

October 2018



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

NEWSLETTER

GovDelivery

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

- [Message from State Executive Director Mike Foster](#)
- [FSA Maps - 2019 Acreage Reporting/Crop Certification Deadline: Nov. 15, 2018](#)
- [Upcoming FSA Dates and Deadlines](#)
- [Market Facilitation Program Underway for Producers of Corn, Cotton, Dairy, Fresh Sweet Cherries, Hogs, Shelled Almonds, Sorghum, Soybeans and Wheat](#)
- [Nearly \\$2 Billion Available for Eligible Producers Affected by 2017 Hurricanes and Wildfires](#)
- [Application Period Deadlines Established for Producers Recovering from 2017 & 2018 Livestock Loss, Other Disasters](#)
- [2018 Livestock Forage Disaster Program Available in Flathead, Lincoln and Sanders Counties: Jan. 30, 2019 Application Deadline](#)
- [USDA Commodity Loans Available to Montana Producers](#)
- [FSA Offers Safety Net Programs for Honeybee Producers](#)
- [NRCS Sets Program Funding Application Cutoff for Oct. 19](#)
- [FSA Youth Loans](#)
- [FSA Texting Option: How to subscribe to Montana offices](#)
- [USDA and Agricultural Resources](#)

Montana FSA: October 2018 Newsletter

USDA Farm Service Agency - Montana

P.O. Box 670
Bozeman, MT 59771

Phone: 406.587.6872

Fax: 855.546.0264

Web: www.fsa.usda.gov/mt

State Executive Director:
Mike Foster

State Committee:
Carl Mattson, Chair
Joe Dooling

Message from State Executive Director Mike Foster

It's hard to believe it's already autumn! As I drive across our beautiful, vast state visiting local offices in almost all of our counties, producers are completing harvests, planting winter wheat, working livestock, and preparing operations for another winter. Meanwhile, FSA offices are busily processing program payments. Please be sure to take time to tend to your FSA paperwork if you haven't already done so. There are several livestock and farm programs signups in progress and important upcoming deadlines to keep in mind. Farm Service Agency employees across Montana are ready to assist you. Enjoy all the fall activities that Montana has to offer!

Sincerely,
Mike Foster

**FSA Maps - 2019 Acreage Reporting/Crop Certification
Deadline: Nov. 15, 2018**

Chaley Harney
Bruce Tutvedt

Directories:

[Online Directory of FSA Offices in Montana](#)

[PDF of Montana FSA Directory](#)

[PDF of Montana USDA Directory](#)

Special Accommodations:

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office directly or by phone or the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339. Alternatively, you may contact Montana FSA Civil Rights Coordinator Jennifer Cole at (406) 654.1333, ext. 117 or jennifer.cole@mt.usda.gov.

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers, including livestock producers, are encouraged to visit their local FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The 2019 Acreage Reporting/Crop Certification Deadline is **Nov. 15, 2018** for **Apiculture, Perennial Forage, Pasture, Rangeland, Forage (PRF) including Native Grass, Fall Wheat (Hard Red Winter) and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains**. These crops must be reported to FSA by Nov. 15, 2018 to be considered timely filed in order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements.

The following exceptions apply to acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the applicable acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the applicable acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15. Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the applicable dates or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

Reporting Organic Crops: Producers who want to use the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) organic price and selected the "organic" option on their NAP application must report their crops as organic.

Important Reminder: If a crop report is not submitted by the subsequent year's acreage reporting date (ARD), the acreage report cannot be considered acceptable and producers will not receive planting credit for the crop nor will the crop be eligible for any FSA program benefits for the applicable program year.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact your local FSA office.

Upcoming FSA Dates and Deadlines

Montana farmers and ranchers can contact their local FSA office to participate in FSA programs and for more information. Visit Montana FSA online at www.fsa.usda.gov/mt and www.farmers.gov.

(Click [HERE](#) for a printable poster of these deadlines.)

