

June 2013



USDA Montana Farm Service Agency (FSA) State and County eNewsletter and Updates

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2013 DCP/ACRE Signup Underway;

ACRE Deadline is JUNE 3rd; DCP is AUG. 2nd

FSA county offices are currently enrolling producers into the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program. DCP and ACRE participants must report all farming operation changes to FSA to ensure contracts are accurate. All participants have the option to make a new farm specific election for the 2013 program year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013 (and vice versa). The deadline to elect and enroll into 2013 ACRE is June 3rd. It's important for all producers to evaluate the DCP and ACRE programs and make their decision before this deadline as there are no late filed provisions for ACRE. The deadline to enroll into 2013 DCP is August 2. Please contact the local FSA county office to schedule an appointment if you are interested.

[Click HERE for the 2013 ACRE Program Fact Sheet](#)

[Click HERE for the 2013 DCP Program Fact Sheet](#)

SURE 2011 CROP DISASTER PROGRAM SIGNUP DEADLINE IS JUNE 7TH

FSA county offices across Montana are accepting applications for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Crop Disaster Program Signup for 2011 crop year. The program signup began on Oct. 22, 2012 and ends on **June 7, 2013**. Producers who believe they may be eligible for a SURE program payment must contact their local county office for an appointment to determine eligibility. SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop year 2011. SURE is available to eligible producers on:

- Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties, that have incurred crop production or quality losses, or both, and includes all crops grown by a producer nationwide, except grazed crops.
- Any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production on the farm because of disaster-related conditions is 50 percent or less than normal production of the farm due to disaster-related conditions.

A map of Montana's 2011 Secretarial Disaster Designations by county and a SURE factsheet are available at www.fsa.usda.gov/mt. For more information on the SURE program, please visit your local FSA county office.

[Click HERE for SURE Program Fact Sheet](#)

[Powder River](#)
[Prairie](#)
[Ravalli](#)
[Richland](#)
[Roosevelt](#)
[Rosebud/Treasure](#)
[Sanders](#)
[Sheridan](#)
[Stillwater](#)
[Sweet Grass](#)
[Teton](#)
[Toole](#)
[Valley](#)
[Wheatland](#)
[Wibaux](#)
[Yellowstone](#)

CRP GENERAL SIGNUP 45 BEGAN MAY 20TH AND ENDS ON JUNE 14TH; CRP CONTINUOUS SIGNUP ANNOUNCED

General Signup for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has been scheduled from May 20 to June 14, 2013. Producers may sign up for 10-15 year contracts to plant cover for wind and water erosion as well as provide wildlife habitat. Montana has more than 300,000 acres of CRP expiring on Sept. 30, 2013. Producers with expiring contracts or producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP. Additional options through Continuous CRP Signup became available on May 13, 2013. Interested producers can contact the county office for more information.

[Click HERE for CRP General Signup 45 Fact Sheet](#)

[Click HERE for CRP GS45 Environmental Benefits Index \(EBI\) Fact Sheet](#)

[Click HERE for CRP Continuous Signup Fact Sheet](#)

2013 FSA CROP/ACREAGE REPORTING DEADLINES

Producers are reminded to file their acreage reports with their local FSA county office by the deadline of:

- **July 15, 2013:** for Spring seeded crops and CRP.

Any crop reported after the applicable deadline for the crop will be considered late-filed:

- **Nov. 15, 2012:** Perennial Forage (alfalfa or grass hay), Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage, Native and Tame Pasture, Apiculture and all Fall-Seeded Small Grains
 - **Jan. 2, 2013 – (or 30 days after placement of colonies):** Honey covered under NAP
 - **Jan. 15, 2013 –** Established Stand Alfalfa Seed, Fall Alfalfa Seed, Cherries
- Producers are encouraged to contact the local FSA county office for an appointment to complete your 2013 acreage report.

