



NEWSLETTER



Idaho Farm Service Agency

November 2013
County Newsletter

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FSA MAKES PAYMENTS

FSA has started issuing Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) annual rental payments to participants across the country. CRP payments will be followed by 2013 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payments and 2012 Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program payments beginning Oct. 24. These payments were delayed by several weeks due to the lapse in Federal funding.

ACRE payments for 2012 lentils were issued in October. FSA will not know if canola, crambe, flaxseed, mustard seed, rapeseed, safflower, sesame, and sunflowers will trigger payments until market prices are released.

ACRE payments are contingent upon national average market prices and yields in Idaho. Only those farms that participated in the 2012 ACRE program and met both the state and farm trigger will be eligible for ACRE payment.

The 2008 Farm Bill, extended by the American Tax Payer Relief Act of 2012, provided authority to enroll land in DCP, ACRE and CRP through Sept. 30, 2013; however, no legislation has been enacted to reauthorize or extend this authority. Effective Oct. 1, 2013, FSA does not have legislative authority to approve or process applications for these programs.

2014 REPORTING OF FALL SEEDED CROPS

All producers are reminded that the acreage reporting date for fall seeded crops has changed. The new acreage reporting date is **November 15 – Perennial forage and December 15 for Fall-seeded crops**. This applies to all fall seeded crops including winter wheat. Please call for an appointment to certify your crop.

FSA RESUMES 2013 COMMODITY LOANS NOV. 1, 2013

Crop year 2013 commodity loan-making was suspended Oct. 1, 2013, to make changes necessary to accommodate the automatic funding reductions known as sequester. Sequestration is mandated by the Budget Control Act of 2011.

Processing and disbursement of 2013 crop commodity loans resumed on Friday, November 1. During the period that loan-making was suspended, producers were still able to submit loan applications to their county FSA offices. These applications are now being processed as quickly as possible.

Producers requesting 2013 crop commodity loans on their harvested commodities will have a 5.1 percent reduction to the loan amount upon its disbursement, due to the sequestration. Commodity loans issued by marketing associations and loan servicing agents are also subject to the sequestration reduction.

Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may result in liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans.

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NEW FORMS REQUIRED

With the implementation of the new FSA program known as MIDAS program documents that contain personally identifiable information could be emailed to producers.

Before this can happen producers must agree to receive this information electronically by completing a new AD-2047 form.

Previous versions of AD-2047 are not valid for sending e-mails containing sensitive information. As a result, any customer that previously indicated that they want to receive this type of notification must complete the new form.

MICROLOAN PROGRAM

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and small family farm operations.

FSA offers applicants a Microloan designed to help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application process built to fit the needs of new and smaller producers. This loan program will also be useful to specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program.

Individuals interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available, should contact the local FSA office to setup an appointment with a Loan Approval Official.

LOANS FOR THE SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of socially disadvantaged applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African-Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

SELLING LAND

If you plan on selling farmland, you should be aware of several consequences associated with FSA programs. 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 of 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.

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CED: County Exec Director

FLM: Farm Loan Manager

Selected Interest Rates for November 2013	
Farm Operating - Direct	2.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.25%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency	4.375%
Farm Storage Facility – 7 year	2.00%
Farm Storage Facility – 10 year	2.625%
Farm Storage Facility – 12 year	2.875%

Dates to Remember	
Nov. 11	FSA offices closed for Veteran's Day
Nov. 15	Crop reporting deadline for pasture, rangeland and all other forage crops.
Nov. 28	FSA offices closed for Thanksgiving Day
Dec. 1	NAP deadline for perennial grass seed crops in East, South and West Districts and all other perennials, forage crops and honey.
Dec. 15	Crop reporting deadline for all fall seeded small grains.