



November 2009

Gem/Boise/Valley FSA News

USDA Service Center

Gem/Boise/Valley County FSA

1805 Hwy 16, Rm 4
Emmett, ID. 83617
(208)365-3527 x 2
(208)365-7183 fax

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

County Committee

Joe Kennedy, Chair
Blaine Lindley, V Chair
Debra F. Marks
David Obermeyer
Shirley Florence

County Committee meets Second Thursday of the month @ 10:00 AM

County Office Staff

Debbie Carlock, CED
Deann Kersey, PT
Sandra Childers, PT
Angela Ipsen, PT

Farm Loan Manager:

John Lejardi
Canyon/Ada FSA Office
(208)454-8696

www.fsa.usda.gov/



Voting for County Committee Begins

Ballots for this year's county committee election will be mailed to eligible voters on November 6, 2009. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 7, 2009. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 7, 2009.

The candidates in this year's election are:

Gary Biggers is nominated in LAA 1, Boise County, to serve as a committee member. Biggers resides at Brownlee Loop, Sweet, and raises cattle.

Blaine Lindley is nominated in LAA 2, Gem County north of the Payette River, to serve as a committee member. Lindley resides on Black Canyon Hwy. in Emmett and raises sugar beets, mint, corn, wheat and alfalfa.

Eligible voters in local administrative area 1 and 2 who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

Voter Requirements Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, is eligible to vote:

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either of the following:

an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper,
or

a partner in a general partnership or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper; *or*

2. Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; *and*

3. Eligible to participate in any FSA program that is provided by law, regardless of the status of funding.

Discrimination Prohibited No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

2010 DCP Signup

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2010. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2010 DCP contract.

USDA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2010, eligible producers may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment. USDA will issue advance direct payments beginning Dec. 1, 2009. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price. The effective price is the higher of the national average market price received during the 12-month marketing year for each covered commodity and the national average loan rate for a marketing assistance loan for the covered commodity.

The ACRE Option

The optional ACRE Program provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity. For 2010, the 2-year price average will be based on the 2008 and 2009 crop years.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. The payment is based on 83.3 percent (85 percent in 2012) of the farm's planted acres times the difference between the State ACRE guarantee and the state revenue loss.

nue times the ratio of the farm's yield divided by the state expected yield. The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may not exceed the total base on the farm. In exchange for participating in ACRE, in addition to not receiving counter-cyclical payments, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20 percent, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30 percent.

The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.

The June 1, 2010, deadline is mandatory for all participants. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.

Supplemental Disaster Assistance Programs

The 2008 Farm Bill amended the Trade Act of 1974 to create five new disaster programs, collectively referred to as Supplemental Agriculture Disaster Assistance programs. These programs include:

- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

To be eligible for these programs, producers must purchase at least catastrophic risk protection (CAT) level of crop insurance for all insurable crops and/or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for non-insurable crops under SURE, TAP, and ELAP.

In the 2008 Farm Bill; in general, the term "farm" means the sum of all crop acreage in all counties that is planted or intended to be planted for harvest by the eligible producer. In the case of aquaculture, the term "farm" means all fish being produced in all counties that are intended to be harvested for sale by the eligible producer. In the case of honey, the term "farm" means all bees and beehives in all counties that are intended to be harvested for a honey crop by the eligible producer.

Producers who meet the definition of a Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource Producer, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher, do not have to meet this risk management purchase requirement.

REMINDER OF DEADLINE TO MEET LFP REQUIREMENTS

The Livestock Forage Program (LFP) is a new program that was implemented as a part of the 2008 Farm Bill. LFP is similar to some past ad-hoc grazing loss programs that you may have participated in.

LFP provides financial assistance to producers who suffered grazing losses due to drought or wildfire. There is no minimum amount of grazing loss required under LFP. Rather, the drought must occur during the normal grazing period and must be determined at a specific level for a specific duration in the physical county where the grazing ground is located according to the U.S. Drought Monitor as outlined below. Fire losses must have occurred on federally managed lands.

The drought monthly payment rate is equal to 60 percent of the lesser of the monthly feed cost for all covered livestock using a feed grain equivalent **or** the monthly feed cost calculated using the normal carrying capacity for the grazing land. The feed grain equivalent is determined by the National Office for the various types of livestock based on the number of pounds of corn using an adult cow as the base. The corn price per pound is arrived at by dividing the 12 month national average corn price by 56 pounds.

The payment rate under LFP is as follows:

D2 Drought Rating for at least 8 consecutive weeks is equal to 1 Monthly Payment.

D3 Drought Rating for any period of time is equal to 2 Monthly Payments.

D3 Drought Rating for at least 4 weeks OR D4 Rating or any period of time is equal to 3 Monthly Payments.

Wildfire on Federally Managed Lands

payment is equal to 50% of the monthly feed cost for the total number of livestock for which grazing is reduced, beginning on the date the agency excludes grazing and ending on the last day of the grazing lease, not to exceed 180 days per year.

A fundamental difference with the new LFP program is that your grazing ground must be insured in order to be eligible for any potential assistance. All of your crops, including grazing land, must be insured at a minimum of the catastrophic level (CAT) if they constitute 5% or more of total expected farm revenue.

For any uninsurable crops, you may obtain coverage equivalent to the CAT level from our office under the Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). ***The deadline to purchase NAP coverage for grazing is December 1, 2009.*** The NAP fee is \$250 per crop, per county.

2010 NAP DEADLINES

Producers are reminded to purchase crop insurance for fall seeded and perennial crops by December 1, 2009. **Important Reminder-** If a crop has both a fall and spring planting date you have to purchase insurance by the earlier fall deadline of December 1 even if you are not planting your variety until spring.

Farm Loan Year End Reviews

Producers that have a farm loan with FSA are reminded they must provide data for their Year-End Analysis (YEA) to their loan officer each year. Borrowers are urged to provide this information timely so that their files can be maintained. The office will contact you for the data you will need to provide us.

Applications for FSA Farm Loan Assistance

Farmers and ranchers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Filing early will help ensure that your loan is processed and approved as early as possible so that planting decisions can be made. Failure to

apply early can result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications that must be processed in date order. Contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager or Officer for more details and assistance in applying.

Operating Loan Applications Needed Now

Farmers that plan to apply to the FSA for annual operating loan assistance this year are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. The earlier an application for loan assistance is filed, the quicker the FSA staff can process your request. In addition, due to budget constraints, farmers that wait until later in the year to apply run the risk of finding out that our funding allocations have been utilized already. Farmers should also contact their FSA Farm Loan Manager or Officer at (208) 454-8696 for information as to what is required in order to have a complete loan application on file. Decisions on loans can not be made until a complete application is received.

Selling Land

If you're planning to sell farmland, there may be some program consequences you should be aware of. For example, if you're planning to sell land that's enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer doesn't want to continue the CRP contract, you might have to refund all the payments you've received to date.

Reviewing program implications with your local Farm Service Agency staff before completing a sale of farmland is always a prudent precaution.

Changing Banks

Almost all FSA payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. It has been calculated that having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit. Another benefit is that Direct Deposit to your account can be made within 48 hours.

To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

Payment Problems

Producers are encouraged to closely monitor your farm program payments for fiscal year 2009.

FSA has been transitioning from an old IBM System/36 computer system to an online software system to make payments. The System/36 is obsolete, and soon the agency will no longer be able to maintain it. The transition to the new system has created a delay in issuing payments, as some of you may have experienced. Also, the payment notification letter is taking longer to reach you as it is coming from Kansas City. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience during this transition.

Dates to Remember	
Nov 6	County committee ballots mailed
Nov 11	Veterans Day Holiday-Office closed
Nov 26	Thanksgiving Day Holiday-Office closed
Dec 1	NAP deadline on fall seeded & perennial crops
Dec 7	Ballots for COC Election must be postmarked

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