June 2009

Bingham County FSA News

USDA Bingham County FSA
725 Jensen Grove Dr.
Ste. #2
Blackfoot, ID 83221

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

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ACRE Informational Meeting

The Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) will be reviewed during public meetings held from 2-4:00 p.m. on June 10th in the Blackfoot Public Library at 157 N. Broadway Blackfoot, Idaho. The information presented will be identical both days. If interested please come to one of these meetings.

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been extended until August 14, 2009. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications. Signup in the ACRE option is also available through August 14, 2009.

FSA 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 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when prices fall below a threshold level.

County Committee Elections

Nomination Form Page 3

Since COC elections happen only once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into local administrative areas, or LAA's. Each LAA selects one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency county committee.

Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. Bingham County has three LAA's, and LAA #2 seat is up for election. This area is the Blackfoot, Snake River, and Fort Hall school districts.

To be valid, the attached nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected. The completed nomination form must be returned to the county office by close of business on August 3, 2009, or postmarked by midnight August 3, 2009. Only a producer in Area 2 may be nominated.

Voting

Agricultural producers of legal voting age and in the election area can 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 on an entire farm can also vote.

Conservation Reserve Program

Mid-management Practices

The purpose of mid-contract management activities is to enhance the wildlife habitat value of the enrolled acres by encouraging a diverse community and controlling noxious weeds and other invasive species. An integrated, adaptive management approach will help rejuvenate deteriorating CRP lands in order to increase community diversity and improve cover and food sources, benefiting wildlife and soil and water resources. All **new** CRP contracts starting after May, 5 2003 are required to complete a mid-management practice during the life of the contract. Please visit with you local FSA office to determine what mid-management practice is needed on your CRP contract land.

FSA offers 3 to 5 Year Limited Extensions

On May 1, Secretary Vilsack announced that certain CRP participants with CRP contracts that are scheduled to expire on September 30, 2009 may modify all or part of that contract to extend the expiration date for a period of 3 or 5 years at the same per acre payment rate. If you received a letter for the Secretary of Agriculture with an offer to extend your CRP contract 3 to 5 years the deadline to signup is June 30, 2009. Please make sure you come into the office and modify your conservation plan and sign the extension before it's too late.

Crop Reporting

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report 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 Load Deficiency Payments.

The certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The producer certification deadline is **June 30, 2009**.

Reporting after this date triggers a late fee of at least$46 which includes a farm visit to verify all reported acres and crops, this amount may be greater depending on size of operation and time required to verify.

CRP & NAP Certification
Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.
Prevented Planting: Prevented planting is 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.

Changes in Payment Limitations

Anyone that plans to participate in 2009 programs is required to submit a completed CCC-902, CCC-926, and CCC-901, if applicable, for payment eligibility and payment limitation purposes. The form used prior to 2009 was named CCC-502.

All partners, stockholders, or members with an ownership interest in the legal entity must make an active contribution, whether compensated or **not** compensated. That active contribution must include:

- personal labor, or
- active personal management,
- or a combination of active personal labor and active personal management to the farming operation;

Note: that there are exceptions for spouses.

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office

If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information. If you want a crop loan, a power of attorney form will need to be completed for husband and wife, if both do not come into the office to sign the forms on the day the loan is disbursed.

Banking Changes?

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. It has been calculated that having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit. Another benefit is that Direct Deposit to your account can be made within 48 hours.

To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

Youth Loan Participant is Essay Winner

Tyler Hughes of Challis, Idaho, a youth loan participant at FSA, took tops honors in and essay contest sponsored by Farm Bureau. Farm Bureau sponsors this program to promote awareness of agriculture among Idaho 5th graders.

The essays are first judged at a local level, then at a district level, and finally the top 3 essay's are forwarded on to be reviewed at a state level. According to Farm Bureau officials, Tyler showed "a very complete and extremely mature understanding of Idaho agriculture," capturing first place in the state and $50.

The last paragraph of his essay states:

"Idaho farmers and ranchers work hard. They spend long days and nights farming, harvesting crops, and taking care of livestock and the environment. They feed my family and your family. I am a fourth generation Idaho rancher and PROUD of it!"

FSA is proud of Tyler and would like to congratulate him on his honors!

ISDA Seeking Specialty Crop Grant Applications

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) is pleased to announce the competitive solicitation process to award Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The US Department of Agriculture has allocated these funds to the state and ISDA will be passing them through as competitive grants. Funds will be available

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Individuals can nominate themselves or another individual. Deadline to File is August 3, 2009

Form Approved - OMB No. 0560-0229

FSA-669A
(02-25-08)

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)*

2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE

TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE

5. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE *(MM-DD-YYYY)*

3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION

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 DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.*

☐ *I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.*

6A. COUNTY

6B. LAA NO.

7. STATE

4A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE

4B. DATE *(MM-DD-YYYY)*

DATE OF ELECTION IS 1st MONDAY OF DECEMBER OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR

8. 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.

ETHNICITY	RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)		GENDER
☐ Hispanic or Latino	☐ America Indian or Alaska Native	☐ Black or African-American	☐ Male
☐ Not Hispanic or Latino	☐ Asian	☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	☐ Female
	☐ White		

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.

ITEM 4 The nominee must sign and date.

ITEM 8 Completing this item is voluntary.

ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 3.

NOTE: *The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a) and the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, as amended. The authority for requesting the following information is 7 CFR Part 7. The information will be used to obtain nominees for 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. RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.

Bingham County FSA Office
725 Jensen Grove Dr. Ste. #2
Blackfoot, ID 83221

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

Dates to Remember	
Continuous	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
June 15, 2009	COC Nomination period opens
April 27 to August 14, 2009	ACRE program signup period
Aug. 1, 2009	Deadline for Recon Requests
Aug. 3, 2009	Deadline to file COC Nomination
Aug. 14, 2009	DCP / ACRE Signup Deadline

Selected Interest Rates for June 2009	
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.25%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.25%
Farm Ownership Loans — Down Payment	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%

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to interested local, state, and federal government, non-profit and for-profit organizations, and universities as competitive grants.

Projects may include, but are not limited to, pest and disease control, sustainability, enhancing food safety, improving efficiency and reducing costs of distribution systems, developing new and improved seed varieties, increasing child and adult nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops; specialty crop research, and assisting all entities in the specialty crop distribution chain in developing "Good Agricultural Practices", "Good Handling Practices", "Good Manufacturing Practices", and in cost-share arrangements for funding audits of such systems for small farmers, packers, and processors.

"We are looking for quality projects that will have a significant and lasting impact on Idaho's specialty crop industry," commented Director Celia Gould, ISDA, "The evaluation committee will be looking for feasible proposals that will benefit a great number of producers with a good return on investment."

Specialty crops include fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture. Get more details at www.agri.idaho.gov. Applications are due to ISDA by 7/01/09. For questions please contact Lacey Menasco at lacey.menasco@agri.idaho.gov or 208-332-8538.

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