



NEWSLETTER



July 2011

Bingham County FSA Office

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www.fsa.usda.gov/

Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

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.

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_commiteelectform.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. Committees consist of three to 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.

The extension is for completing both the farm benchmark yield (2005 through 2009) and the actual farm yield (2010). For more details contact the local FSA office.

ACRE Program

As we are trying to get ready to make 2010

ACRE payments (if triggered) the following are things you need to make sure to complete and bring in to the office:

- The actual production evidence for 2010 crops must be submitted and the CCC-658 Report of Production signed.
- The Producer Paid Insurance Premium must be completed and signed (CCC-538).

To prepare for 2011's ACRE, the following are required:

- Acreage report must be filed. After June 30th, a fee of at least \$46 must be paid.
- The Producer Paid Insurance Premium must be completed and signed.
- The program designation of crops must be completed and signed if needed.
- The actual production of 2011 crops must be submitted and signed.

Farm Operating Plans (CCC-902)

To be eligible for any program payments, each individual and partnership entity has completed a farm operating plan. This plan requires information on capital, equipment, land, labor, and management. It is your responsibility to keep the plan current and correct.

These plans, which have always been completed manually, are now required to be typed into a web-based system. Over the next two months, this office will continue data loading each plan. As we are entering this data, we are finding that many of the farm operating plans are not up-to-date. We are correcting the land to show what is currently being farmed within each farm operating plan. If an update is needed, you will be receiving a copy of your updated

plan for your signature. Please sign it and send it back to our office!

If we do not get your signed and dated farm operating plan back, you will not receive your final 2011 payments. It is very important for you to get it signed and back to 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; click on Newsroom, then Fact Sheets.

Many of these programs require the producer to have federal crop insurance or NAP insurance before the disaster.

Farm Safety

Summer is an exciting and hectic time on Bingham County farms. **Be careful.** Bingham 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 taking medicine, take it at the appropriate time and eat on schedule.
- 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.



The Bingham County FSA office is participating in this national effort to provide food to local community organizations this summer. For more information stop by our office.

FSA Farm Loans

Farm Service Agency's direct loan programs have helped numerous producers purchase farms, ranches, equipment, livestock and provided annual operating financing. These programs are excellent for beginning farmers and ranchers or producers who are ineligible for credit elsewhere; but, what about the rest of the farmers and ranchers out there? What do FSA loan programs have to offer them? The answer for many producers is the FSA Guaranteed loan program, implemented through local agricultural lenders.

This program is mainly for producers who lack the financial position to obtain credit from a commercial lender on their own merit, but who don't meet the eligibility criteria for an FSA direct loan because of term limits, loan limits, or other reasons. With the guarantee program, the producer applies directly with the lender and the lender completes the guarantee application and submits it to FSA. The process is quick and efficient with minimal burden to the lender or borrower.

The guarantee gives the lender a guarantee of loan repayment (usually 90%) from FSA if the borrower is unable to repay the loan. This mitigates risk for the lender and allows the

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.



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producer to obtain the credit needed to operate. Most of the financial institutions in Bingham County participate in the guarantee program to some degree. It has been a great resource to many producers throughout the area.

To learn more about the guarantee program or to apply contact your local farm loan team at the Blackfoot USDA Service Center.

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.

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.

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.

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

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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%

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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