



NEWSLETTER



MAY/JUNE 2011

Yellowstone County FSA Office

**1629 Ave. D, Bldg. A2
Billings MT 59102**

Phone: (406) 657-6135
FAX: (406) 657-6277
www.fsa.usda.gov/mt

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

County Committee Members:

**Forrest Ewen-Chair
Bart Erickson-Vice
Steve Becker-Reg.
Juanita Stovall-Min.
Channis Whiteman-Min**

County Office Staff:

**Lisa Pederson, PT
Jackie Gaglia, PT
Nina Gonzalez, PT
Kevin Johnson, 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:

**Chrissy Frank, FLPT
Ext. 100**

**Bruce Johnson, FLO
Ext. 109**

**Mike Turley, FLM
Ext. 116**

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.

2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) Signup Ends July 29, 2011

The 2008 Farm Bill created several new disaster programs. One of the programs, the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE), provides financial assistance for crop production and/or quality losses due to a natural disaster. SURE is a total farm revenue disaster program as opposed to the crop disaster programs of previous years, which were primarily production oriented programs. Therefore, all crops that a producer has an interest in are not only evaluated as to the production loss and quality, but revenue as well.

To be eligible for SURE in 2009, producers had to have obtained crop insurance of at least catastrophic (CAT) level for all insurable crops and cropping scenarios and/or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for non-insurable crops. (Forage crops for grazing and crops not expected to contribute 5% of the total expected value of all crops grown by the producer, did not have to be insured.) Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage.

A 2009 Secretarial Disaster designation in Yellowstone County triggered the program in the County for 2009. Therefore, in 2009, producers with at least one crop of economic significance with a 10 percent crop production loss could qualify for benefits.

SURE will issue payments to an eligible producer in the amount equal to 60% of the difference between the program guarantee and the total farm revenue. SURE will pay up to 90% of the crop's normal production on the farm. If you meet the guidelines of the program in 2009, i.e. a 10% production loss (associated with adverse weather) on one crop of economic significance and crop insurance (CAT/NAP) purchased on all 2009 crops (other than the exceptions previously explained), contact Jackie Gaglia @ 657-6135 ext. 106 as soon as possible. Signup for 2009 crops ends July 29, 2011.

2011 Prevented Planting Final Report Date

If you intended to plant crops this spring and were prevented from planting due to a natural disaster, i.e. excess moisture, you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, within 15 calendar days of May 20, 2011 with this office. In addition, if you were prevented from planting insurable crops then please check with your crop insurance agent. If a request for prevented planting is not filed within 15 calendar days of May 20, 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 and benefits may be denied. 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. It is important the CCC-576 be timely filed for a possible 2011 crop disaster program (SURE) and/or acreage history credit. Approved preventive planted acreage may also be eligible for ACRE payments.

Yellowstone COC Election

Nominations for the Yellowstone County Committee (COC) position are being accepted for candidates residing along the Yellowstone River Valley. Forrest Ewen currently serves this area and is unable to run due to term limits. A nomination form is included in this newsletter. Forms are also available at the office or at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>. The final day to receive nominating petitions is August 1, 2011.

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	
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>		5. COUNTY YELLOWSTONE	
<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.		6. LAA 2 (RIVER VALLEY)	7. STATE MONTANA
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>		8A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR	
3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE	3B. DATE	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"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
	<input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	

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.**

FSA-669A
(03-31-11)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency

NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

This form allows individuals to nominate themselves or any other person as a candidate. If additional forms are needed, this one may be copied or may be obtained at the County FSA Office or obtained electronically at <http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov>. Each form submitted must be:

- A. Limited to one nominee.
- B. Signed and dated by the nominee in Item 3. Nominee must sign if willing to have his/her name placed on the ballot and agrees to serve if elected.

Note: Name shown on ballot will appear exactly the same as in Agency records.
- C. Delivered to the County FSA Office or postmarked no later than August 1, 2011.
- D. Signed and dated as a write-in candidate if elected as a member and willing to serve on the COC.

The County FSA Committee is responsible for reviewing each form to determine the eligibility of nominees. A person who is nominated on this form and is found ineligible will be so notified and have an opportunity to file a challenge.

Persons nominated should actively participate in the operation of a farm or ranch and be well qualified for committee work. A producer is eligible to be a County FSA committee member if the producer resides in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) in which the election is to be held and is eligible to vote.

This is a non-salary public service position. A small stipend is provided to offset expenses.

Federal regulations may prohibit County FSA Committee members from holding certain positions in some farm, commodity, and political organizations if such positions pose a conflict of interest with FSA duties. The positions include functional offices such as president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer; and positions on boards or executive committees. Conflict of interest restrictions also apply to employees, operators, managers, and majority owners of tobacco warehouses. Questions concerning eligibility should be directed to the County FSA Office.

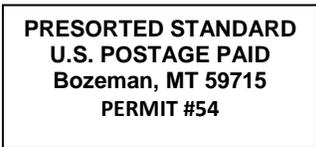
A candidate has the option to request that all voted ballots for an individual county committee election be returned to the respective State Office in lieu of being returned to the county office. This request must be in writing and submitted to the local County Executive Director prior to the announced end of the nomination period.

The duties of County FSA Committee members include:

- A. Administering farm program activities conducted by the County FSA Office.
- B. Informing farmers of the purpose and provisions of the FSA programs.
- C. Keeping the State FSA Committee informed of LAA conditions.
- D. Monitoring changes in farm programs.
- E. Participating in county meetings as necessary.
- F. Performing other duties as assigned by the State FSA Committee

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs 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, political beliefs, genetic information, 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, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



2011 Crop Reports

Maps to be used for reporting 2011 crops have been mailed. Please mail or drop off the completed maps to this office as soon as possible and prior to June 15, 2011. We will load the crop information, generate a crop report form, and mail the report(s) to you for your signature. Note, you must sign/date and return the crop report form by July 1, 2011 or incur late filing fees. Late filing fees at the minimum are \$46 per farm.

2011 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE)

The 2011 DCP/ACRE signup has started and continues until June 1, 2011. (Contracts were mailed to operators in December.) These voluntary programs provide for guaranteed or direct payments that are based on 83.3 percent of the farms base acreage (wheat/barley/corn/oats) times the crop payment yield, times the producer share, times the payment rate. In addition, counter-cyclical payments (non-guaranteed, DCP only), based on 85% of the base, are paid when market prices decline. Producers are eligible for DCP/ACRE payments if they are at risk in producing a crop and comply with program provisions. (An owner who cash leases land to another is ineligible to share in direct / counter cyclical or ACRE payments.) **Check with Lisa @ 657-6135 ext. 105 to ensure all signatures are in by the June 1, 2011 deadline.**

Dates to Remember

May 30, 2011	Office closed for Memorial Day 
May 31, 2011	Final day to request loans on 2010 corn
June 1, 2011	Sign-up for DCP / ACRE ends
July 1, 2011	Final day to report crop acreages
July 4, 2011	Office closed for Independence Day 
July 29, 2011	Sign-up for SURE ends (2009 crop losses)
August 1, 2011	Final day to receive nominating petitions for COC election in LAA2