



NEWSLETTER



May 2012

DCP/ACRE Sign-Up Deadline

**Bannock County
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:
Annette Christensen, PT
Tom Williams, PT
Ben Evans, CED
Carl Frey, CS

In this Issue:
>DCP /ACRE Deadline
>ACRE
>2010 SURE Deadline
>COC Election Nomination
>Crop Reporting Deadline
>MILC
>NAP Production
>AGI
>Farm Reconstitutions
>Measurement Services
>Dates to Remember
>May Interest Rates

Enrollment for the 2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) will continue through June 1, 2012. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign-up or visit any USDA Service Center to complete the 2012 DCP contract.

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 more information on this or other programs, contact the nearest FSA office.

ACRE Program

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) offers producers an alternative to Direct and Counter-Cyclical (DCP) payments. The ACRE alternative provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the five-year state Olympic average yield and the two-year national average price.

ACRE payments are made when both state- and farm-level triggers are met. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments. Producers also agree to receive a 20 percent reduction in direct payments and a 30 percent reduction in loan rates.

A decision to elect ACRE binds the producer to the program through the 2012 crop year, the last crop year covered by the 2008 Farm Bill. For more details contact the local FSA office.

2010 SURE Sign-Up Deadline

Sign-up for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payment (SURE) program for the 2010 crop year began Nov. 14, 2011, and will end on June 1, 2012. SURE provides benefits

- A portion of the farm is located in a county, or a contiguous county, covered by a qualifying Secretarial disaster declaration.
- An overall loss greater than 50 percent of the actual production on the farm compared to expected production for the farm for that year.

For producers to be eligible for SURE, they must have obtained a policy or plan of insurance for all crops through either the Federal Crop Insurance Act or FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). Producers must suffer a 10 percent production loss due to a natural disaster to at least one crop of economic significance on their farm in order to be eligible for SURE.

COC Election Nominations

For the purpose of county committee (COC) elections, counties are divided into local administrative areas, more commonly referred to as LAAs. Each LAA is represented on the committee by one producer who is elected by all active producers in that LAA and serves a three-year term. Each year an election is held in an LAA to replace or re-elect the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. This year LAA #3 is up for election, which are producers in the Virginia, Downey, and Swan Lake area of Bannock County.

Nominee's sign form FSA-669A, which will be mailed at a later date to eligible voters within LAA # 3, is also available at your local FSA Office, or online at:

http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFile/Services/eFormsAdmin/FSA0669A_120222V01.pdf

This form must be postmarked or received in the Bannock County FSA Office by close of business on Aug. 1, 2012.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in a FSA program may be nominated for candidacy. The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established, large or small. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the producers and to represent all constituents. This means wherever possible, minorities, women or socially disadvantaged producers need to be on the committee to speak for these underrepresented groups.

County committees provide local input on commodity price support loans and payments, conservation programs, incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities, emergency programs and payment eligibility.

FSA county committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decision and operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal rules, regulations and laws.

Election Period

June 15, 2012 – COC nomination period begins.

Aug. 1, 2012 - COC nomination forms (FSA-669A) due at the local USDA Service Center

Nov. 5, 2012 – COC ballots mailed to eligible voters

Dec. 3, 2012 - Last day to return completed COC ballots to the USDA Service Center

Jan. 1, 2013 - Newly elected COC members take office.

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria as follows:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate

Candidates must not have been:

- Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or
- any other felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

New Crop Reporting Deadline

The annual, timely and accurate reporting of acres for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. Crop acreage for Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) also must be reported.

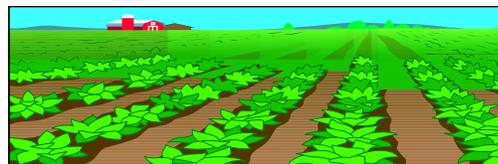
Crop reports — form FSA-578, Report of Acreage — must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. Producers need to file their acreage reports by **July 15th**.

Prevented Planting:

Prevented planting needs to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

Failed Acreage:

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.



NOTICE TO HISPANIC AND/OR WOMEN FARMERS OR RANCHERS

COMPENSATION FOR CLAIMS OF DISCRIMINATION

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 to receive a claims packet, call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or visit: www.farmerclaims.gov

The claims package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

MILC Program

FSA's Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC) compensates dairy producers when domestic milk prices fall below a specified level. MILC payments are made when the Boston Class I milk price falls below \$16.94 per hundredweight (cwt) as adjusted by the dairy feed ration adjustment. The monthly Boston price is posted online at:

http://www.fmmone.com/Northeast_Order_Prices/NE_Prices_main_new.htm.

Eligible producers should submit the current MILC (Milk Income Loss Contract) statements for payment. Eligibility for 2012 must be completed before payments can be disbursed. Please contact the office to check the status of your eligibility. New producers are encouraged to apply for the program any time before Sept. 30, 2012.

NAP Records

Production records for individual crops need to be filed at the FSA office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable. Records need to show crop disposition. We recommend producers submit production records as soon as harvest is complete. **All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.**

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.

This ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity

and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments and; \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

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.

Farm Reconstitutions

At FSA, farms are "constituted" to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. If an owner or operator can not agree about program participation, like in the case of the new ACRE program, then producers should inquire about a reconstitution of the farm at the local FSA office.

The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1, 2012, for farms enrolled in specific programs.

Measurement Service

Farmers who would like a guarantee on their crop plantings and land use acreages can make it official by using the FSA measurement service. Producers must file a request with the county office staff and pay the cost of a field visit to have stake and referencing done on the farm. Measurement service is available using digital imagery. If an on-site visit is not required producers are charged a reduced rate.

Incorrect acreage self-certification can result in reduced program payments, penalty or loss of eligibility.

Producers can request ortho-imagery and CLU covering their land (commonly referred to as a clip) at no charge. This would provide the acreage of an entire field.

Bannock County FSA
Service Center
1551 Baldy Ave Ste 1
Pocatello, ID 83201



PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Kansas City, MO
PERMIT #2175

Visit Idaho's FSA Website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/id>
2012 Dates to Remember!

- Ongoing:** Continuous CRP signup
- May 28, 2012 :** Office closed in observance of Memorial Day
- May 31, 2012:** Final date to request loan/LDP on 2011 crop corn, dry peas, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, safflower seed, small chickpeas, soybeans, sunflower seed
- June 1, 2012:** Deadline to sign into DCP/ACRE
- June 1, 2012:** SURE Signup deadline for 2010 Crop year
- June 15, 2012:** COC Nomination Period Opens
- July 15, 2012:** NAP crops production deadline
- July 15, 2012:** ACRE Production Deadline
- July 15, 2012:** Deadline to report all planted crops
- Aug. 1, 2012:** Last Day to file COC Nomination form

May 2012 Interest Rates

- 1.500%** Farm Operating – Direct
- 3.500%** Farm Ownership – Direct
- 1.500%** Farm Ownership – Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher
- 1.125%** Commodity Loans
- 1.500%** FSFL (Farm Storage Facility Loans) with 7-year loan terms
- 2.125%** FSFL with 10-year loan terms
- 2.375%** FSFL with 12-year loan terms

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer