



NEWSLETTER



FSA's Prevented Planting final report date extended to July 15th

Due to flood and excessive moisture conditions throughout Montana, a request was submitted to the National Farm Service Agency (FSA) Office to extend the deadline for timely reporting prevented planting to coincide with the final crop reporting deadline of July 15th for the 2011 crop year. The request was approved on June 1st. Prevented Planted acreage claims filed by July 15, 2011 will be considered as timely filed. It is important that the FSA-576 be timely filed and approved for a possible 2011 crop disaster program (SURE) or for acreage history credit. Approved preventive planted acreage may also be eligible for ACRE payments. If a request for prevented planting is filed after July 15, 2011, it is considered late filed and will require a minimum of \$46 to have an on-site inspection completed to determine that the natural disaster condition was evident. If the disaster condition that prevented the crop from being planted is no longer apparent, then the FSA-576 will be denied and no benefits will be applicable. If you have insured crops that were prevented planted then you may be required to provide proof that you filed for prevented planting credit with crop insurance. The COC may also request that you provide receipts or invoices showing you had inputs (seed, chemical, fertilizer, etc.) available to plant the acres claimed as prevented to establish your intent of planting.

2011 Acreage Reports due by July 15

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Acreage reports must be filed for all cropland on the farm before any 2011 DCP or ACRE payments can be made or before eligibility can be established for marketing assistance loans and LDPs. Participants in CRP and NAP must report the specific acreage for which benefits are being requested. Additionally, to be eligible for benefits under the SURE program, all crops in all counties must be reported, including non-cropland that will be hayed and/or grazed. The deadline for submitting a timely filed acreage report is July 15, 2011. Producers are reminded that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

FSA Disaster Assistance programs available

FSA would like to remind crop and livestock producers throughout states that have recently experienced severe damage from flooding, wildfires and tornadoes that FSA programs are available to assist with recovery. FSA administers several important programs that help producers recover from disaster damage and livestock deaths. Among the key programs available to address impacts from disasters are the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP), the Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program and the Emergency Loan (EM) Program. Fact sheets for all of these programs can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov; click on Newsroom, then Fact Sheets, or on the state website at www.fsa.usda.gov/mt, under Programs. We encourage all who have suffered a disaster due to the recent severe weather conditions to read the fact sheets and visit the local FSA county office so they get a quick start in the recovery process.

Montana FSA Newsletter Notice

Non-active agriculture producers must "opt-in" to receive future newsletters

Effective March 1, 2011, the Montana Farm Service Agency has issued a new newsletter policy geared toward improving FSA newsletter delivery and efficiency to the individual farmers, ranchers and agriculture community. FSA newsletters will continue to be sent to active agriculture producers as determined by the county FSA offices. No action is needed for active producers unless your household or business is receiving duplicate newsletters in which case you should inform your local county FSA office. If you are not an "active" producer but are a landowner or are interested in receiving or continuing to receive a FSA newsletter, you must inform your local county office that you'd like to "Opt-in" and be added to the newsletter mailing list. In addition, you can choose to receive your newsletter electronically. Each newsletter not mailed saves the agency and taxpayer \$0.39. To request the electronic newsletter be emailed to you, please contact your county FSA office.

JUNE 2011

Carter County FSA Office
308 S Mormon St / PO Box 5
Ekalaka, MT 59324-0005

406-775-6355 phone
406-775-6671 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/mt

Hours: Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee Members:
Troy Harrington, Chairman
Gail Brence, Vice-Chairman
Lucas Waterland, Member

Next County Committee Meeting:
2nd Tues in January

County Office Staff:
Ronelia Parry, CED
Robin Markuson, FLO
Jo Kittelmann, Program Tech
Karen Kreitel, Program Tech
Jitt Schneider, Program Tech

Agricultural Lending Opportunities
For questions re: obtaining credit to start or enlarge a farm or ranch operation, financing agricultural operating expenses; livestock, or machinery purchases, please call:

Farm Loan Program Technician:
Karen Kreitel 775-6355 x 107
Farm Loan Officer:
Robin Markuson 775-6355 x 110
Or Farm Loan Manager:
Jeff Janshen 232-7905 x 123

Reasonable Accommodations:
Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in any FSA programs should contact the County Executive Director at the FSA Office or the **Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.**

Thousands of Montana FSA participants urged to submit consent forms to IRS to avoid repayment of full FSA benefits from 2009 to present

Roughly 5,000 Montana agricultural producers and members of entities who participated in Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs in 2009 and 2010 have not submitted consent forms to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and must submit form(s) or they will not receive future USDA program benefits and can be required to repay program benefits since 2009 in full, Montana FSA Acting State Executive Director Richard "Dick" Deschamps said in a statewide news release on June 2.

