

**USDA Service
Center
Richland County
FSA
2745 West Holly
Sidney, MT 59270**

Telephone 406-433-2103
FSA Fax 406-433-4673
NRCS Fax 406-433-7351



MT FSA Web site:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>
Download forms & information
at your convenience!!

Office Hours:

M-F, 8 AM to 5 PM

County Committee Members

Orion Sundheim –Chairman
Robert Albin – Vice Chairman
Connie Iversen – Member

FSA Office Personnel

Russell Snedigar, CED
Patti Boyer, PT
Tammy Lake, PT
Kathy Obergfell, PT
Marilyn Pust, PT
Jamie Zumbuhl, PT
Pat Turner, Loan Manager
Bruce Johnson, Loan Officer
Patti McGinnis, Technician
Mary Fabian, Financial Analyst

NRCS Office Personnel

Jamie Selting, District Con.
Dave Haverkamp, Soil Con.
Joe Lyseng, Soil Con.
Heather Luinstra, Soil Tech

Conservation District

Julie Goss, Administrator

Eastern Plains RC&D

Bob Nansel- Coordinator
Jason Rittal- EDD Director



**Richland County
June 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

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2010 Acreage Reports

The deadline to file 2010 acreage reports is July 15, 2010. The farm maps have been mailed out to producers. There are 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.

COC Nominations Open June 15

Nominations for candidates to run for the County Committee Election representing producers in a Local Administrative Area (LAA # 2) will be accepted from June 15 through August 2, 2010.

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.

2010 Acreage Reports

The deadline to file 2010 acreage reports is July 15, 2010. The farm maps have all been mailed. Follow the instructions closely for completing the maps and watch for your appointment card in the mail.

LOAN and LDP Violations BEFORE YOU HAUL!

Producer's with 2009 Wheat Loans – PLEASE READ!

Loans can be repaid at Principal Plus Interest OR PCP (Posted County Price). If the PCP is less than the loan rate, you will have all interest waived, plus part of the principal.

Currently, the PCP for Durum is at \$3.08, which is 10 cents below the ACRE durum loan rate and \$1.47 below the regular loan rate.

PCP is subject to change daily. Rates can be viewed online at: www.fsa.usda.gov/mt

Contact the FSA office for questions and important information about locking in the PCP for up to 60 days.

Loan & LDP Final Availability Dates

Loans and LDP's are available to eligible producers who have:

- ❖ Reported acreage of the crop for which a loan or LDP is requested.
- ❖ Complied with all other program provisions

Request for loans and LDP's shall be made on or before the final availability date. Following are the final availability dates for crops harvested in 2009 for eligible grains, oilseeds, pulse crops, wool & mohair and honey:

Commodity	Availability Date
Corn, Grain Sorghum, Mustard, Safflower, Soybeans, Sunflower, Pulse Crops	May 31, 2010
Wool/Mohair clipped in calendar year 2010	January 31, 2011

Crop Certification Time

Deadline is Thursday, July 15, 2010

Do not hesitate to call the County Office to report disaster affected crops.

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

Farewell from Patti Boyer.

Hello producers in Richland County. Well, I am headed for the world's longest coffee break, RETIREMENT! I will be retiring on June 30, 2010, so stop if you have time and visit before my last day.

Thank you all for being patient, enduring and neighborly throughout your many visits and telephone calls to the office. There are no better people to work for than the farmers and ranchers of Richland County! My time spent with producers and staff has created many great memories.

Wishing you all a prosperous and happy summer. Until we meet again!

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance.

Landowners and operators, and their affiliates with farming interest, are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Contact should be made with the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to ensure compliance.

Producers shall complete an AD-1026 with FSA for referral to NRCS for a Highly Erodible Land (HEL) determination if a (HEL) determination has not been made.

Please notify the FSA before you complete the following to avoid violations.

Sod Busting: Land that is broken out of native vegetation and has no cropping history.

If NRCS determines that the producer was not using an approved conservation system, then the producer is out of compliance and is not eligible for the current year USDA benefits.

Richland County FSA
2645 West Holly ST
Sidney, MT 59270

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Important Dates to Remember

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
July 15 – Acreage Reporting Deadline
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

Filing a Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Notice-of-Loss

To qualify for assistance under NAP, production losses or prevented planting must have occurred as a result of an eligible cause of loss. An eligible cause of loss is any of the following:

- damaging weather, such as drought, freeze, hail, excessive moisture, or excessive wind; or
- adverse natural occurrences, such as earthquake or flood; or
- a condition related to damaging weather or an adverse natural occurrence, such as excessive heat, disease or insect infestation.

Wildlife damage and weeds are **not** considered eligible causes of loss under NAP.

A notice of loss must be provided within 15 calendar days after the:

- disaster occurrence or date damage to the specific crop acreage is apparent to the producer for yield losses;
- final planting date for prevented planting.

If a Notice-of-Loss is filed prior to the final planting date established for the specific crop, the producer is expected to replant the crop. If the Notice-of-Loss is filed after the established final planting date and the intent is to reseed to another crop intended for harvest, such as barley for grain, which is covered under crop insurance, a NAP payment cannot be received on the original failed crop.

Montana is not a double cropping state. If the intent is to destroy the crop, summer fallow it, or reseed to another crop **not** intended for harvest, representative strips must be left in the field so that a loss adjuster can be sent out closer to normal harvest time to appraise the original seeded crop. In this situation, the original seeded crop would still be eligible for a payment.

