

May 2010



Benewah/Kootenai FSA *News*

**Benewah/Kootenai
County FSA**
PO Box 263
Plummer, ID 83851
208-686-1260 (phone)
208-686-1703 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/id

Hours
Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

**Benewah/Kootenai
County Committee**
Dale Johnson
Herb Millhorn
Larry Hansen
Tom Rohde
Fred Muhs
Marcy Morris

Staff
Micki Linehan, CED
Nichole Swallows, PT
Angela Middleton, PT
Tami Gauthier, PT

Farm Loan Manager
Bardell Faux
208-746-9621

Critical 2010 DCP Signup Deadline!!!!!!

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) will continue until **June 1, 2010** with no late signup provision to allow you to enroll after that date. What that means is if you don't have all signatures representing 100% of the DCP payment shares the contract payment will be lost with no options for appeal as this is a statutory deadline.

All returned contracts being mailed back to the FSA office are required to be postmarked by June 1st or will be ineligible regardless of the date of signature.

It is the responsibility of the Farm Operator to get all the required signatures back to the Office by 4:30 PM on June 1st. Faxes will be accepted as well on June 1st.

To avoid the lines and long waits the last week of DCP signup, come in today and sign this year's contract!! For more information on DCP rules contact your local FSA Office.

2010 ACRE Program Signup Deadline!!!

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is a revenue based program that looks at farm and state guarantee price and yield triggers. If both triggers are below the guarantee threshold additional payments are made for the actual acres of commodities raised on the farm up to the total amount of base acres on the farm.

Typical eligible commodities in our area include wheat, barley, oats, lentils and peas. Each crop has its own guaranteed price. The deadline for ACRE is the same **June 1st** deadline as the DCP program. For more information contact the FSA office

Average Gross Income – Deadline!!!

June 15th, 2010 is the deadline for submitting the simple form CCC-927 (individuals) or CCC-928 (Entity including Trusts) to the IRS that gives permission for FSA to audit the gross income statement completed by all Owners & Operators who received any FSA payment in 2009.

If you haven't submitted these for all entities and individuals any payments received from FSA, NRCS or other USDA agencies will be **required to be refunded**. You can get these forms at your FSA Office or Online at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Crop Reporting Deadline!!!!

The acreage reporting deadline for 2010 is **June 30th**. Crops that are not reported to the FSA office by 4:30 PM on June 30th will be subject to late-filed provisions that include inspection fees for each farm.

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.

Only crops planted after June 30th have 15 days where they can still be reported to FSA without late filed provisions & fees being assessed.

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.

2010 FSA County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers.





County Committees are your local link to USDA

Benewah/ Kootenai County Local Administrative Areas holding 2010 elections are:

LAA 4 Area is South of Plummer, West of St Maries, North of Hangman Creek & North of Benewah Road.

LAA 5 Area is South of Hangman Creek, South of Benewah Road & South of St Maries River.

Eligible Nominees must reside in LAA in which they are a candidate.

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 lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for these underrepresented groups.

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

Election Period

June 15, 2010 – The nomination period begins. The nomination form can be found on Page 3

Aug. 2, 2010 - Last day to file nomination forms (FSA-669A) at the local USDA Service Center

Nov. 5, 2010 - Ballots mailed to eligible voters

Dec. 6, 2010 - Last day to return voted ballots to the USDA Service Center

Jan. 1, 2010 - Newly elected county committee members take office

Who Can Hold Office

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

- 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

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.

Nominations

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected.

Nomination forms for the 2010 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 2, 2010.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. Nomination forms are filed for the county committee of the office that administers a producer's farm records.

Who Can Vote

Agricultural producers of legal voting age may be eligible to vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm may also be eligible to vote. Please contact the County Office for more information.

Early Land Preparation for CRP

Beginning May 1 for arid areas, or July 1, of the final year of a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contract, cover may be destroyed on certain acreage before the contract expires to prepare a seedbed for fall seeded crop. A CRP general signup may occur in Fiscal Year (FY) 2010. Questions have arisen concerning the general signup eligibility of land that is expiring from CRP that is approved for early land preparation.

CRP participants that signed CRP-1G, Addendum, Modification To Allow Early Land Preparation, approved before April 22, 2010, to begin early land preparation were informed that beginning early land preparation activity will affect general signup eligibility.

If early land preparation activity is performed, the land is not eligible to be offered for the anticipated FY 2010 general signup. However, if no early land preparation activity was performed, the land remains eligible to be offered for the anticipated FY2010 general signup.

FSA-669A
(03-24-10) **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**
Farm Service Agency

NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

1. NAME OF NOMINEE (Type or Print Nominee's Full Name)	TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE	
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE	4. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE RECEIVED	
	5. COUNTY	
3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION: <i>I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.</i>	6. LAA	7. STATE
	8. NOMINATOR'S CERTIFICATION: <i>If this nomination is by other than self, the following eligible voter or representative of a community based organization hereby nominates the afore-named person to be a candidate in the next County FSA Committee election for the county.</i>	
3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE	3B. DATE	8A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR
<input type="checkbox"/> I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee. <input type="checkbox"/> I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.	<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.	
		(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required).

9. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE

VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES: The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.

<u>ETHNICITY</u>	<u>RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)</u>	<u>GENDER</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native	<input type="checkbox"/> Male
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian	<input type="checkbox"/> Female
	<input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American	
	<input type="checkbox"/> White	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM

- Complete the form as follows:
- ITEM 1** Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be:
 - A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election.
 - B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member.
 - C. Willing to serve if elected.
 - ITEM 2** Enter the nominee's current address.
 - ITEM 3** The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.
 - ITEMS 3A & 3B** The nominee must sign and date.
 - ITEMS 8A & 8B** The nominator must sign and date. (If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required.)
 - ITEM 9** Completing this item is voluntary.
- ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 2, 2010.**

NOTE: The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a - as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246). The information will be used to obtain nominees for election to the County FSA Committee. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for County Personnel Records, USDA/FSA-6. Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination of ineligibility for nomination for election to the County FSA Committee.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The provisions of appropriate criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided. **RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.**

Benewah/Kootenai Co
 PO Box 263
 Plummer, ID 83851



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

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) Signup Continues

SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. We are currently taking applications for 2008 crop year losses. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops on all farms in all counties, or if crop insurance is not available, to have Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage. The only exception is crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10% of the value of the coverage. To be eligible, at least one crop must have a 50% production loss due to natural disaster, or 10% production loss in a declared disaster county or a county contiguous to a declared disaster county.

Selected Interest Rates for May 2010	
Farm Operating - Direct	2.875%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.5%
Farm Storage Facility	3.25%
Sugar Storage Facility	4.375%

Dates to Remember	
1 June	DCP Sign-up Closes
1 June	ACRE Sign-up Closes
1 June	Recons Should be filed
15 June	AGI Form Deadline
30 June	Crop Reporting Deadline

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."