2013 Acreage Reports

Acreage reports must be filed for all cropland on the farm before any 2013 Direct and Counter-Cyclical (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) payments can be made or before eligibility can be established for marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's). Participants of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must report the specific acreage for which benefits are being requested. The deadline for submitting a timely filed acreage report for spring seeded crops and CRP is July 15, 2013. 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. Producers who request prevented planting acreage credit must report the acreage and complete a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, within 15 calendar days after the final planting date for the respective crop as established by RMA or FSA. Producers must establish to the satisfaction of the County Committee that all cropland that was feasible to plant and prevented from being planted was affected by a natural disaster rather than a management decision. Additionally, producers are required to prove that preliminary efforts to plant the crop are evident, such as disking the land or orders for purchase or delivery of seed and fertilizer. Producers requesting failed acreage credit must report the acreage before disposition of the crop to receive credit for that crop. The County Committee must be satisfied that the acreage was planted under normal conditions, but failed as a result of a natural disaster and not a management decision.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Production Evidence

If you had 2012 NAP Coverage, you must provide acceptable production evidence by the subsequent year's acreage reporting date to calculate the APH yield for the NAP unit. When you make your appointment to report your 2013 acreages to FSA, take your 2012 NAP production evidence for NAP crops with you to the FSA office. The deadline to submit 2012 production evidence to update the APH yield is July 15, 2013. If you suffered a loss in 2012 and filed a Notice of Loss under NAP, the deadline to file an application for payment for 2012 losses is also July 15, 2013. [Click HERE for the NAP Fact Sheet](#)

Keep Track of Disaster-Related Livestock Deaths

Livestock producers affected by natural disasters, including storms and flooding should keep thorough records of their livestock losses. FSA recommends that producers record all pertinent information of natural disaster consequences, including documentation of the number and kind of livestock that have died, supplemented by photographs of losses; dates of death supported by birth records or purchase receipts; and documentation of livestock kind, type, and weight. Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA offices to obtain more information regarding documenting livestock losses.

Although funding has not been appropriated for the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP); the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP); and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP) program, it is critical that livestock producers document their losses in the event funding becomes available at a later date.

2013 FSA County Committee Elections To Be Held Across Montana

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established, large or small. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers. County committees provide local input on commodity price support loans and payments, conservation programs, incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities, emergency programs and payment eligibility. FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal rules. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions. For election purposes, counties are divided into local administrative areas, or LAAs. Each LAA contributes one producer to serve a three-year term on the FSA county committee.

Election Nominations Open June 17th: Nominees must complete and sign [Nomination Form FSA-669A](#) available at USDA Service Centers and online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>.

Nomination forms for the 2013 election must be postmarked or received in the FSA County Office by close of business on Aug. 1, 2013. Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee.

USDA Disaster Designations Trigger FSA Emergency Loans Program in Montana Counties

Montana counties and Indian reservations that have been designated by USDA as natural disaster areas make all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for low-interest FSA emergency loans provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers and ranchers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability.

Upcoming Emergency Loan Application Deadlines for Montana producers - 2012 Calendar Year

Disasters:

***June 10, 2013** deadline for producers on the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation and in the following counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Fallon, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Garfield, Glacier, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lewis & Clark, Madison, Meagher, Musselshell, Petroleum, Pondera, Powder River, Prairie, Rosebud, Silver Bow, Teton, Toole, Treasure, Wheatland, Wibaux and Yellowstone. Disasters under this Oct. 10, 2012 designation beginning on Jan. 1, 2012 include: combined effects of early spring frosts and freezes, drought, excessive heat, high winds, wildfires, insects, hail, lightning and tornadoes.

***July 1, 2013** deadline for producers in the following counties: Blaine, Chouteau, Custer, Fergus, Garfield, Golden Valley, Judith Basin, McCone, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Prairie, Rosebud, Valley and Wheatland. Disasters under this Nov. 1, 2012 designation beginning Sept. 4, 2012 include: combined effects of excessive heat, high winds, wildfires, and insects associated with the drought.

***July 8, 2013** deadline for producers in Beaverhead & Sheridan counties for the Nov. 7, 2012 designation for disasters from Sept. 11 to Nov. 5, 2012 include: combined effects of excessive heat, high winds, wildfires, and insects associated with the drought.

***July 8, 2013** deadline for producers in Broadwater, Cascade, Custer, Dawson, Fallon, Flathead, Garfield, Jefferson, Lewis & Clark, McCone, Meagher, Petroleum, Phillips, Powell, Prairie, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Teton, Valley and Wibaux counties for the Nov. 7, 2012 designations for disasters from Jan. 1, 2012 include: combined effects of early spring frosts and freezes, drought, excessive heat, high winds, wildfires insects and hail.

