



# NEWSLETTER



July 2011

**Benewah/Kootenai  
County FSA Office  
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.

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

The County Committee  
meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the  
first full week of the month at  
1:00 p.m.

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

**Farm Loan Manager**  
Bardell Faux  
208-746-9621 (phone)

## 2011 FSA County Committee COC Nomination Deadline

County committees (COC) play a crucial role in helping the county office staff implement the Farm Bill. Due to the important services that COC members provide, producers are encouraged to participate in the FSA county committee election process by nominating an eligible candidate by the Aug. 1, 2011, deadline.

Local Administrative Area 2 is holding an election this year. It is the area North of I-90 in the Coeur d'Alene/Rathdrum/Post Falls area. To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The form and other valuable information about FSA county committee elections are available online at:

[http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/fsa0669a\\_committeelectform.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_committeelectform.pdf)

FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms. The Benewah/Kootenai Committee consists of five members who are elected by eligible local producers.

## 2010 ACRE Certification Deadline Extended

The deadline for a 2010 production certification to comply with the ACRE provisions for production reports has been extended to COB Sept. 1, 2011. Because of this extension, using a register on Sept. 1, 2011, is **not** authorized.

For more details contact the local FSA office.

## Benewah and Kootenai County Commissioners Request Disaster Declarations

During their June meetings, both the Benewah County Commissioners and Kootenai County Commissioners submitted Secretarial Disaster Declaration requests to Idaho Governor Butch Otter. The requests were based on cold, wet weather conditions across both counties. In many areas, farmers were not able to plant spring crops due to record breaking rains in March, April and May leaving nearly 16,000 acres unplanted. Weather conditions have also impacted potential yields on the fall seeded crops. The Governor has submitted the requests from Benewah and Kootenai County to the USDA Secretary, Tom Vilsack. If approved by the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretarial Disaster Declaration will trigger the availability of low-interest FSA emergency loans and 2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) payments to eligible producers.



Benewah/Kootenai County office is participating in this national effort to provide food to local community organizations this summer. For more information, stop by our office.

## Disaster Assistance

The Farm Service Agency would like to remind crop and livestock producers throughout states that have recently experienced severe damage from heavy rains, flooding, wildfires and tornadoes that FSA programs are available to assist with recovery.

FSA administers several important programs that help producers recover from disaster damage and livestock deaths. Among the key programs available to address impacts from disasters are the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP), the Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program.

Fact sheets for all of these programs can be found at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov); click on Newsroom, then Fact Sheets.

We encourage all who have suffered a disaster due to the recent severe weather conditions to read the fact sheets and visit their local FSA county office so they get a quick start in the recovery process.

## Farm Safety

Summer is an exciting and hectic time on Benewah & Kootenai County farms. **Be careful.** Benewah/Kootenai County FSA employees care about our customers.

Remember to: Walk around machinery and check shields and guards; make sure the PTO's master shield is in place; make sure Slow Moving Vehicle signs are on machinery.

If you are working in grain bins know that flowing grain can kill, and it can kill quickly. It takes less than five seconds for a person caught in flowing grain to be trapped. Try not to work alone in bins or confined spaces, and if that's not possible let someone know where you are by checking in regularly by cell phone.

## FSA Farm Loans

FSA is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or

regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an **FSA Guaranteed Loan** if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

**Farm Ownership Loans** or **Farm Operating Loans** may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. **Guaranteed Loans** can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,119,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

## Compliance Spot Checks

Compliance spot checks will be conducted on 2011 crops. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for review, a nationwide selection of producers is employed. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program, etc.

For more information about the spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact your local Farm Service Agency office for additional clarification.

## 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 Socially Disadvantaged Applicants (SDA).

Socially disadvantaged applicants are from groups whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as a member of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

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

If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact their local FSA office for details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

## Foreign Landowner Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

## Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers and 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.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed.

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)

## Farm Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary.

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 **August 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

**Estate Method** — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

**Designation of Landowner Method** — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

**DCP Cropland Method** — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

**Default Method** — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

## 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](http://www.farmerclaims.gov)

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



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## Successor-In-Interest

Many FSA programs will allow payments to be made to heirs or successors when a program participant passes away. Additionally, contracts in programs such as CRP must be revised to reflect the successor(s) to a deceased participant's interest.

In the event of an FSA program participant's death, it is important that FSA be notified. Entities and joint operations that participate in FSA programs also need to notify FSA if a shareholder or member passes away. FSA benefits are reported to IRS and maintaining current, accurate records about participants is vital to ensuring that those payments are reported correctly

Selected Interest Rates for July 2011	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.18%
Farm Operating - Direct	2.375%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.75%
Limited Resource	5.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency	3.75%
Commodity Loans	0.125%

Dates to Remember	
29 July	SURE application deadline for 2009 losses
1 Aug	COC Nomination Due in County Office
1 Aug	Reconstitutions Request Deadline
1 Sept	2010 ACRE Certification Deadline
30 Sept	NAP Fall Seeded Deadline

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