



## March 2012

### Bannock FSA

Service Center  
1551 Baldy Ave Ste. 1  
Pocatello, ID 83201

Phone: (208) 237-3435  
FAX: (208) 237-3412

### Hours:

Monday – Friday  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

### County Committee:

Kevin Loveland  
Dennis Thompson  
Ralph Wheatley

### Advisor:

Lori Davis

### Staff:

Tom Williams, PT  
Annette Christensen,  
PT

### CED:

Ben Evans

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## County Committee Advisors

Bannock FSA County Office Committee (COC) has just named Lori Davis of Downey, as COC Advisor for Bannock County. As the COC Advisor she will be a voice for under-represented groups and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in the community. County committee members and their county executive directors, reach out to producer groups who are under-represented on county committees to find the right person to serve as Advisor. Lori will join the Bannock COC at their April meeting.

Advisors serve for a 12 month period not to exceed nine consecutive years. They attend each COC meeting, including executive sessions and they participate. One of their primary responsibilities is to increase awareness of and participation in FSA activities, including elections. They help develop interest and incentives for socially disadvantaged group members to consider FSA work as a career. Advisors also solicit candidates from socially disadvantaged groups for nomination during the election process.

## CRP General Sign-Up

There will be a four-week Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general signup which began on March 12, 2012 and end on April 6, 2012.

CRP is a voluntary program available to agricultural producers to help them use environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion and develop wildlife habitat. In return participants receive rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is 10 years. Producers with expiring contracts and producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under

CRP. Producers also are encouraged to look into CRP's other enrollment opportunities offered on a continuous, non-competitive, signup basis.

For more information on CRP and other FSA programs, visit a local FSA service center or go online at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## New Continuous CRP Initiative

FSA has announced a new conservation initiative to protect up to 750,000 acres of the nation's most highly erodible croplands. This initiative will assist producers with targeting their most highly erodible cropland (land with an erodibility index of 20 or greater) by enabling them to plant wildlife-friendly, long-term cover through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Producers can enroll land on a continuous basis beginning this summer at their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office. With the use of soil survey and geographic information system data, local FSA staff can quickly determine a producer's eligibility for the initiative.

Producers are encouraged to contact the local FSA office or visit FSA's website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/crp](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp) for additional information regarding CRP.

## DCP/ACRE Sign-Up

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment runs from Jan. 23, 2012 through June 1, 2012. Here are some IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- All producers planting on **DCP base** acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.
- Changes on the farm after enrolling in DCP/ACRE **must** be reported **by June 1st** to your local FSA office. Changes may include:
  - Ownership changes

- Producer changes (Individuals and Entities)
- Change in crop share arrangements

*Note: Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012.*

## Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop year 2010.

Sign-up for 2010 SURE losses continue through **June 1, 2012**. SURE is available to eligible producers on:

- Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties, that have incurred crop production or quality losses, or both, and includes all crops grown by a producer nationwide, except grazed crops.
- Any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production on the farm because of disaster-related conditions is 50 percent or less than normal production of the farm.

## Hispanic and/or Women Farmers or Ranchers

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

To register your name and receive a claims packet, call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or visit [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov).

## NAP Enrollment

Producers must apply for coverage before a disaster strikes. Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) applications for coverage must be filed using Form CCC-471 and the applicable service fees paid by the sales closing date. Application sales closing dates vary by crop. Bannock County producers can contact the FSA Office for specific crop application sales closing dates at: (208) 237-3435.

Producers are reminded about the need for insurance coverage on crops in order to remain eligible for the agency's Disaster Assistance Programs such as SURE, Livestock Forage Program, Tree Assistance Program, and Emergency Livestock Assistance Program. Producers must purchase at least catastrophic (CAT) level of insurance for all insurable crops.

NAP provides coverage to producers for non-insurable

crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters. Crops eligible for NAP coverage are those for which crop insurance is not available, including fruits and vegetables, aquaculture, pecans, turf grass and forage crops just to name a few.

More information about NAP may be found on the FSA web site located at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

## MILC Requirements Reminder

Dairy producers must meet program requirements to maintain program eligibility. MILC participants must notify their local FSA office of any operation changes, such as a change in producer, shares, address or bank routing number.