- **Nov. 5:** County Committee Election Ballots will be mailed to Eligible Voters
- **Nov. 12:** All Hay Bales Must be Removed from Managed Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- **Nov. 15:** 2019 Acreage Reporting Deadline for Apiculture, Perennial Forage, Pasture, Rangeland, Forage (PRF) including Native Grass, Fall Wheat (Hard Red Winter), and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains. Please note that this is the final date that FSA can accept late-filed 2018 reports for these crops.
- **Nov. 16:** Last day of 2017 Wildfires and Hurricanes Indemnity Program (2017 WHIP) Signup
- **Dec. 1:** 2019 Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance (NAP) Application Closing Date for Honey Producers
- **Dec. 3:** Last Day to Return Voted County Committee Election Ballots to local FSA Offices
- **Dec. 3:** Application for Payment deadline for the 2017 Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). A notice of loss must be filed with the local FSA office by the later of 30 calendar days of when the loss was apparent to the owner or Dec 3, 2018.
- **Dec. 3:** 2017 and 2018 Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees & Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) Notice of Loss and Application for Payment Deadline

- **Tree Assistance Program:** Deadline for 2017 and subsequent years Tree Assistance Program (TAP) Application for Payment and Supporting Documentation is the later Dec. 3, 2018 or within 90 calendar days of the disaster event or the date when the loss was apparent to the producer.
- **Jan. 1:** Newly elected FSA County Committee Members Take Office
- **Jan. 2:** 2019 Acreage Reporting Deadline for Honey covered under NAP (or 30 days after placement of colonies.) Please note that this is the final date that FSA can accept late-filed 2018 reports for Honey covered under NAP.
- **Jan. 15:** Marketing Facilitation Program Signup Deadline for Corn, Cotton, Dairy, Hogs, Sorghum, Soybean, Fresh Sweet Cherries, Shelled Almonds and Wheat Producers.
- **Jan. 15:** 2019 Acreage Reporting Deadline for Established Stand Alfalfa Seed, Fall Alfalfa Seed and Cherries. Please note that this is the final date that FSA can accept late-filed 2018 reports for these crops.
- **Jan. 30:** Deadline for 2018 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) Application for Payment & Supporting Documentation for Flathead, Lincoln & Sanders County Livestock Producers
- **Feb. 1:** Final Availability Date for Loans and Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) for 2018 Mohair, Unshorn Pelts (LDP only) and Wool
- **March 1:** Application for Payment deadline for the 2018 Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). A notice of loss must be filed with the local FSA office by the later of 30 calendar days of when the loss was apparent to the owner or Dec 3, 2018.
- **March 15:** 2019 Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Application Closing Date for Spring Crops (except spring seeded, rye, speltz, triticale, wheat and mixed forage)
- **March 16:** 2019 Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Spring Managed Grazing Period Begins (with prior County Committee written approval)
- **April 1:** Final availability date for Loans and LDPs for 2018 Barley, Canola, Crambe, Flaxseed, Honey, Oats, Rapeseed, Wheat and Sesame Seed

Market Facilitation Program Underway for Producers of Corn, Cotton, Dairy, Fresh Sweet Cherries, Hogs, Shelled Almonds, Sorghum, Soybeans & Wheat

USDA Adds Shelled Almonds and Fresh Sweet Cherries to MFP; Amends Timeline for Hog Operations

USDA announced the addition of commodities to the trade mitigation package aimed at assisting farmers suffering from damage due to unjustified trade retaliation by foreign nations. Starting Monday, Sept. 24, producers of shelled almonds and fresh sweet cherries may apply for Market Facilitation Program (MFP) payments at their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office. In addition, the timeline for hog producers has been extended.

The sign-up period for MFP for announced commodities (corn, cotton, dairy, hog, sorghum, soybean, fresh sweet cherries, shelled almonds, and wheat) is now open and runs through **Jan. 15, 2019**, with information and instructions provided at www.farmers.gov/mfp. The MFP is established under the statutory authority of the Commodity Credit Corporation CCC Charter Act and is under the administration of USDA's FSA. Eligible producers should apply after harvest is complete, as payments will only be issued once production is reported.

A payment will be issued on 50 percent of the producer's total production, multiplied by the MFP rate for a specific commodity. A second payment period, if warranted, will be determined by the USDA.

The initial MFP payment rates starting Sept. 4:

- **Cotton - \$0.06 per pound**
- **Corn - \$0.01 per bushel**
- **Dairy (milk) - \$0.12 per cwt.**
- **Pork (hogs) - \$8.00 per head**
- **Soybeans - \$1.65 per bushel**
- **Sorghum - \$0.86 per bushel**
- **Wheat - \$0.14 per bushel**

The initial MFP payment rates starting Sept. 24:

- **Fresh Sweet Cherries - \$0.16 per pound**
- **Shelled Almonds - \$0.03 per pound**

MFP payments are capped per person or legal entity at a combined \$125,000 for shelled almonds and fresh sweet cherries.

