

# USDA



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**Hours:**  
Monday – Friday  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

**County Committee:**  
Darrel Ward  
Kevin Ramsey  
Adam Permann  
**Advisor:**  
Violet Isaak

**Staff:**  
Norman Wright, CED  
Debra Duba, PT  
Bennett DeMoss, PT  
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# Power County FSA News

November 2009

## 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 candidate in this year's election is: Kevin Ramsey nominated in LAA 1, Power County, to serve as a committee member. Ramsey resides at 3664 Hunt Rd, American Falls Idaho and produces potatoes, wheat, corn, alfalfa and raise cattle, with his grandpa Kay Hunt.

Eligible voters in a local administrative area one 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.

## Program 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 online software systems 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 The System/36 is obsolete, and soon the agency will no longer be able to maintain it.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

systems has created temporary problems for issuing payments, as some of you may have experienced.

Final 2009 DCP and ACRE direct payments were issued in full this October. If you received an advance DCP or ACRE direct payment earlier this year, that amount was offset from your final direct payment. However, it may have been offset from a different farm program or by a different county office. Also, if you received multiple advance payments, they may all have been offset from one farm. In limited cases, these advance payments may have been offset from one or more of your CRP annual rental payments. Individual payment amounts may look different than you expect, but the total of all your payments should be similar to previous years, if nothing has changed.

Please know that we are trying to issue your payments as quickly as possible. Transaction statements are mailed directly from our Financial Services Center in Kansas City and may reach you after your payment is deposited into your bank account. If the total of all your payments is not what you expect, let us know.

## 2010 DCP Signup

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) will begin as soon as we complete 2009 DCP payments and continue through June 1, 2010.

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 % 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 avg. 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 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.

Acres requires producers to submit production evidence which we are now gathering for 2004-2009. If you are in ACRE please start submitting this production evidence **soon!!**

## Acres Reports Needed For SURE

Because of the delay in announcing the provisions of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, producers enrolling in the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) are reminded that 2008 crop reports are required for SURE participation. This includes crops planted on cropland and/or non-cropland, including native pasture or improved grass that will be hayed.

Physical evidence of the crop in the field is not required for Farm Service Agency (FSA) to accept late-filed 2008 acres reports. "However, evidence of existence or disposition, is required.

The following requirements for 2008 SURE include:

- producers **must** report all crops, in all counties, in which they have an interest
- late filed fees shall be waived for late-filed 2008 acres reports and physical evidence in the field is not required
- if the actual use of a crop is different from the intended use reported, the producer may report the final use to the County Office; however, the intended use shall **not** be changed. The provisions noted are for 2008 only. For 2009 and 2010, normal acres reporting requirements will be applied. More details on the 2008 SURE Program are available at county FSA offices.

## 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

USDA's Spokane Risk Management Agency (RMA) Office reminds producers of the important link between Federal crop insurance and FSA's Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance programs including the new SURE program.

To maintain eligibility for most Supplemental Disaster Programs producers must obtain a policy or plan of insurance of at least the catastrophic level (CAT) of insurance for the crop year 2010. **Note:** the more crop insurance coverage a producer has, the more the SURE guarantee will be. For those crops that are non-insurable, coverage under **the** Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be timely obtained.

**Therefore, producers need to be making important crop insurance decisions for the 2010 crop year.** Producers are encouraged to contact their local Power County FSA Office and visit with a crop insurance agent (a list of agents is available at all USDA Service Centers) to fully understand what crop insurance programs are available in the county and to ensure they are obtaining adequate coverage for eligibility.

## **The next round of sales closing dates for Federal crop insurance is:**

**November 30:** Pasture-Rangeland-Forage Vegetation Index Pilot (select counties in Idaho and Oregon);

**November 30:** Apiculture Vegetation Index Pilot (available in all Idaho and Oregon counties);

**Note:** The Adjusted Gross Revenue-Pilot and Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite programs do meet the linkage requirements for SURE. Also, if there is no crop insurance coverage in a county for a specific crop, and that crop is insurable in another county under the traditional Federal crop insurance program, a producer may seek coverage by asking an agent whether they would be eligible for crop insurance coverage under a written agreement.

### **A 2010 Multi-Peril Crop Availability Listing by county is posted on RMA website,**

[http://www.rma.usda.gov/aboutrma/fields/wa\\_rso/](http://www.rma.usda.gov/aboutrma/fields/wa_rso/). Producers are encouraged to contact their local agent for additional details. In addition to USDA Service Centers, a listing of crop/livestock agents is also available at, (<http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents>).

## **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, Brad McMurtrey at 785-2090 x108 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.

## **Online Services**

Producers, if you have Internet access you can electronically log on, fill out and print a variety of FSA paper forms in the comfort of your home as your schedule allows. You can also register for secure electronic access that will allow you to electronically sign and transmit some forms directly to the county office staff. If you are new to the website, first you will want to obtain a Level 2 USDA Service Center Customer ID and password at: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> and then click on "Create an Account Page" link.

USDA eAuthentication is the system used by USDA agencies to enable customers to obtain accounts that will allow them to access USDA Web applications and services via the Internet. This includes things such as submitting forms electronically, completing surveys online, and checking the status of your USDA accounts.

## **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.

## **Unauthorized Disposition of Loaned Grain**

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal **without prior written authorization** from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe and a producer's name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call the office before any grain under loan is fed or sold.

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## FSA County Newsletter

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### ***2009 Dates to Remember!***

**Ongoing** : Continuous CRP signup  
**November 6** : County committee ballots mailed  
**November 11** : Veterans Day  
**November 26** : Thanksgiving  
**December 1** : NAP deadline on fall seeded & perennial crops  
**December 7** : Ballots for COC Election must be postmarked  
**December 25** : Christmas Day

#### **Selected Interest Rates for November 2009**

Commodity Loans	1.375%
Farm Storage 7-Years	3.00%
Farm Storage 10-Years	3.375%
Farm Storage 12-Years	3.75%

**Visit Idaho's FSA Website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/id>**

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