Dairy producers applying for MILC payment must meet adjusted gross income (AGI) requirements by completing, "CCC-931 - AGI Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information."

For MILC enrollment, dairy producers must fill out, "CCC-580 - Milk Income Loss Contract" and select a start-month for payments. Current dairies in MILC can make changes to their start-month with certain restrictions.

Any start-month changes must be made on or before the 14th of the month before the selected MILC production start-month. The change must also be made before requesting payment and before the original MILC production start-month has passed.

Changes to the dairy operation start-month must be designated on "CCC-580M - Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) Modification."



## Marketing Assistance Loans

Marketing Assistance Loans, also referred to as Commodity Loans, are available to producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time of application. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if you regain beneficial interest.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans. The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification

### Loans: Land Contract Guarantee Program

The new FSA Land Contract Guarantee Program provides help to beginning farmers by offering guaranteed payments to landowners willing to sell and finance a land purchase to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer. The national program has two options. One guarantees up to three annual installment payments on the contract and the other guarantees 90% of the unpaid principal of the contract. This program can be used in the purchase of land for up to \$500,000. Contact your local FSA office for further details.

### Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers or members of socially disadvantaged groups 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](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) for farm loan information.



## Payment Limitations

Several FSA programs are subject to payment limitation provisions. Violation of any of these provisions may subject the producer to loss of payment and possible prosecution.

The following are current FSA program payment limitations:

| PROGRAM              | LIMIT     |
|----------------------|-----------|
| DCP Program          | \$40,000  |
| DCP CC / ACRE        | \$65,000  |
| CRP                  | \$50,000  |
| SURE. LIP, LFP, ELAP | \$100,000 |
| NAP                  | \$100,000 |
| LDP, Market Gain     | No Limit  |

## Individuals & Agents Need Signed Statement

The Farm Service Agency requires a signed statement from the producer authorizing the release of documents to the named agent or individual, specifying the crop year, farm number(s), and any related documents that the producers wishes to be released. There may also be a charge assessed for any copies given out.

## GovDelivery – Your next step to save time and increase efficiency

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation that saves tax payer dollars. Producers can now enroll in the new GovDelivery email system which provides electronic deadline reminders, bulletins and newsletters instead of printed paper documents through the mail.

County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers. Producers can subscribe to receive free e-mail updates by visiting [www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe) . Check it out today!

## 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 expenses or help 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 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 a group.

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

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

### ***2012 Dates to Remember!***

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Ongoing</b>        | : Continuous CRP signup   |
| <b>March 12, 2012</b> | : General CRP Signup opens  |
| <b>March 15, 2012</b> | : Deadline for most spring-planted crop insurance purchase or change  |
| <b>March 15, 2012</b> | : Deadline for non-insured (NAP) <b>spring</b> crop coverage purchase at FSA  |
| <b>March 31, 2012</b> | : Final date to request loan/LDP on 2011 crop barley, canola, honey, oats, rapeseed, wheat, flaxseed, and sesame seed   |
| <b>April 6, 2012</b>  | : General CRP Signup ends   |
| <b>May 28, 2012</b>   | : Office closed in observance of Memorial Day   |
| <b>May 31, 2012</b>   | : Final date to request loan/LDP on 2011 crop corn, dry peas, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, safflower seed, small chickpeas, soybeans, sunflower seed |
| <b>June 1, 2012</b>   | : Deadline to sign into DCP/ACRE  |
| <b>June 1, 2012</b>   | : SURE Signup deadline for 2010 Crop year   |
| <b>July 15, 2012</b>  | : Deadline to report all planted crops  |

### ***March 2012 Interest Rates***

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| 1.375% | Farm Operating – Direct   |
| 3.375% | Farm Ownership – Direct   |
| 1.500% | Farm Ownership – Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher |
| 1.125% | Commodity Loans   |
| 1.375% | FSFL (Farm Storage Facility Loans) with 7-year loan terms         |
| 2.000% | FSFL with 10-year loan terms                                      |
| 2.250% | FSFL with 12-year loan terms                                      |

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