Eligible applicants must have an ownership interest in the commodity, be actively engaged in farming, and have an average adjusted gross income (AGI) for tax years 2014, 2015, and 2016 of less than \$900,000. Applicants must also comply with the provisions of the “Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation” regulations.

Expanded Hog Timeline

USDA has expanded the timeline for producers for whom the Aug. 1, 2018, date does not accurately represent the number of head of live hogs they own. Producers may now choose any date between July 15 to Aug. 15, 2018 that correctly reflects their actual operation.

MFP applications are available online at www.farmers.gov/mfp. Applications can be completed at a local FSA office or submitted electronically either by scanning, emailing, or faxing. To locate or contact your local FSA office, visit www.farmers.gov.

Market Facilitation Program Factsheet

Nearly \$2 Billion Available for Eligible Producers Affected by 2017 Hurricanes and Wildfires

2017 WHIP Signup: July 16, 2018 to Nov. 16, 2018

Agricultural producers affected by hurricanes and wildfires in 2017 now apply for assistance to help recover and rebuild their farming operations. Signup began July 16, 2018, and continues through **Nov. 16, 2018**.

Hurricanes and wildfires caused billions of dollars in losses to America’s farmers last year. Our objective is to get relief funds into the hands of eligible producers as quickly as possible. We are making immediate, initial payments of up to 50 percent of the calculated assistance so producers can pay their bills.

Additional payments will be issued, if funds remain available, later in the year.

The program, known as the 2017 Wildfires and Hurricanes Indemnity Program (2017 WHIP) was authorized by Congress earlier this year by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018.

Eligible crops, trees, bushes, or vines, located in a county declared in a Presidential Emergency Disaster Declaration or Secretarial Disaster Designation as a primary county are eligible for assistance if the producer suffered a loss as a result of a 2017 hurricane. **Also, losses located in a county not designated as a primary county may be eligible if the producer provides documentation showing that the loss was due to a hurricane or wildfire in 2017.** A list of counties that received qualifying hurricane declarations and designations is available at <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/wildfires-and-hurricanes-indemnity-program/index>. Eligibility is determined by Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees.

Agricultural production losses due to conditions caused by last year’s wildfires and hurricanes, including excessive rain, high winds, flooding, mudslides, fire, and heavy smoke, could qualify for assistance through the program. Typically, 2017 WHIP is only designed to provide assistance for production losses, however, if quality was taken into consideration under the insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy, where production was further adjusted, the adjusted production will be used in calculating assistance under this program.

Eligible crops include those for which federal crop insurance or NAP coverage is available, excluding crops intended for grazing. A list of crops covered by crop insurance is available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Actuarial Information Browser at <https://webapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/actuarialinformationbrowser>.

Eligibility will be determined for each producer based on the size of the loss and the level of insurance coverage elected by the producer. A WHIP factor will be determined for each crop based on the producer’s coverage level. Producers who elected higher coverage levels will receive a higher WHIP factor.

The 2017 WHIP payment factor ranges from 65 percent to 95 percent, depending upon the level of crop insurance coverage or NAP coverage that a producer obtained for the crop. Producers who did not insure their crops in 2017 will receive 65 percent of the expected value of the crop. Insured producers will receive between 70 percent and 95 percent of expected value; those who purchased the highest levels of coverage will receive 95-percent coverage.

Each eligible producer requesting 2017 WHIP benefits will be subject to a payment limitation of either \$125,000 or \$900,000, depending upon their average adjusted gross income, which will be verified. The payment limit is \$125,000 if less than 75 percent of the person or legal entity's average adjusted gross income is average adjusted gross farm income. The payment limit is \$900,000, if 75 percent or more of the average adjusted gross income of the person or legal entity is average adjusted gross farm income.

Both insured and uninsured producers are eligible to apply for 2017 WHIP. However, all producers receiving 2017 WHIP payments will be required to purchase crop insurance and/or NAP, at the 60 percent coverage level or higher, for the next two available crop years to meet statutory requirements. Producers who fail to purchase crop insurance for the next two applicable years will be required to pay back the 2017 WHIP payment.

