



NEWSLETTER



Farm Service Agency Idaho

January 2014 County Newsletter

County Offices:

Bannock

Ben Evans, CED*

1551 Baldy Ave, Ste 1

Pocatello 83201-7105

237-3435

Bear Lake

Layne Peterson, CED

785 N 4th, Ste A, Montpelier

83254

847-1264

Benewah/Kootenai

Angela Middleton, Acting CED

900 E St, PO Box 263

Plummer 83851-0263

686-1260

Bingham

Tyler Kendall, CED

Dustin Carter, FLM*

725 Jensen Grove Dr Ste 2

Blackfoot 83221-1684

785-2090

Bonneville

Megan McGuire-Watts, CED

1120 E Lincoln Rd, Ste B

Idaho Falls 83401-2122

522-6250

Boundary/Bonner

6813 El Paso, PO Box 98

Bonnors Ferry 83805-8569

267-2707

Butte/S. Custer

Tony Potter, CED

125 S Water, PO Box 69

Arco 83213-0069

527-8268

PRODUCERS IN FORTY COUNTIES IN IDAHO ELIGIBLE FOR EMERGENCY LOANS

An announcement by USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack on December 16, brought the number of counties eligible for emergency loans to forty counties across the state. Using the streamlined Secretarial Disaster Designation process and other disaster requests, all but Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai and Benewah counties are eligible. Under this designation, producers with operations in any primary or contiguous county are eligible to apply for low interest emergency loans.

The streamlined disaster designation process issues a drought disaster declaration when a county has experienced a drought intensity value of at least a D2 (severe drought) level for eight consecutive weeks based on the U.S. Drought Monitor during the crop year.

Emergency loans help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding and other natural disasters or quarantine.

Producers have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for emergency loan assistance. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. Producers can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses, to a maximum amount of \$500,000.

For more information about emergency loans, please contact your local FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov/id.

TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN IDAHO WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE CONFERENCES DURING 2014

During 2014 there are two opportunities to participate in conferences focused on Women in Agriculture. The first will be held February 22, 2014 at the Nampa Civic Center and the second will be March 15, 2014 via live telecast from Washington State University. This broadcast will be available in two Idaho locations: Idaho Falls and Bonners Ferry. You can register and find more information for these conferences on their respective websites at: <http://idwomeninag.wordpress.com> for the February date and <http://womeninag.wsu.edu> for the March conference.

LDPs FOR UNSHORN LAMB PELTS

Eligible producers have until Jan. 31, 2014, to apply for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) for unshorn pelts produced during the 2013 crop year.

Eligible producers must have beneficial interest in the pelts, owned the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter. Producers must also comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands they operate or have interest in.

To qualify for payment, pelts must have been produced by an eligible producer from live unshorn lambs of domestic origin in the United States.

Canyon/Ada/Owyhee
Kyla Pearson, CED
Lora Ulrich, FLM
2208 E Chicago, Ste B
Caldwell 83605-4496
454-8696

Caribou
Chad Bybee, CED
390 E Hooper, Soda Springs 83276
547-4396

Cassia
Cary Curtis, CED
1351 E 16th St
Burley 83318-2406
678-1157

Elmore
Jeff Groat, CED
795 S Haskett
Mtn. Home 83647-3378
587-3303

Franklin
Layne Peterson, CED
Todd Tueller, FLM
98 E 800 N, Ste 2
Preston 83263-5388
852-0482

Fremont
Tauna Saurey, CED
1210 S. Industrial Park Road
St Anthony 83445-5014
624-7391

Gem/Boise/Valley
Jeff Groat, CED
1805 Highway 16, Ste 4
Emmett 83617-9076
365-3527

Gooding/Camas
Harold Boggs, CED
820 Main St, Gooding 83330
934-8472

Idaho
Julie Fowler, CED
102 South Hall
Grangeville 83530
983-1050

Jefferson/Clark
Lisa Eaton, CED
210 S. 5th West
Rigby 83442-5219
745-6664

Jerome/Lincoln/Blaine
Tom Snow, CED
Beth Sant, FLM
310 W. Nez Perce Ave.
Jerome 83338-
324-4325

BEGINNING FARMER LOANS

FSA assists beginning farmers to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

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.

FARMING OPERATION CHANGES

Producers who have bought or sold land, or added or dropped rented land from their operation must report those changes to the FSA office as soon as possible. A copy of the deed or recorded land contract for purchase property is needed to maintain accurate records with FSA. Failure to do so can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. While making record updates, be sure to update signature authorizations. Making record changes now will save time in the spring.

BREAKING NEW GROUND

Agricultural producers are reminded to consult with FSA and NRCS before breaking out new ground for production as doing so without prior authorization may put a producer's federal farm program benefits in jeopardy. This is especially true for land that must meet Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions.

Producers with HEL determined soils must apply tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements as specified in their approved USDA conservation plan.

Producers should notify FSA prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to ensure compliance. If you intend to clear any trees to create new cropland, these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure any work will not risk your eligibility for benefits.

Landowners and operators can complete form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is necessary.

APPEAL PROCESS

After an FSA official makes a decision on a request for USDA services or application, the producer will be sent a letter informing him/her of the decision and options that can be pursued. Generally, program participants have three choices — an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency..

Latah
 Jim Knecht, CED
 1848 S. Mountain View Rd, Ste 1
 Moscow 83843
 882-4960

Lemhi/N. Custer
 Tony Potter, CED
 945 Riverfront Drive
 Salmon 83467-5222
 756-4262

Lewis/Clearwater
 Karel Wemhoff, CED
 521 Oak St, Room 9
 Nezperce 83543-5066
 937-2291

Madison
 Bart Linderman, CED
 Curtis Warner, FLM
 302 Profit Street
 Rexburg, ID 83440-5307
 356-5701

Minidoka
 Nick Treasure, CED
 Kelli Bott, FLM
 98 "C" S 200 West
 Rupert 83350-9133
 436-4777

Nez Perce
 Tricia Uhlenkott, CED
 Bardell Faux, FLM
 1630 23rd Ave, Ste 1201
 Lewiston 83501-6350
 746-9621

Oneida
 Kim Jenkins, CED
 137 N. 100 West
 Malad City 83252-1236
 766-4719

Power
 Deb Duba, CED
 2769 Fairgrounds Rd, Ste B
 American Falls 83211-5418
 226-5139

Teton
 Bart Linderman, CED
 275 Old Railroad Way, Driggs
 83422 – Phone: 354-2680

Twin Falls
 Lance Phillips, CED
 1441 Filmore, Ste B
 Twin Falls 83301-3380
 733-5380

Washington/Adams/Payette
 Kim Royer, CED
 849 E 9th St, Weiser 83672
 549-4280

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

Any person convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

BANK ACCOUNT CHANGES

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into a bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office when an account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases the bank where payments are sent. Payments can be delayed or deposited in incorrect accounts if the FSA office is not aware of updates to bank accounts and routing numbers.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office because of work schedules, distance, health, etc..., FSA has a power of attorney form available that allows producers to designate another person to conduct business at the office. If interested, contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office for more information

FSA SIGNATURE POLICY

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.

Selected Interest Rates for January 2014	
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	1.875%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.125%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	2.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years)	2.25%

Dates to Remember	
Jan. 31	LDP Deadline for Unshorn Lamb Pelts
Feb. 18	New COC members take office