



NEWSLETTER



Idaho Farm Service Agency

April 2013
County Newsletter

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Microloans Are Cultivating Big Dreams on a Small Scale

Microloans are helping small, niche and beginning farmers/ranchers meet their goals. The simplified loan process allows producers to apply for a maximum of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses, essential tools, irrigation, delivery vehicles and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing and distribution expenses. Producers interested in applying for a microloan should contact the local FSA office to schedule an appointment with a Farm Loan Officer or Farm Loan Manager.

Read the linked articles below showing how microloans are helping producers across the U.S. expand their operations.

1) [Thanks, Mr. President: Niche Farmers Send Obama Appreciation Letter for Boosting Their Business](#) and 2) [Small Farmer Finds Success With FSA Microloan Program](#)

DCP/ACRE Sign-up Continues

The sign-up periods for DCP and ACRE are still open. Producers must sign up for DCP before the Aug. 2, 2013, deadline. Producers signing up for ACRE, have until June 3, 2013.

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. Eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013. Likewise producers who were enrolled in DCP may opt for ACRE enrollment.

[Read more about DCP and ACRE](#) or contact the FSA county office for more information, or an appointment to enroll.

Adjusted Gross Income

USDA and the Internal Revenue Service have established an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent is required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA.

Payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2012 amended the provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill, and provided a \$1,000,000 average AGI limitation that:

- represents the total amount of the average AGI (including all income, both farm and nonfarm) of the person or legal entity
- is based on the same 3-year period as the other average AGI limitations
- applies only to 2013 direct payments under DCP and ACRE
- is in addition to the \$500,000 average nonfarm AGI, the \$750,000 average farm AGI, and the \$1,000,000 average nonfarm AGI limitations.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-931 to their local FSA County Office to avoid interruption of program benefits. This form may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at:

<https://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainservlet>.

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CRP Sign-Up Starts soon

USDA will conduct a four-week general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), beginning May 20 and ending on June 14. CRP protects the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities across the United States.

Currently, Idaho has 622,570 acres enrolled in CRP. Producers that are accepted in the program can receive cost-share assistance to plant long-term, resource-conserving covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the contract (10-15 years.)

In Idaho contracts on more than 68,000 acres of CRP are set to expire on Sept. 30, 2013. Producers with expiring contracts or producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP.

Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL)

Short-term financing is available by obtaining low interest commodity loans for eligible harvested production. A nine-month Marketing Assistance Loan provides financing that allows producers to store production for later marketing. The crop may be stored on the farm or in the warehouse.

Loans are available for producers who share in the risk of producing the eligible commodity and maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the term of the loan. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity, responsibility for loss because of damage to the commodity and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, it is ineligible for a loan, even if you regain beneficial interest.

Acreage Certification – Crop Reporting 2013

After spring planting, producers should certify their 2013 acreage. 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.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops enrolled in programs other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program), certification deadlines for Idaho are:

- Jan 15 Apples, Apricots, Cherries, Grapes, Nectarines, Peaches, Plums
- Jul 15 Spring Alfalfa Seed, all other crops
- Nov 15 Apiculture, PRF/Perennial Forage
- Dec 15 Fall Alfalfa Seed, Fall Canola, Dry Pease, Fall Mint, Fall-Seeded Small Grains

Crops covered by NAP must have acreage reports in the county office by the earlier of the deadlines above or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

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Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Claims Process Extended

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced the extension of the voluntary claims process for Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades. All claims must now be filed by **May 1, 2013**.

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied his or her application for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000. As announced in February 2011, the voluntary claims process will make available at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

Claimants may register for a claims package by calling the telephone number below Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time or by downloading the forms from the website.

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov Phone: 1-888-508-4429 Fax: (855) 626-8343

Email: claims@hwfr.org Claims Period: September 24, 2012 – May 1, 2013.

Claim packages and other documentation may be mailed to Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Claims Administrator, PO Box 4540, Portland, OR 97208-4540. Claim packages and other documentation may also be emailed to claims@hwfr.org. Claimants may also fax claims packages and other documentation to (855) 626-8343. Completed forms and documentation must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. PDT on May 1, 2013.

New Computer System Coming to FSA

FSA employees from around Idaho began training on April 8 for a new computer system known as Modernize and Innovate the Delivery of Agriculture Systems (MIDAS) The transition to the MIDAS system will bring many updates to Farm Records as well as other FSA computer systems.

While preparing the new system for full implementation county offices are required to take hard copy applications for certain programs. Reconstitutions and other Farm Record changes cannot be made until the new system goes on-line.

During the transition period, any contract or application (DCP, CRP, MAL, etc.) that relies on 2013 Farm Records information cannot be processed in the automated system if 2013 Farm Records edits are necessary. Producers who have farm changes are encouraged to schedule DCP and ACRE program signup appointments after mid-April. Those who do not have farm changes can sign up for these programs now.

<i>Dates to Remember</i>	
May 1	Hispanic and Women Claims Deadline
May 20	45th CRP Sign-up opens
June 3	ACRE Sign-up ends
June 14	CRP Sign-up Ends
July 15	Crop Reporting Deadline
July 15	Production Evidence due for farms enrolled in ACRE Program
Aug 2	DCP sign-up ends

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Selected Interest Rates for April 2013	
Farm Operating - Direct	1.375%
Farm Ownership - Direct	3.50%
Limited Resource	5.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency (Actual Loss)	2.375%
Farm Storage Facility – 7 year	1.375%
Farm Storage Facility – 10 year	2.00%
Farm Storage Facility – 12 year	2.25%

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