To help expedite payments, a producer who does not have records established at the [local USDA service center](#) are encouraged to do so early in the process. To establish a record for a farm, a producer needs:

- Proof of identity: driver's license and Social Security number/card;
- Copy of recorder deed, survey plat, rental, or lease agreement of the land. A producer does not have to own property to participate in FSA programs;
- Corporation, estate, or trust documents, if applicable

Once signup begins, a producer will be asked to provide verifiable and reliable production records. If a producer is unable to provide production records, USDA will calculate the yield based on the county average yield. A producer with this information on file does not need to provide the information again.

For more information on FSA disaster assistance programs, please contact your local USDA service center or visit <https://www.farmers.gov/recover/whip>.

Application Period Deadlines Established for Producers Recovering from 2017 & 2018 Livestock Loss, Other Disasters

2017-2018 Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) & Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees & Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)

USDA began accepting disaster assistance program applications on June 4 from agricultural producers who suffered livestock, honeybees, farm-raised fish and other losses due to natural disasters. USDA's [Farm Service Agency](#) (FSA) reopened the application period for two disaster assistance programs in response to statutory changes made by Congress earlier this year.

Beginning June 4, FSA is accepting new applications for losses for calendar year 2017 or 2018 filed under the [Livestock Indemnity Program](#) (LIP) or [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish Program](#) (ELAP). Producers who already submitted applications and received decisions on their applications for these years do not need to file again, but they can reapply if they have additional losses or their application was disapproved because it was filed late.

Important Deadlines ([click HERE for a printable poster of these livestock deadlines](#)):

- **Dec. 3:** Application for Payment deadline for the **2017 Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)**. A notice of loss must be filed with the local FSA office by the later of 30 calendar days of when the loss was apparent to the owner or **Dec 3, 2018**.
- **Dec. 3: 2017 and 2018 Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees & Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)** Notice of Loss and Application for Payment Deadline
- **March 1, 2019:** Application for Payment deadline for the **2018 Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)**. A notice of loss must be filed with the local FSA office by the later of 30 calendar days of when the loss was apparent to the owner or **Dec 3, 2018**.

In February, Congress passed the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, which made several changes to these two disaster programs, including:

- Removing ELAP's \$20 million fiscal year funding cap, enabling FSA to pay producers' 2017 applications in full and their 2018 applications as soon as they are approved.
- Removing the per-person and legal entity annual program payment limitation of \$125,000 for LIP for 2017 and future years. (The income limitation applies as it did before, meaning producers with an adjusted gross income of more than \$900,000 are not eligible.)
- Changing LIP to allow producers to receive a payment for injured livestock that are sold for a reduced price due to an eligible event. Previously, the program only covered financial loss for livestock death above normal mortality.

Producers interested in LIP or ELAP should contact their [local USDA service center](#). To apply, producers will need to provide verifiable and reliable production records and other information about their operation.

Various disasters continue to impact farmers and ranchers, and LIP and ELAP are two of many programs available through USDA to help producers recover. Learn more at <https://www.usda.gov/disaster>.

2018 Livestock Forage Disaster Program Available in Flathead, Lincoln and Sanders Counties: Jan. 30, 2019 Application Deadline

The 2018 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) triggered in three Montana counties: **Flathead, Lincoln and Sanders**. Livestock producers have until **Jan. 30, 2019** to enroll in the Livestock Forage Disaster Program.

LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers, due to a qualifying drought in the county, on privately-owned or cash-leased land, federal leases/permits, state leases, and some private AUM leases. LFP also provides compensation for grazing losses due to fire on federally-managed land. Livestock producers with grazing land in these three counties can apply for 2018 LFP drought benefits on small grain, native pasture, improved pasture, annual ryegrass and forage sorghum that is produced on dryland acres and used for grazing. Irrigated acres used for grazing or aftermath grazing are not eligible under this program. Livestock producers are encouraged to contact their FSA Office with any questions regarding specific crops and production methods that are eligible.

Eligible livestock include alpacas, beef cattle over 500 pounds, buffalo, beefalo, dairy cattle, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, llamas, reindeer or sheep that have been or would have been grazing the eligible grazing land or pastureland during the normal grazing period. Eligible livestock must be maintained as part of the producer's commercial farming operation.

Livestock producers must complete the LFP application and required supporting documentation no later than Jan. 30, 2019 for 2018 losses. Required supporting documents may include information related to grazing leases or federal grazing permits, contract grower agreements, documentation to support livestock inventory and more. Note that 2018 acreage reports are required to be filed for all eligible land no later than the final reporting date of **Nov. 15, 2018**. Acreage reports filed after that date will not be accepted which will result in ineligibility for the 2018 LFP program.

For more information about LFP, contact the Flathead/Lincoln FSA Office in Kalispell at (406) 752-4242, ext. 2 or the Sanders FSA Office in Plains at (406) 826-3752. To find a local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>. Visit Montana FSA online at www.fsa.usda.gov/mt and www.usda.gov/disaster to learn more about LFP and other FSA disaster assistance programs.

USDA Commodity Loans Available to Montana Producers

FSA reminds producers that Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs) and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs) are available to help producers through periods of low market prices. The 2014 Farm Bill authorized MALs and LDPs for the 2014 to 2018 crop years.

MALs provide interim financing and allow producers to delay the sale of the commodity at harvest-time lows and wait until more favorable market conditions emerge. A producer who is eligible to obtain a loan, but agrees to forgo the loan, may obtain an LDP if such a payment is available.

MALs and LDPs provide financing and marketing assistance for wheat, feed grains, soybeans and other oilseeds, pulse crops, rice, peanuts, cotton, wool and honey.

The FSA offices are accepting requests for 2018 MALs for all eligible commodities after harvest.

Before MAL repayments and LDP disbursements can be made, producers must meet the requirements of actively engaged in farming, cash-rent tenant and member contribution.

In order to meet eligibility requirements, producers must retain beneficial interest in the commodity, meaning they have control of the commodity or a title to the commodity, until the MAL is repaid or the Commodity Credit Corporation takes title to the commodity.

The 2014 Farm Bill also establishes payment limitations per individual or entity not to exceed \$125,000 annually on certain commodities for the following program benefits: Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage payments, Marketing Loan Gains and LDPs. These payment limitations do not apply to MAL disbursements.

Producers or legal entities whose total applicable three-year average adjusted gross income exceeds \$900,000 are not eligible for Marketing Loan Gains and LDPs, but are eligible for MALs repaid at principal plus interest.

For more information, please visit your local FSA office or www.fsa.usda.gov. To find your local USDA service center, visit www.farmers.gov.

Nonrecourse Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments Factsheet

FSA Offers Safety Net Programs for Honeybee Producers

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) administers two programs that have specific safety net benefits for producers of honeybees and honey. The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) assist producers when disasters impact honey production or damages or destroys colonies, hives or honeybee feed.

NAP is designed to reduce financial losses when natural disasters result in lower yields or crop losses, including honey. NAP coverage is equivalent to catastrophic insurance, meaning it covers up to 50 percent of a producer's normal yield (must have at least a 50 percent loss) at 55 percent of the average market price. The NAP service fee is the lesser of \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,875 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties. Eligible causes of loss include drought, freeze, hail, excessive moisture, excessive wind, hurricanes, earthquake, flood, and conditions related to damaging weather such as excessive heat, plant disease, volcanic smog or insect infestation.

Producers must apply for NAP coverage by Dec. 1 prior to the year for which they are seeking coverage.

ELAP covers colony losses, hive losses and the loss of feed, purchased or produced, intended for honeybees. For colony losses, producers must have losses in excess of normal mortality as a direct result of an eligible adverse weather event or loss condition. For hive losses, the hive must have been damaged or destroyed as a result of an eligible adverse weather event or loss condition. Eligible adverse weather or loss conditions include Colony Collapse Disorder (for colony losses only), earthquake, eligible winter storm (colony loss only), excessive wind, flood, hurricane, lighting, tornado, volcanic eruption and wildfire. For purchased feed, the program covers feed purchased above normal quantities to sustain bees during an eligible adverse weather event or loss condition. Under ELAP, the producer must provide documentation that best management practices are being followed.

Both the NAP and ELAP programs require producers to report the number of colonies they have in production. The deadline to report apiculture for Federal Crop is Nov. 15, 2018 and for colonies covered under NAP is Jan. 2, 2019. Honeybee producers must notify FSA within 30 calendar days of changes in the total number of colonies or when honeybees are moved to another county.

For ELAP, producers must notify FSA within 30 calendar days of when a loss is first apparent. Note: for 2017 and 2018 ELAP, producers have until **Dec. 3** to submit a notice of loss and application for payment. Producers with NAP coverage must file a Notice of Loss within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

To learn more about programs for honey and honeybee producers, contact your local FSA office.