Producers who participated in 2009, 2010, and/or 2011 FSA programs subject to adjusted gross income limitations (AGI) had to certify compliance with AGI rules on form CCC-926. The consent form authorizes IRS to verify for FSA whether a payment recipient's AGI meets the eligibility requirements for FSA programs. The form became a requirement for payment eligibility beginning with the 2009 crop year, however many program participants have not complied with this requirement. On Oct. 6, 2010, a letter was mailed to participants filing CCC-926 who have not submitted for 2009 and 2010: CCC-927. The deadline to submit the forms to IRS for 2011 was June 1st, 2011. Individuals must submit form CCC-927 and legal entities must submit form CCC-928.

"For 2009, 2010 and 2011, the deadline has passed, but individuals and legal entities, including members of entities, regardless of whether they received program benefits directly or indirectly, who have not submitted the form to IRS for any of these years, need to do so immediately in order to avoid a demand for refund of program payments and benefits received," Deschamps. "Even if these producers do not normally file federal income taxes, they must still submit the appropriate CCC-927 or CCC-928. If you're unsure if you have submitted the appropriate form, you can contact your local county FSA office to see if you're on the list. Forms are available on the state FSA website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/mt".

FSA is aware that in some instances such as Native American participants with little federally reportable income, or individuals and entities that are members of participating entities and have little or no IRS-reportable income on their own, who may not file federal taxes and may have had their CCC-927 or CCC-928 rejected by the IRS as a result. If individuals filed CCC-927 or CCC-928 and it was rejected because of lack of income data, please contact your FSA county office and provide them with a copy of the rejected form and IRS letter. For more info, contact your FSA county office.

2011 Emergency Conservation Program

Flooding and excessive moisture has caused severe damage in areas of the County. Farms and Ranches suffering severe damage may be eligible for assistance under the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) administered by the Carter County Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Office if the damage: will be so costly to rehabilitate that Federal assistance is or will be needed to return the land to productive agricultural use, is unusual and is not the type that would recur frequently in the same area, affect the productive capacity of the farmland, will impair or endanger the land. A producer qualifying for ECP assistance may receive cost-share levels not to exceed 75 percent of the eligible cost of restoration measures. No producer is eligible for more than \$200,000 cost sharing per natural disaster occurrence. The following types of measures may be eligible:

- removing debris from farmland
- grading, shaping, or releveling severely damaged farmland
- restoring permanent fences
- restoring conservation structures and other similar installations.

Producers who have suffered a loss from a natural disaster may contact the local FSA County Office and request assistance from May 9 to July 9, 2011 .

To be eligible for assistance, practices must not be started until you contact the Carter County FSA Office.

Farm Divisions/Combinations Must Be Requested By August 1

If you have sold, purchased or leased a farm or part of a farm, please notify this office immediately. If you need to request a farm division or a farm combination for 2011, the deadline to submit the request is Aug. 1, 2011 for those farms participating in DCP/ACRE. If requests are not filed timely, it may be difficult to complete 2011 contracts with all required signatures for the farm. Requests received after Aug. 1, 2011, will be processed for 2012.

Soil or Gravel Removal and Other Land Changes - Caution

If you wish to plant an agricultural commodity on any land where any soil or gravel has been removed, please work with the local NRCS and FSA offices in advance to avoid the possibility of any non-compliance and loss of benefits. To be eligible for USDA benefits, all producers planting agricultural commodities on predominantly highly erodible fields are required to do so according to the provisions of an acceptable conservation system/plan to ensure adequate residue exists. The NRCS can assist you in developing an approved conservation system/plan, if applicable, for the farm.

