June 2012

Bingham County FSA Office

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

208-785-2090 phone
208-785-5847 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/id

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

County Office Staff

Tyler Kendall
CED
Ext. 105

Elise Cumpton
PT
Ext. 106

Sheila Rigby
PT
Ext. 100

Farm Loan Staff

Dustin Carter
Farm Loan Manager
Ext. 111

Ben Young
Loan Officer
Ext. 110

Matt Macedo
Loan Officer
Ext. 108

Nikki Roberts
Farm Loan PT
Ext. 107

County Committee Nominations

Bingham County committee nominations are open from June 15, 2012 through August 1, 2012. We are looking for eligible producers from voting area LAA2 to run for office. The boundaries of voting area LAA2 contain the areas of Blackfoot, Fort Hall, Rockford, part of Pingree, and goes north to the Firth and Blackfoot school district line and west to the Snake River and Aberdeen school district line.

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers. Every eligible producer should participate in these elections to strengthen the link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County committee members are a critical component in the delivery of FSA services and programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees for up to three consecutive 3 year terms, help with key decisions on programs in Bingham County and work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

Operating within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws, FSA county committees apply their local knowledge to make key program administration decisions.

Nominate yourself or someone else that you think would be a good candidate for Bingham County farmers. The nomination form can be found on the web at www.fsa.usda.gov/id or at our office.

Average AGI Certification

Participants in Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) programs subject to average AGI rules must annually certify their eligibility to receive program benefits. The IRS also requires written consent from the individual or legal entity to provide USDA verification of the average AGI. Such annual AGI certification and written Income (AGI) Certification and Consent To Disclosure of Tax Information.

Compliance Check Methods

Compliance review and spot checks will again be performed during the 2012 crop year. This year, farms, contracts, deficiency loans and more will be selected for various reviews from a nationwide database of producers to achieve a valid statistical sampling of participating producers. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in the Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program and other programs.

State and county offices will view and print their producer spot check lists as posted on a designated website. If an entity is selected from the national database is no longer farming or participating in programs during the 2012 crop year, a notation shall be made on the spot check list. For more information about the new spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact us at 785-2090.

Crop Reporting Changes

This annual requirement to report 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 Loan Deficiency Payments programs.

The certification form **FSA-578, Report of Acreage**, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The reporting deadline for 2012 crops is as follows:

June 30 - Apiculture, PRF, Fall Alfalfa Seed, Fall Barley, Fall Canola, Dry Peas, Fall Mint, Fall Wheat, and all other

Fall-Seeded Small Grains, Apples, Cherries, Fresh Apricots, Fresh Freestone Peaches, Fresh Nectarines, Grapes, Plums

July 15 - Spring Alfalfa Seed, Spring Barley, Spring Canola, Corn, Dry Beans, Dry Peas, Flax, Green Peas, Spring Mint, Mustard, Oats, Onions, Potatoes, Processing Beans, Safflower, Sugar Beets, Sweet Corn, Spring Wheat, and all other crops.

For the 2013 crop year reporting deadlines are:

Nov. 15 - Apiculture, PRF

Dec. 15 - Fall Alfalfa Seed, Fall Barley, Fall Canola, Dry Peas, Fall Mint, Fall Wheat and all other Fall seeded small grains.

Jan. 15 - Apples, Cherries, Fresh Apricots, Fresh Freestone Peaches, Fresh Nectarines, Grapes, Plums

July 15 - Same as July 15, 2012

CRP & NAP Certification

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. Crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must be reported.

Prevented Planting

Prevented planting is to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date. Failure to report prevented planting acreage could result in loss of benefits for the SURE program or possibly other disaster assistance programs.

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.

Actively Engaged in Farming

To be eligible for payments and benefits under specified programs, all program participants, either individuals or legal entities, must provide significant contributions to the farming operation to be considered as "actively engaged in farming." Contributions can consist of capital, land, and/or equipment, as well as active personal labor and/or active personal management. The management contribution must be critical to the profitability of the farming operation and the contributions must be at risk.

Producers must file either Form CCC-902-I for an individual or CCC-902-E for an entity.

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to start, continue and expand agriculture production. Loans are available for operational needs or to help purchase or improve farms and ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for socially disadvantaged applicants. A socially disadvantaged applicant is an individual who has been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as a member of one of the groups described.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Sodbusting

Farmers and ranchers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in Farm Service Agency programs.

Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an **AD-1026,** indicating the area to be brought into production.

If Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates that the area will be highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage before bringing land into production.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFLP) 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 FSFLP 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. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

A partial disbursement can 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 is 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. For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov/id .

FSA Signature Policy

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

For more clarification on spousal signature authority, contact the local FSA office.

Beginning and Limited Resource Loans

FSA has a program to assist beginning farmers and 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 less 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 the local USDA Service Center or visit www.fsa.usda.gov and www.nrcs.usda.gov .

Special Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

GovDelivery – Free Reminders

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving into paperless operation to save your tax payer dollars. Producers can now enroll in the new **GovDelivery** system to receive instant electronic deadline reminders, bulletins and newsletters direct to your email address. Now you don't have to wait for a printed newsletter only occasionally sent through the mail.

Producers can subscribe to receive free e-mail updates by visiting this free enrollment website: www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe. You can also call your local Farm Service Agency office. Give it a try right now. All you need is an email address for yourself or a family member where you can receive the useful email updates.

Bingham County FSA also provides text message reminders – contact our office for details.

Controlled Substances

Individuals convicted under federal or state law of any planting, cultivating, growing, producing, harvesting or storing a controlled substance are ineligible for program payments and benefits.

If convicted of one of these offensives, a current program participant shall be ineligible during that crop year and the four succeeding crop years for Direct and Counter-Cyclical payments, price support loans, loan deficiency

payments, market loan gains, storage payments, farm facility loans, Non-Insured crop Disaster Assistance Program payments or disaster payments.

Program participants convicted of any federal or state offense consisting of the *distribution (trafficking) of a controlled substance* shall, at the discretion of the court, be ineligible for any or all program payments and benefits:

- For up to 5 years after the first conviction
- For up to 10 years after the second conviction
- Permanently for a third or subsequent conviction.

Program participants with a federal or state conviction for the *possession of a controlled substance* shall be ineligible, at the discretion of the court, for any or all program benefits as follows:

- up to one year upon the first conviction
- up to five years after a second or subsequent conviction.

Banking Changes? – Let FSA Know to Prevent Payment Delays

If you changed banks and did not notify FSA, your payment could be delayed. Because payments are electronically transferred into your bank account, changes to your account and routing numbers need to be shared with FSA immediately. Also on FSA loans, to continue to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important to remember that changes in a producer's account be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible delays. Changes can include the type of account, bank mergers, new routing number or account numbers. Your county FSA office can help you avoid these problems if you will contact them in advance of any banking changes.

Selected Interest Rates for June	
Farm Operating - Direct	1.50%
Farm Ownership - Direct	3.625%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility – 7 year	1.25%
Farm Storage Facility – 10 year	1.875%
Farm Storage Facility – 12 year	2.125%
Commodity Loans	1.125%

Dates to Remember	
June 15	COC Nomination Period Opens
June 30	Acreage Reporting Deadline - See Pg 2 for details
July 15	Acreage Reporting Deadline - See Pg 2 for details.
July 4	Office closed
Aug 1	Last day to file COC nomination form
Sept. 30	Deadline for Fall planted crop insurance purchase or change

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.