meeting:  
January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011 8:00 am**

### 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 your  
local FSA Office

## DCP and ACRE Signup has begun! *Contact Person: Darlene Otten*

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and also the 2011 ACRE Program has begun and will continue through June 1, 2011.

Advance payments of 22 percent on the 2011 DCP & ACRE direct payments program will be available starting Dec. 1, 2010. The remaining 78 percent of your direct payment will be issued after October 1, 2011. 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. 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.

**Please be prepared to furnish FSA with any new leases, ownership changes or any changes in your operation, prior to signing up for DCP/ACRE.**

## 2010 Crops for 2010 SURE Program need to be tested!

*Contact Person: Sheri Daggett*

***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.***

## 2009 SURE Program *Contact Person: Sheri Daggett*

*Sign-up for 2009 SURE is tentatively scheduled to begin January 10, 2011.*

## NAP Deadlines for 2011 Crop Year *Contact Person: Roberta Hopstad*

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. NAP coverage is available on commercial or agricultural commodities for which the catastrophic (CAT) level of Federal Crop Insurance is not available. NAP coverage is also available for lands used for grazing. Application deadlines for 2011 NAP coverage for all crops, including grazing, is **March 15, 2011**.

Producers who choose to obtain NAP coverage for 2011 must file a CCC-471 Application for Coverage and pay the applicable service fee by March 15, 2011. 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. If you apply for NAP in one county and plan to apply in another county, a copy of the NAP application needs to be provided to the respective county office.

Service fees may be waived for limited-resource producers. Please contact your local FSA Office for additional information.

**FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE  
COMMUNITY "A" ELECTION  
RESULTS**

*Results of the Valley County  
FSA Committee election for  
2011:*

*Richard L Fulton, County  
Committee member, 3-yr term  
(95 votes)*

*Tracy J Schuster, County  
Committee 1<sup>st</sup> alternate, 3-yr  
term (17 votes)*

*Larry Pankratz, County  
Committee 2<sup>nd</sup> alternate, 3-yr  
term (1 vote/write-in)*

Farmer/rancher committees are in charge of local administration of national farm programs, under the guidance of the State FSA Committee and applicable Federal laws and Regulations.

At least one County Committee member and one alternate are elected each year. The farmer/ranch receiving the largest number of votes is elected to the County Committee for a three year term. The additional farmer(s)/rancher(s) receiving votes are elected to a three-year term as an alternate(s) to the County Committee.

**Marketing Assistance Loans**

*Contact Person: Sheri Daggett*

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 maturity of the loan. 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.

Violations such as unauthorized disposition or certifying an incorrect quantity of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan, and denial of future farm-stored loans.

**Unauthorized Disposition-** If a producer receives a marketing assistance loan for a particular commodity and 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.**

**Loan and LDP Deadline for  
Wool, Mohair, and Unshorn  
Lamb Pelts**

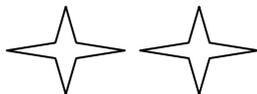
*Contact Person: Sheri Daggett*

Eligible producers have until January 31, 2011, to apply for 2010 Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's) for wool, mohair, and unshorn pelts. January 31<sup>st</sup> is also the deadline for requesting 2010 Marketing Assistance Loans for Wool and Mohair. Unshorn pelts are not eligible for Marketing Assistance Loans.

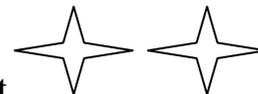
To be eligible for a 2010 mohair or wool Marketing Assistance Loan or LDP, producers must: (a) have beneficial interest in the mohair or wool; (b) produce and shear eligible mohair or wool in 2010; and (c) own the sheep or goats that produced the mohair or wool for a period of not less than 30 days before shearing.

To be eligible for an unshorn pelt LDP, producers must: (a) have beneficial interest in the pelts; (b) own the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and before submitting the LDP request; and (c) sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter or slaughter the unshorn lamb for personal use.

To qualify for payment, the wool, mohair, or pelts must have been produced by an eligible producer from live animals of domestic origin.



**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). 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. *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.*



### **Conservation Loan Program**

*Contact Person: Jodie Berg*

The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with the funds to implement conservation measures on their land. The available limit for a direct CL is \$300,000, and the limit for a guaranteed CL is \$1,119,000. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will work with applicants to develop a conservation plan containing approved conservation practices. Examples of some conservation practices are: water conservation structures, forest cover, permanent pastures, manure digesters and other installations. For more information on a potential Conservation Loan, call your local FSA office to make an appointment.

### **Rural Youth Loans**

*Contact Person: Jodie Berg*

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000. Many farm and even city families have found the Youth Loan program is an excellent means to introduce the next generation to the business of agriculture.

### **Farm Loan Programs**

*Contact Person: Jodie Berg*

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available. If you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan, ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum of \$1,119,000. Direct farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained from FSA for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that the application and loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

### **Farm Loan Year End Reviews**

*Contact Person: Jodie Berg*

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.

### **Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers**

*Contact Person: Jodie Berg*

FSA sets aside targeted funding to assist beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 % of the county's average size.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

### **Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged**

*Contact Person: Jodie Berg*

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for Farm Service Agency loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for socially disadvantaged applicants. A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of a group. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere. Both operating loans and loans for the purchase or improvement of farms or ranches are available under this category.



### **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. Addresses can be updated on the [www.rerecord.mt.gov](http://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.



*HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!!*

Selected Interest Rates - December 2010	
Farm Operating - Direct	1.750%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Conservation Loan	4.125%
Emergency	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility - 7 year	2.000%
Farm Storage Facility - 10 year	2.750%
Farm Storage Facility - 12 year	3.000%
Commodity Loans	1.250%

Dates to Remember	
Dec. 24, 2010	USDA Service Centers closed for Christmas holiday
Dec. 31, 2010	USDA Service Centers closed for New Year's holiday
Jan. 30, 2011	Last Day to file Application for Payment for 2010 LIP & ELAP where timely Notices of Losses were filed
Jan. 31, 2010	2010 Wool, Mohair and Unshom Pelt Marketing Assistance Loan and LDP Deadline
March 15, 2011	NAP sales closing date for all other crops except value-loss and honey.
June 1, 2011	2011 DCP / ACRE Filing Deadline

***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](http://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

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