2011 Managed Haying and Grazing of CRP

CRP participants with approved conservation plans (CPO) that include managed haying and managed grazing of CRP may begin haying and/or grazing on July 16, 2011, provided they have completed all of the necessary paperwork at the County FSA Office and have received **written approval** from the FSA County Committee or its designee before starting haying or grazing. Failure to get written approval before starting managed haying and managed grazing of CRP could result in termination of the acres that are hayed or grazed. CRP participants who do not already have the managed haying and managed grazing provisions in their CPOs should contact the county office to get an updated CPO to include the managed haying and managed grazing provisions. The Montana managed haying provisions allow managed haying 1 in 5 years and 50% of the acres must be set aside for wildlife. Producers may hay the 50% set aside in the following year. Grazing is allowed 1 in 3 years and 100% of the acres can be grazed. Producers cannot hay and graze the same acres. Producers will be assessed a 25% payment reduction for managed haying and grazing of CRP. The 2011 Summer-Fall Managed Grazing Period is July 16th through September 13th. The 2011 Managed Haying Period is July 16th through September 30th.

Nomination Form for County FSA Committee Election: Below is a nomination form for the 2011 County Committee Election that will be held in early November to Dec. 5, 2011 Persons nominated should actively participate in the operation of a farm or ranch and be well qualified for committee work. This year, a producer is eligible to be a County FSA committee member if the producer resides in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) # 1. Duties of county committee members include administering farm program activities conducted by the County FSA Office, informing farmers of the purpose and provisions of the FSA programs, keeping the State FSA Committee informed of LAA conditions, monitoring changes in farm programs, participating in county meetings as necessary and performing other duties as assigned by the State FSA Committee. Completed and signed form(s) must be delivered to the FSA County Office or postmarked no later than **Aug. 1**. Questions: call or visit the county office.

FSA-669A
(03-31-11)

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	
		4. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE RECEIVED	
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE		5. COUNTY	
		6. LAA	7. STATE
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>		8. NOMINATOR'S CERTIFICATION: <i>If this nomination is by other than self, the following eligible voter or representative of a community based organization hereby nominates the afore-named person to be a candidate in the next County FSA Committee election for the county.</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.			
3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE	3B. DATE	8A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR	8B. DATE
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.		(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required).	

9. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE

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.

ETHNICITY	RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)	GENDER
<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	<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 1, 2011.

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.**

VISIT FSA ONLINE: Information on FSA programs, the 2011 Montana FSA Farmer & Rancher Program Handbook, forms, state news releases, upcoming deadlines and state e-newsletters and county newsletters & more are available at: www.fsa.usda.gov/mt

Selected Interest Rates - June 2011

Farm Operating - Direct	2.75%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency - Actual Loss	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility - 7-year	2.625%
Farm Storage Facility - 10-year	3.250%
Farm Storage Facility - 12-year	3.50%

FSA: Upcoming Important Dates to Remember:

- June 1:** 2011 DCP & 2011 ACRE Programs Filing Deadline
- June 15:** 2011 County Committee Elections Nomination Period Begins
- July 15:** Acreage Reporting Deadline
- July 15:** Final NAP Production Reports Due for 2010
- July 15:** Final date to file 2010 crop application for NAP Payment
- July 16:** CRP Managed Haying and Grazing begins
- July 4:** USDA Service Centers Closed for Independence Day holiday
- July 29:** SURE Sign-up Deadline for 2009 Crop Year
- Aug. 1:** Deadline for County Committee Election Nomination Form to be postmarked or received by FSA Office.
- Sept. 1:** 2010 ACRE Production Reporting Deadline
- Sept. 13:** CRP Managed Grazing Period Ends
- Sept. 30:** CRP Managed Haying Period Ends
- Nov. 4:** County Committee Election Ballots to be mailed to eligible voters
- Dec. 5:** Last day to return voted ballots to the local FSA office.
- Jan. 2:** Elected County Committee members and alternates take office.
- Continues:** Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

Submission of Applications via E-Government:

USDA provides customers with the option to electronically access, fill out, and print paper forms and transmit those forms and other documents to their local Service Center, as required by the Freedom to E-File Act. Customers may also obtain secure payment summary information. A secure website is offered. Logon to: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> to register for a Customer ID and password.

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement/Complaint Process:

"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 Adjudication and Compliance, 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."