

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

Gallatin County Farm News'n Such

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Changes to the Gallatin County Phase I Tobacco Settlement Program

Several years ago, when the Gallatin County Agriculture Council first started funding agriculture and horticulture related cost share programs in Gallatin County, there was more funding involved than there is now, and fewer farmers applying for the funds. This made funding projects very easy; basically the council was able to fund just about every project.

Unfortunately that was then and this is now. The county now receives less than 75% of its' original funding, while at the same time, the number of Phase I applicants have more than doubled.

As a result, changes in the program administration must be made in order to see that funding reaches those it was originally intended to help. The program changes are outlined below. Keep in mind; these changes affect both Livestock and Diversification programs.

Change 1 – All applicants are required to complete a Farm History Survey form. No applications will be considered without this completed form. Even if you already have an application waiting for funding, it will not be considered until this Farm History Survey form is completed and returned to the extension

office. A copy of the survey is included in this mailing.

Change 2 – There is no guaranteed funding. Because you've received funding before does not mean you will receive it in any given year.

Change 3 – It's a more competitive process. Each application will be examined for merit and compared to other applications by the Gallatin County Agriculture Council.

Change 4 – Cost share checks will not be issued until reporting forms are completed and returned to the extension office.

These changes to the program may seem harsh, but as stated earlier, they have become necessary.

Included in this mailing are copies of the Livestock (L) and Diversification (D) applications, as well as the aforementioned Farm History Survey form.

If you have questions (not complaints), don't hesitate to contact Dave Hull at 567-5481.