***Sept. 9, 2013** deadline for producers in Richland, Roosevelt and Wibaux counties for the **Jan. 9, 2013** designation for disasters beginning Jan. 1, 2012 include combined effects of frost, freezes, flooding, severe thunderstorms, hail, high winds, drought, weather-related insect and disease damage

Upcoming Emergency Loan Application Deadlines for Montana producers - 2013 Calendar Year

Disasters:

***Dec. 10, 2013** deadline for producers in Big Horn, Carbon, Carter, Gallatin, Park and Powder River counties for the **April 10, 2013** designation for disasters beginning April 2, 2013 include: combined effects of excessive heat, high winds, wildfires, and insects associated with the drought.

***January 8, 2014** deadline for producers in Big Horn, Carbon, Carter, Fallon, Golden Valley, Musselshell, Park, Powder River, Rosebud, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Treasure and Yellowstone counties for the **May 8, 2013** designation for disasters beginning May 1, 2013 include: combined effects of excessive heat, high winds, wildfires and insects associated with the drought.

***Jan. 22, 2014** deadline for producers in Beaverhead, Broadwater, Deer Lodge, Gallatin, Granite, Jefferson, Lewis & Clark, Madison, Meagher, Ravalli and Silver Bow counties for the **May 22, 2013** designation for disasters beginning May 14, 2013 include: drought, excessive heat, high winds, wildfires and insects.

***Jan. 29, 2014** deadline for producers in Beaverhead, Broadwater, Deer Lodge, Gallatin, Jefferson, Lewis & Clark, Madison, Powell and Silver Bow counties for the **May 29, 2013** designation for disasters beginning May 25, 2013 include: combined effects of excessive heat, high winds, wildfires and insects associated with the drought.

The Emergency Loan rate is currently at 2.375 percent. The maximum emergency loan amount is \$500,000. Emergency loan funds may be used to: Restore or replace essential property; Pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year; Pay essential family living expenses; or Refinance certain debts, excluding real estate. Producers interested in applying for an emergency loan should contact their local FSA office to set up an appointment with the Farm Loan Program staff serving your area.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL) allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade on-farm storage and handling facilities. The maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with the government providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the eligible net cost of the storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. FSA requires additional security for all loans exceeding \$50,000 or when the aggregate amount of FSFL loans exceeds \$50,000. Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 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 at the time of loan approval. Sign-up for FSFL program is continuous as long as funding is available. An FSFL loan must be approved before authorizing delivery of equipment or materials, site preparation, or construction. For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov/mt. [Click HERE for the FSFL Fact Sheet](#)

Important 2013 Dates:

- **May 31:** Final date to apply for MALs or LDPs on 2012 crop year harvested corn, dry peas, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, rice, safflower seed, chickpeas, soybeans and sunflower seed
- **June 3:** 2013 ACRE Program Signup Deadline
- **June 7:** Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Crop Disaster Program Signup Deadline-2011 Crop Year
- **June 14:** Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General Signup 45 Deadline
- **June 17:** 2013 County Committee Elections Nomination Period Begins
- **July 15:** 2013 Crop Year Acreage Reporting Deadline for Spring Seeded: Grass, Mixed Forage, Alfalfa, Clover, the year of seeding (annual & perennial types), Barley, Canola, Corn, Dry Beans, Dry Peas, Flax, Mustard, Spring Oats, Potatoes, Safflower, Sugar Beets, Sunflowers, Spring Wheat, CRP and all other crops
- **July 15:** 2012 Crop Year NAP Production Reporting Deadline & 2012 Crop Year NAP Application for Payment Deadline
- **July 15:** 2012 Crop Year ACRE Production Report Deadline
- **July 16:** CRP Managed Summer/Fall Grazing/ Haying Period Begins (with County Committee Approval of Request)
- **Aug. 1:** Last day to file County Committee Election Nomination Forms at the local FSA county office
- **Aug. 2:** 2013 DCP Program Signup Deadline
- **Sept. 13:** CRP Managed Summer/Fall Grazing Period Ends
- **Sept. 30:** MILC Contracts Expire & CRP Managed Summer/Fall Haying Ends
- **Nov. 4:** County Committee Election ballots mailed to eligible voters
- **Nov. 12:** All Hay Bales Must be Removed from CRP Acres
- **Nov. 15:** 2014 Crop Year FSA Acreage Reporting Deadline for Fall Seeded: Grass, Mixed Forage, Alfalfa, Clover, the year of seeding (annual and perennial types), Established Grass, Mixed Forage, Alfalfa, Clover in years subsequent to the year of seeding (perennial types), Apiculture, Fall Wheat, and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains
- **Dec. 2:** Last day to return voted ballots to the local FSA County Office