

Liberty County FSA Office
18 Main Street
Chester, MT 59522
Phone 406-759-5128

County Committee Members

James Fritz Chair
John Laird Vice Chair
Craig Henke Reg. Member
Maureen Wicks Advisor

FSA Office Personnel

Yvonne Layton PT
Inez Keith PT
Kathy Nahrgang PT
Bonnie Moore Temp.
Rusty Cowan CED

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:
Ed Daugherty FLM
406-873-3473

Dates to Remember:

NAP Pull off date – (add your date here)

May 15 – Beginning date of Primary Nesting Season

June 1 – DCP/ACRE Signup Deadline

June 15 – COC nominations begin

July 15 – Acreage Report deadline

July 15 – Final NAP production reports due for 2009

July 15 – Final date to file 2009 crop application for NAP payment

July 15 – Deadline to Report Production for ACRE

August 1 – Farm Reconstitution Request Deadline

August 2 – Last Day for FSA to Accept COC Election Nominations



Liberty County FSA
May 25, 2010

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.

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

2009 Acreage Reports

The deadline to file 2010 acreage reports is July 15, 2010. The farm maps have been mailed to all Liberty County producers. There are new requirements for reporting all cropland and rangeland for various program eligibility. Please follow the instructions closely for completing the maps and return to this office by **JUNE 10th**.

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.

DCP and ACRE Sign-up Deadline is June 1

Sign-up for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) will continue until June 1, 2010. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications. FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm and makes direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of marketing prices. For 2010, direct payments may be requested in advance based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each of the farm's commodities. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary with market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

The ACRE program provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national market year average price. Under ACRE, producers will receive a direct payment reduced by 20% of the rate of a DCP participant and ACRE farms are not eligible for counter-cyclical payments. In addition, the loan rate for an ACRE farm is reduced by 30%. If an eligible ACRE commodity meets both the State trigger and Farm trigger, ACRE payments will be calculated using planted acreage of the commodity. 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.

Farm Storage and Facility Loan

Program: FSA's Farm Storage and Facility Loan (FSFL) Program provides low-interest financing for producers of eligible commodities to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000.

Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of seven, ten, or twelve years are available depending on the amount of the loan.

Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department. Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. A partial disbursement of up to 50 percent of the total loan amount will be available, if desired, after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final disbursement will be made when all construction is completed.

An FSFL generally must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin. The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans: corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, oats, wheat, barley, or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain; corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats, or barley harvested as other than whole grain; hay; renewable biomass; fruits (including nuts) and vegetables—cold storage facilities. Contact your local FSA office for more information.

County Committee Elections

It is once again time to be considering nominations for the County Committee Election this fall. The LAA that will be electing this year is the North Chester Community that is currently represented by Jim Fritz. If you or someone in that area is interested in being placed on the slate of nominees please contact this office for a nomination form before the August 2, 2010 deadline.

Conservation Compliance

Federal regulations discourage the production of crops on highly erodible cropland unless the land is protected from erosion by an approved conservation system. Status reviews are conducted to ensure producers follow a conservation plan on highly erodible land.

In addition to the highly erodible land, a person may not plant an agricultural commodity on wetlands converted after Dec. 23, 1985, or convert a wetland to make agricultural production possible after Nov. 28, 1990.

Failure to comply with these provisions will cause a person to be ineligible for USDA benefits. County Committees may review noncompliance situations for good faith and provide relief in approved cases.

Liberty County Commodity Loan Rates for 2010 Crop Year

Barley	\$1.85 Bu.
Canola	\$9.07 Bu.
Corn	\$2.18 Bu.
Flax Seed	\$10.13 Cwt.
Lentils	\$10.41 Cwt
Mustard	\$10.62 Cwt.
Oats	\$1.32 Bu.
Dry Peas	\$5.20 Cwt.
Rapeseed	\$10.61 Bu.
Safflower	\$8.78 Bu.
Soybeans	\$4.62 Bu.
Sunflower	\$9.07 Bu.
Wheat-Durum	\$6.17 Bu.
Wheat-Spring	\$3.82 Bu.
Wheat-Winter	\$2.65 Bu.
Wheat-Soft White	\$2.88 Bu.
Large Chick Peas	\$11.28 Cwt
Small Chick Peas	\$7.43 Cwt

Information on programs administered by FSA in MT and individual county office newsletters are available at:
[www.fsa.usda.gov/mt.](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt)

Liberty County FSA
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Chester, Mt. 59522

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DCP/ACRE Signup Deadline

NAP pull-off Date
May 14 – Spring grazing on CRP acres ends
May 15 – Beginning date of Primary Nesting Season
June 1 – DCP/ACRE Signup Deadline
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Election Nominations

Seedlings Still Available for Conservation Planting this Spring!

John Justin, Manager, Montana Conservation Seedling Nursery

Seedlings for conservation plantings are still available from the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation's nursery in Missoula. The nursery still has an excellent selection of many popular species including caragana, golden currant, lilac, woods rose, blue spruce, ponderosa pine, Western larch, aspen, cottonwoods, and willows. Although the nursery delivery truck has already visited most counties, seedling orders can still be shipped directly to a landowners' doorstep via Fed Ex.

The nursery will continue to accept seedlings orders for shipment this spring until at least May 23. The minimum order is 250 seedlings for new plantings. Replacement or fill-in seedlings are available in lots of 50 for deciduous seedlings and 25 for evergreen and containerized stock.

To find out more or place an order, contact the nursery directly at 406-542-4244. Additional information including a complete list of species and prices is also available on the nursery website: www.dnrc.mt.gov/forestry/nursery.