



Bingham County FSA News

FSA Loan Program for Conservation

FSA is launching a new Conservation Loan (CL) program that provides farm owners and farm-related business operators, access to credit for certain conservation practices to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality and promote sustainable and organic agricultural practices. Conservation practices must be approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS.) Examples of eligible practices are installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; implementation of manure management; and the adaptation of other emerging or existing conservation practices, techniques or technologies. Direct CL loans can be up to \$300,000 and Guaranteed CLs from lenders working with FSA can go up to \$1,112,000. For more information on the Conservation Loan program, contact a local FSA office or visit the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

2010 ACRE Production

As part of the ACRE program requirements for 2010 crops, all production for each participating farm must be submitted to the FSA office by June 1, 2011. This time frame usually is good for producers who sell 2010 grain in the spring of 2011.

However, producers who grow barley and feed it do not have this length of time. Any producer who is in ACRE, raises barley and is going to feed it, **must either have it weighed and retain a record before going into the grain bin or have FSA measure it before it is fed.**

A measurement service can be requested for FSA to measure commodities that will not be sold, weighed, or will be fed, buy June 1, 2011.

Any ACRE farm not submitting all production by the deadline will not earn a direct or ACRE payment for that program year. Any advances made will be due back immediately.

2009 Federal Crop Insurance Premiums Paid

Some ACRE producers will be receiving a form in the mail that is requesting the amount of federal crop insurance premium paid in 2009 on each insured crop on a per acre basis. Please complete this form as quickly as possible, sign it, and return it to the FSA office. This premium is used in determining the farm's trigger. All producers on the farm must sign the form and if other producers have FCIC they too must enter their premium amount paid per acre. If no FCIC insurance is purchased, a zero must be entered. **Again, all producers must sign.**

FCIC premiums paid for potatoes and sugar beets are not needed.

Commodity Loans for 2010

2010 commodity loans are available as soon as the crop is harvested. The grain must be in good condition, stored in a grain bin on the farm, or in a warehouse.

Commodity loans mature 9 months after the month it is applied for. Interest rates change each month, but when a loan is completed, the interest rate for that month will remain the same until January 1, 2011. It will then change to the January 2011 interest rate and will remain at that rate until the loan matures. The interest rate for September is 1.25%.

USDA Bingham County FSA

725 Jensen Grove Dr.
Ste. #2
Blackfoot, ID 83221

Phone: 208-785-2090
Fax: 208-785-5847
www.fsa.usda.gov/id

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

County Office Staff
Steve Fullmer, CED
Elise Cumpston, PT
Sheila Rigby, PT

Farm Loan Staff
Bradley J. McMurtrey, FLM
Dustin Carter, FLO
Ben Young, FLO
Nikki Roberts, FLPT



The 2010 loan rates are as follows. If the farm is in the ACRE program, the loan and LDP rates will be reduced by 30%.

Crop	Loan Rate	LDP Rate (9/9/2010)
Durum	\$6.27	\$1.68
HRW/HWW	\$2.81	\$0.00
HRS/HWS	\$3.92	\$0.00
SWW	\$2.99	\$0.00
Barley	\$2.07	\$0.00

A paid measurement service may be requested to have FSA measure the quantity of the commodity. A producer may receive a 100% quantity loan from a measurement service or 90% of the producer's estimate.

2011 DCP/ACRE Signup

2011 DCP and ACRE contracts will be available to sign beginning October 2010. Before requesting advance payments, please make sure that no potatoes will be grown on contract acres or that there is a lease that expires on ground you receive a payment on. Both cases cause heartaches and headaches!

Even though ACRE elections are good through 2012, an ACRE contract must be signed each year to receive any payment.

Upcoming Payments

The following payments are scheduled to be made as follows:

- 2009 ACRE payments: Latter part of October. All CCC-538's (FCIC premiums paid, etc.) must be signed and returned before any payments can be made.
- 2010 direct payments: First week of October.
- 2010 CRP payments: First week of October.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) Program

Should there be a catastrophic disaster in 2011 or 2012 and Bingham County is declared a disaster county by the Secretary of Agriculture, the SURE program would become effective.