NRCS Sets Program Funding Application Cutoff for Oct. 19

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has set a **Oct. 19, 2018**, application cutoff for agricultural operators to be considered for 2019 conservation program funding through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

NRCS provides funding and technical assistance to help farmers and ranchers implement conservation practices that provide environmental benefits to help sustain agricultural operations. Conservation program participation is voluntary and helps private landowners and operators defray the costs of installing conservation practices.

NRCS accepts conservation program applications year-round; however, applications for 2019 funding consideration must be submitted by Oct. 19, 2018. Applications made after the Oct. 19 cutoff will be considered in the next funding cycle. Additional information is available on the Montana NRCS website at www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov under the Programs tab or you can contact your local NRCS service center.

FSA Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to youth to establish and operate agricultural income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the youth loan applicant, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms.

FSA Texting Option: How to subscribe to Montana offices

No office? No problem! FSA Offers Text Message Alerts
Keep up with USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) News

There are 12,000 people signed up for email news with Montana FSA. Did you know you can also receive text message alerts from FSA while on-the-go, in the field, on the tractor or even on horseback? Subscribe to receive text message alerts on your cell phone and stay updated on:

- Deadline reminders
- Program notifications
- Reporting requirements
- Local outreach events

To subscribe to texts from the Montana FSA State Office: Text **Montana** to **FSA-NOW (372-669)**.

Want to receive texts from your Montana FSA County Office?

TO SUBSCRIBE, text your county's keyword (listed below) to FSANOW (372-669). For example, to subscribe to FSA texts from Blaine County you will text **MTBlaine** to FSA-NOW (**372-669**).

County: Keyword

Beaverhead County: MTBeaverhead	McCone County: MTMcCone
Big Horn County: MTBigHorn	Meagher County: MTMeagher
Blaine County: MTBlaine	Mineral County: MTMineral
Broadwater County: MTBroadwater	Missoula County: MTMissoula
Carbon County: MTCarbon	Musselshell County: MTMusselshell
Carter County: MTCarter	Park County: MTPark
Cascade County: MTCascade	Petroleum County: MTPetroleum
Chouteau County: MTChouteau	Phillips County: MTPhillips
Custer County: MTCuster	Pondera County: MTPondera
Daniels County: MTDaniels	Powder River County: MTPowder
Dawson County: MTDawson	Powell County: MTPowell
Deer Lodge County: MTDeerLodge	Prairie County: MTPrairie
Fallon County: MTFallon	Ravalli County: MTRavalli
Fergus County: MTFergus	Richland County: MTRichland
Flathead County: MTFlathead	Roosevelt County: MTRoosevelt
Gallatin County: MTGallatin	Rosebud County: MTRosebud
Garfield County: MTGarfield	Sanders County: MTSanders
Glacier County: MTGlacier	Sheridan County: MTSheridan
Golden Valley County: MTGolden	Silver Bow County: MTSilverBow
Granite County: MTGranite	Stillwater County: MTStillwater
Hill County: MTHill	Sweet Grass County: MTSweetGrass
Jefferson County: MTJefferson	Teton County: MTTeton
Judith Basin County: MTJudithBasin	Toole County: MTToole
Lake County: MTLake	Treasure County: MTTreasure
Lewis and Clark County: MTLewisClark	Valley County: MTValley
Liberty County: MTLiberty	Wheatland County: MTWheatland
Lincoln County: MTLincoln	Wibaux County: MTWibaux
Madison County: MTMadison	Yellowstone County: MTYellowstone

Standard text messaging rates apply. Expect to receive no more than two text messages from FSA each month, on average. Participants may unsubscribe at any time. Contact your local FSA office to subscribe to the text message alerts service. To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

USDA and Agricultural Resources

- Farmers.gov
- [FSA Factsheets](#)
- [FSA Disaster Programs](#)
- [FSA Farm Loan Programs](#)
- [FSA Conservation Programs](#)
- [FSA Price Support Programs](#)
- [FSA ARC-PLC Programs](#)
- [FSA Organic Certification Cost-Share Program](#)
- [FSA Energy Programs](#)
- [Montana USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service \(NRCS\)](#)
- [Montana USDA Rural Development \(RD\)](#)
- [USDA New Farmers](#)
- [MSU Extension & MSU College of Agriculture](#)
- [Intertribal Agriculture Council & IAC Technical Assistance Center](#)
- [Montana Department of Agriculture & Hay Hotline](#)
- [Montana Department of Livestock](#)

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).