



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 and approved by the National Farm Service Agency (FSA) Office to extend the deadline for timely reporting prevented planting to coincide with the FSA crop reporting deadline of 7/15/11. Prevented Planted claims filed by 7/15/11 will be considered as timely filed. It is important that the CCC-576 be timely filed and approved for a possible 2011 crop disaster program (SURE), for acreage history credit, or for ACRE payments. If a request for prevented planting is filed after 7/15/11, it is considered late filed, and it will cost a minimum of \$46 to have an on-site inspection completed. If the spot check cannot determine the disaster condition that prevented the crop from being planted, the CCC-576 will be denied. Please provide proof that you filed for prevented planting credit with crop insurance, as well as receipts or invoices showing you had inputs (seed, chemical, fertilizer, etc.) available to plant the acres claimed as prevented to establish your intent to plant.

2011 Acreage Reports due by July 15

The deadline for submitting a timely filed acreage report is July 15, 2011. Certification of all cropland on the farm is mandatory for DCP or ACRE, CRP, Loans or LDP's (including wool, mohair, and honey), and NAP. You must certify pasture and rangeland acres if you may request Livestock Forage Program (LFP) benefits. To be eligible for SURE disaster program benefits, you must certify all cropland, plus all non-cropland that will be hayed or grazed. Failure to report acreage accurately may result in loss of program and price support benefits. It is very important to put down the normal intended use of the acres, considering normal weather. If you graze a field or some native grass acres in a normal precipitation year, but this year you are going to hay because it was wet, you need to put "graze" not "forage" as the intended use. This has a big impact on your eligibility for disaster programs!

SURE Sign-Up Deadline for 2009 Crop Year is July 29

Signup will end on **July 29, 2011** for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) for the 2009 crop year. To be eligible for SURE, a producer must have at least a 10% production loss on a crop of economic significance, and a policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for all economically significant crops. Producers considered socially disadvantaged, beginning farmer or rancher, or limited resource may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage. Producers that have a farming interest physically located in a county that received a Secretarial Disaster Designation or are in a county contiguous to one that received a disaster designation, and who meet the above criteria are eligible for SURE. In the absence of the Secretarial Disaster Designation, producers may be eligible if they suffer at least a 50% production loss on the entire SURE farm due to a natural disaster. For more info, contact the county office.

Timely File NAP Notice of Loss

To qualify for assistance under NAP (Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program), production losses or prevented planting must have occurred as a result of an eligible cause of loss, such as damaging weather (drought, freeze, hail, excess moisture, or excess wind); adverse natural occurrences (earthquake or flood); or a condition related to damaging weather or an adverse natural occurrence (excess 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; or final planting date for prevented planting. Do not wait until harvest to file a notice of loss! File the notice as soon as it appears that the crop is not developing normally, and you suspect the yield will be reduced! A late filed notice of loss may lead to ineligibility for a NAP payment.

If you will change the intended use of the crop (haying instead of harvesting as grain; or grazing instead of haying or harvesting, for example), abandon the crop (summer or chem fallowing instead of taking a crop to harvest), or reseed to another crop **not** intended for harvest, you must first let FSA know so we can request a crop appraisal, and leave representative strips in the field so that a loss adjuster can be sent out closer to normal harvest time to appraise the original seeded crop. Failure to promptly notify FSA of a NAP crop loss or change in intended use can cause ineligibility for NAP benefits.

June 2011

Sheridan Co. FSA
119 N. Jackson
Plentywood, MT 59254

Office:

(406) 765-1550 ext. 2

Fax: 406-765-1551

www.fsa.usda.gov/mt

Hours: 8:30 to 4:30 p.m.
 Monday to Friday

FSA Office Personnel:

Donna Hilyard, ext. 102
 Donelda Buckalew, ext. 105
 Dale Friedrich, ext. 111
 Kathy Gray, ext. 100
 Marcia Rice, ext. 112
 Mike Sandoval, ext. 110

County Committee Members

Gordon French, Chair
 Jody Lagerquist, Vice
 Kevin Wilson, Member
 Ellen Sedgwick, Advisor

Agricultural Lending Opportunities:

For questions about obtaining credit to start or enlarge a farming or ranching operation; financing ag operating expenses; or livestock and machinery purchases, call (406)433-2103, ext 2:
 Patti McGinnis, FLPT
 Mary Fabian, FLPT

Accommodations:

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



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

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. A consent form must be submitted to IRS which authorizes them to verify for FSA whether a payment recipient's AGI meets the eligibility requirements for FSA programs. The forms must be submitted, or the program participant will not receive future USDA program benefits and can be required to repay program benefits since 2009. On Oct. 6, 2010, a letter was mailed to participants who have not submitted the CCC-927 or CCC-928 consent forms for 2009 and 2010 to IRS. The deadline to submit the forms to IRS for 2011 was June 1st, 2011.

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. 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, or at the FSA Office.

FSA is aware that in some participants, 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 who may have had their CCC-927 or CCC-928 rejected by the IRS as a result. If you 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 information, contact the FSA office.

2011 COC Election Nominations

The election of agricultural producers to FSA county committee starts with the nomination of eligible candidates. To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form is available at FSA County Offices and online on the state FSA website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/mt. Nomination forms for the 2011 election must be postmarked or received by close of business on Aug. 1, 2011. Ag producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. Nomination forms are filed for the county committee of the office that administers a producer's farm records.

2010 ACRE Production Certification Deadline

The deadline for 2010 production certification to comply with the ACRE provisions has been extended to Sept. 1, 2011. The extension is for completing both the farm benchmark yield (2005 through 2009) and the actual farm yield (2010). ACRE participants are responsible for certifying production on a tract basis. Forms have been mailed out to ACRE producers for the production reports. For more details, contact the 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

Please make an appointment to sign up for CRP managed Haying or Grazing. The livestock producer must have the CRP participant's written permission to access the CRP file, or both parties must come to the office at the same time. CRP participants may begin haying and/or grazing on July 16, 2011, provided they 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. 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) #2 (Townships 31 - 37 and Ranges 51 - 55, generally south and west of Highways 5 W and 16 S). 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**. If you have questions, please call or visit the FSA 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 15:** 2011 County Committee Elections Nomination Period Begins
- July 15: Deadline** for 2011 Acreage Reporting
- July 15: Deadline** to file FSA 2011 prevented planting request
- July 15: Deadline** for final 2010 NAP Production Reports
- July 15: Final** date to file 2010 NAP application for Payment
- July 16:** CRP Managed Haying and Grazing begins after you receive written approval
- July 4:** USDA Service Centers Closed for Independence Day holiday
- July 29: Deadline** for SURE Sign-up 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.
- Continuous:** Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

Program information is available in the Sheridan County News almost every week, and daily on local radio KATQ at about 8:20 a.m. Stay informed about programs that can benefit your farming and ranching operation!!

Timely report any farm owner or operator changes, share changes, entity changes, owned and/or leased land changes, and changed bank accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments etc. Farm payments are dependent on correct farm records and direct deposit records!

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."