SURE is the new disaster program for FSA. One requirement to be eligible for SURE is that producer's must have federal crop insurance or NAP on all crops of economic significance.

Deadline to Purchase Federal Crop Insurance and NAP

The deadline to purchase federal crop insurance (sometimes known as multi-peril insurance) on wheat is coming up. Contact your insurance agent for the dates and rates.

The NAP insurance deadline for hay, grass, and grazing lands is December 1, 2010. **Don't miss these dates!**

Updating Farm Records and Photos

Have you changed field boundaries, added a pivot, filled in ditches, covered rocks, or made other changes? Now is a good time to come in and go over those changes with us and let us update your photos.

CRP Participants – Think Twice before Mowing

A few years ago, mowing of CRP grass cover was a widely accepted practice by many participants, if for no other purpose than aesthetics. Today with more research and understanding, it has been shown that undisturbed grass cover will reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and is more beneficial to wildlife than annually mowed grass covers.

Undisturbed CRP covers could appear unattractive to those that do not understand its value. Wildlife, especially grassland birds including pheasants and quail, and pollinators, such as bees and butterflies, view undisturbed CRP cover as a source of food and habitat suitable to raise their young. Wildlife will not utilize CRP cover if plants are not allowed to mature. Game birds and bees are disappearing because of habitat loss.

Undisturbed grass cover does not include noxious weeds such as thistle and teasel or woody species like trees and multiflora rose. These noxious weeds must be controlled by spot mowing affected areas or spot spraying of an approved herbicide. These treatments will have a minimal effect on the CRP practice cover's ability to meet the purposes of erosion control, water quality, and wildlife habitat. Spot mowing is less expensive than mowing the whole field. Aesthetic beauty should not replace good land steward-ship and economics.

Unnecessary disturbance of CRP cover is considered a violation of the terms and conditions of the CRP contract and conservation plan. Violations could potentially result in hefty penalties including contract termination and refund of all contract related payments.

Properly maintained CRP cover can be very attractive if noxious weeds and invasive species are controlled and grasses and wildflowers are allowed to mature.

Please scout your CRP fields before weeds go to seed. Contact your local FSA office for permission to spot treat your CRP grass cover during Idaho's primary nesting season (April 1st – Aug. 1st). Plan to have your CRP cover assessed for the need of mid-contract management activities that are designed to enhance your CRP cover for wildlife. Mid-contract management is a contractual obligation that is outlined your CRP-1 Appendix and conservation plan. Contact the FSA office for more information on proper maintenance and management of CRP practice cover. Remember, beauty is in the eye of the conservationist.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

Succession in Interest

If you have made any changes that affect your interest in base acres since you signed your last Direct and Counter-cyclical Program contract, you must report these *successions-in-interest* to the county committee by **Sept. 30**, so that a final determination can be made on who is eligible for the program on the farm. Changes that qualify as a succession-in-interest include:

- A sale of land
- A change of operator or producer, including a an increase or decrease in the number of partners
- A foreclosure, bankruptcy or involuntary loss of the farm.
- A change in producer shares to reflect changes in the producer's share of the crop(s) that were originally approved on the contract.

If a succession-in-interest has taken place, you, as the "predecessor," are required to refund any advance DCP payments you received for the affected base acres before a payment can be made to the "successor."

Not reporting a succession-in-interest can result in contract termination and a loss of program benefits for all producers involved.

Selected Interest Rates for September 2010	
Farm Operating - Direct	2.375%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.375%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency – Actual Loss	3.750%

Dates to Remember	
Sept 15	Signup for Durum Wheat Quality Program Ends
Sept 30	Succession in Interest Report to County Committee
Sept 30	SURE Application Deadline
Sept 30	Crop Insurance Deadline for Wheat as well as other crops. Check RMA for more details.
Sept 30	NAP Deadline for Fall Canola or Fall planted Seed Crops
Dec 1	NAP for Perennial Crops and Honey

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