

Big Horn County FSA
724 West Third Street
Hardin, MT 59034
(406) 665-3442

County Committee Members

Shawn Nedens- Chairman
Shawn Fredericks- Member
Ellis Murdock- Vice-Chairman
Thomas Whiteman- Advisor
Carolyn Holmen- Advisor

FSA Office Personnel

Keshia Lind, CED
Katie Berkram, PT
Diane Schanaman, PT
Marie Weibert, PT
Jill Uffelman, PT
Lorraine Woody, PT
Jessica Hebdon, PT

**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:

406 657-6135

*Mike Turley, FLM
Karen Sims, FLPT*



HEADS UP

- **DCP- All supporting documentation (leases, zero share signatures, etc) is due September 30, 2010 to receive payments starting in October.**
- **LEASES-** If you have any changes with your leases come in immediately to make changes. Failure to do so could **PROHIBIT** payment. **August 1, 2010 is the last day to request a recon.**
- **Map packets for crop reporting have been sent out. Maps need to be filled out and returned by July 15, 2010.**
- **IRS consent forms need to be filled out and sent to the IRS before June 15, 2010.**
- **Eligibility** paperwork (Adjusted Gross Income forms) needs to be updated for 2010 in order to receive payments.
- **NAP- July 15, 2010 is the last day to turn in production for the 2009 crop year**
- **County Committee Meeting- June 30, 2010**

"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."

2009 Acreage Reports

The deadline to file 2010 acreage reports is July 15, 2010. The farm maps will be mailed or made available at the FSA county office for producers. There are new requirements for reporting all cropland and rangeland for various program eligibility. Please follow the instructions closely for completing the maps.

Adjusted Gross Income

The 2008 Farm Bill states that an individual or entity shall not be eligible to receive commodity program benefits as specified in the bill if the average adjusted gross non-farm income (AGI) of the individual or entity exceeds \$500,000. An individual or entity shall not be eligible to receive direct DCP payments if their average adjusted gross farm income exceeds \$750,000. An individual or entity shall not be eligible to receive conservation program benefits if their average adjusted gross non-farm income exceeds \$1,000,000 unless more than 66.6% of their adjusted gross income was derived from farm sources. Revisions to what is considered 'farm' income versus 'nonfarm' income have been made; please contact this office for additional details. Noncompliance with the AGI provisions, either by exceeding the applicable limitations or failure to submit the applicable certification statement, will result in ineligibility for all program benefits subject to the AGI provisions; program benefits shall be reduced in an amount that is commensurate with the direct and indirect interest held by an ineligible individual or entity in any entity, general partnership, or joint operation that receives benefits subject to the AGI limitation.

County Committee Elections

Nominations for candidates to run for the County Committee Election representing producers in a Local Administrative Area (LAA) will be accepted from June 15 through August 3, 2010.

For FSA County Committee election purposes, counties are divided into local administrative areas, or LAA's. Each LAA contributes one producer to serve a three-year term on the FSA county committee. Most counties are divided into three LAA's.

Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. In counties with three LAAs, one seat is up for election.

Producers who are residents in the LAA holding the election; who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates.

A nomination form, FSA-669A, is included in this newsletter. Additional forms and details are available at any local FSA county office or by logging on to the Montana FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.

Eligible voters may nominate as many candidates as they wish.

To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated indicating agreement to serve if elected, and returned to the FSA county office by the close of business on August 3, or postmarked by midnight August 3, 2010.

The Big Horn County Office will be holding an election for LAA 3 for 2011. The location for LAA 3 is everything east of the Big Horn River and Little Big Horn River. If you have question about the County Committee Elections please call the Big Horn County Office. We thank you for all your support.

FSA-669A (03-24-10) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Farm Service Agency

NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

| | | | |
|--|--|---|----------|
| 1. NAME OF NOMINEE (Type or Print Nominee's Full Name) | | TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE | |
| 2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE | | 4. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE RECEIVED | |
| 3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION: <i>I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee. <input type="checkbox"/> I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee. | | 5. COUNTY | |
| | | 6. LAA | 7. STATE |
| 3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE | | 8A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR | |
| 3B. DATE | | 8B. DATE | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate. | | <i>(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required).</i> | |
| 9. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE | | | |
| <p>VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES: The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.</p> | | | |
| ETHNICITY | | RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino | | <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White | |
| | | GENDER | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female | |

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM

Complete the form as follows:

- ITEM 1** Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be:
 - A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election.
 - B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member.
 - C. Willing to serve if elected.
- ITEM 2** Enter the nominee's current address.
- ITEM 3** The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.
- ITEMS 3A & 3B** The nominee must sign and date.
- ITEMS 8A & 8B** The nominator must sign and date. *(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required.)*
- ITEM 9** Completing this item is voluntary.

ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 2, 2010.

NOTE: The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a - as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246). The information will be used to obtain nominees for election to the County FSA Committee. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for County Personnel Records, USDA/FSA-6. Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination of ineligibility for nomination for election to the County FSA Committee.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The provisions of appropriate criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided. **RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE**



Important Dates to Remember

- June 15** – IRS consent form for AGI compliance due
- July 15** – Production reporting deadline for ACRE farms
- July 15** – Acreage Reporting Deadline
- July 15** - Deadline to file 2009 NAP Application for Payment.
- August 2** – Deadline to request farm reconstitution.
- Notice of Loss for LIP** File within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent

USDA Helps Retiring Farmers Transition their Land to Beginning Farmers in New Farm Bill Program

WASHINGTON, D.C. – May 14, 2010 - Agriculture Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan today announced the Transition Incentives Program (TIP) - a new program under the Conservation Title of the 2008 Farm Bill - to encourage retired or retiring owners or operators to transition their land to beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

“Ensuring that our nation’s land is returned to production using sustainable methods is critical not only for our future food supply, but also for the economic future of our rural communities,” said Merrigan. “Access to land is one of the greatest challenges faced by new farmers. The Transition Incentives Program is one more tool in the USDA toolkit to protect family farms and support beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers.”

Producers who want to apply for the TIP can start signing up on Monday, 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 date of the expiration of the CRP contract, provided the transition is not to a family member. To learn more about program, producers interested in applying and participating in TIP should visit their USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

To be eligible, TIP requires that the retired or retiring farmer or rancher:

- Have land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) that is in the last year of the contract
- Agree to allow the beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher make conservation and land improvements.
- Agree to sell, or have a contract to sell, or agree to long-term lease (a minimum of 5 years) the land under CRP contract to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher by Oct. 1 of the year the CRP contract expires.
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Supporting local economies and providing opportunities for beginning or socially disadvantaged Americans with a desire to farm or ranch is one of the many ways USDA are working to rebuild and revitalize rural America