

Beaverhead County Farm Service Agency News

September 2010

Farm Service Agency
420 Barrett St.
Dillon, MT 59725
(406)683-3830

COUNTY COMMITTEE

Jerry Meine, LAA 2
Donna Hildreth, LAA 3
Todd Tash, LAA 1

Chair
Vice-Chair
Voting Member

OFFICE STAFF

Alan Jenne Farm Loan Manager, Acting CED
Jenny Rose Program Technician

2008 SURE Crop Disaster Program Deadline – September 30, 2010

The deadline for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program (SURE) for the 2008 crop year is Sept. 30, 2010. Sign-up for the crop disaster assistance program began on Jan. 4, 2010. There are no provisions for late-filed applications.

The SURE program is an important component of the disaster portion of the 2008 Farm Bill and will provide financial assistance to producers who have suffered crop losses due to natural disasters during the 2008 crop year. Producers who suffered crop production losses during the 2008 crop year are encouraged to visit their local FSA office about eligibility requirements and submit their applications by Sept. 30.

Marketing 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 uses 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 a 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 Beaverhead County Loan Rates

Barley	\$2.04/bu.
Honey	\$0.69/lb.
Hard Red Spring Wheat	\$3.92/bu.
Hard Red Winter Wheat	\$2.80/bu.
Oats	\$1.32/bu.
Soft White Wheat	\$3.03/bu.

Crop Insurance and 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.

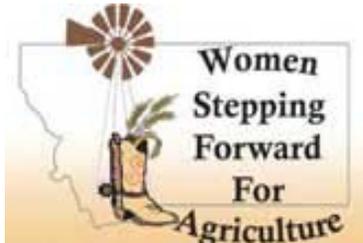
For producers to be **eligible** for assistance under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) for crop losses, Tree Assistance Program (TAP) or the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, and Honey Bees (ELAP), producers must obtain a plan of insurance for each insurable commodity on the farm 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 apply for NAP coverage for all NAP crops except value-loss and honey is March 15, 2011. The sales closing date for honey is December 1, 2011. The closing date for 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 closing dates.

Beaverhead County Ownership Map books have been updated for 2010. They are being offered by the Beaverhead Conservation District for \$30 each.
Stop by the NRCS office or call 683-3802.

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>.

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.

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. 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.

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.



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%

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 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.

USDA Secretarial designation triggers second FSA disaster program

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack has declared Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation and Hill County primary natural disaster areas and three Montana counties - Blaine, Chouteau and Liberty - contiguous counties due to severe storms, with excessive rain, flooding and flash flooding that occurred from May 13 to June 28, 2010.

"The Secretarial Disaster Designation signed on Aug. 11, 2010 can help producers affected by the recent flooding," Montana FSA State Executive Director Bruce Nelson said. "The designation makes it easier for eligible producers to apply for assistance through the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program."

SURE was one of the disaster programs created under the 2008 Farm Bill that provides financial assistance for crop production and or quality losses due to a natural disaster. SURE Program applications for 2010 crop losses will not be accepted until 2011, when the 2010 National Average Market Prices become available.

Presidential designations expand eligibility for FSA disaster program

Bruce Nelson, State Executive Director of USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Montana received the announcement in early August that a recent Presidential Disaster Declaration declaring Hill County and Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation as primary natural disaster areas due to severe storm and flooding was amended to include Chouteau County. As part of that amendment, eight Montana counties - Blaine, Cascade, Fergus, Hill, Judith Basin, Liberty, Pondera and Teton - were declared contiguous counties for storm and flood damage occurring from June 15 to July 30, 2010. In addition, FSA was also notified that two Montana counties - Missoula and Ravalli - were declared contiguous natural disaster areas to Idaho's Presidential Major Disaster Declaration due to losses caused by severe storms and flooding from June 2 to June 10, 2010.

The Presidential declaration triggers eligibility for the Emergency Loan Program for producers who suffered either a 30 percent production loss or sustained substantial physical losses to livestock, buildings or real estate caused by declared natural disaster(s). Producers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for emergency loan assistance. Those interested in applying for FSA disaster programs or learning about other FSA programs are encouraged to visit their local FSA Office or www.fsa.usda.gov/mt.

Beaverhead County FSA
420 Barrett ST
Dillon, MT 59725



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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 deadline to purchase Forage Production Policy (2011 Crop Year)
- Sept. 30** - SURE Application Deadline for 2008 Crop Year
- Oct. 5-6** - Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium in Helena
- October 2010** – 2010 DCP and ACRE direct payments issued.

Next County Committee Meeting
September 9, 2010
10:00 a.m.

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