



January 2011

Bonneville FSA

Service Center
1120 E Lincoln Rd Ste B
Idaho Falls, ID 83401

Phone: (208) 522-6250
FAX: (208) 522-0280

Hours:

Monday – Friday
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

County Committee:

Jerry Schluter
Vern Piquet
Bryon Reed

Advisor:

Jean Schwieder

CED:

Colleen Mann ext. 104

Program Technicians

Janet Harris ext. 107
Megan McGuire ext. 100
Lynelle Simmons ext. 105

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Vern Piquet! Vern was re-elected to represent farmers on the county committee from section 2, Township 2 North Range 38 East, covering the area east of Hwy 20 (South of Idaho Falls) then east of section 2, Township 3 North, Range 39 East and south of section 35, Township 1 North, Range 34 East. The election results for Local Administrative Area 2 are:

Vern Piquet — elected to the county committee (COC),

James C Kvamme— 1st alternate to COC,

Boyd Schwieder — 2nd alternate to COC

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

The committee members will hold their organizational meeting in January to determine who will serve as the county committee chairman and vice-chairman.

SURE Signup

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) begins Jan. 10, 2011. SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. For SURE, **all crops must be covered by crop insurance, NAP or eligible for waivers.**

A farm enrolled in SURE is eligible when either:

- a portion of the farm is located in a county covered by a qualifying natural disaster declaration (USDA Secretarial Declarations only) or a contiguous county; or,
- the actual production is less than 50% of the normal production.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The noninsured crop disaster assistance program (NAP) is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop's application closing date.

Production records for all crops must be reported to FSA no later than the acreage reporting date for the crop for the following year. FSA requires that any production reported in a loss year be verifiable according to Agency specifications. *NAP Losses must be reported within 15 days of loss.*

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.

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, feel free to contact your local FSA office.

CRP Maintenance Reminder

The Committee wishes to remind CRP participants of important responsibilities and actions needed to maintain CRP acreage and remain in compliance with contract terms and conditions:

- When land under contract transfers ownership, existing contract holders are not released of liability. CRP contract(s) do not transfer with the property title. If you are considering a sale or transfer, have acquired an interest in land or an estate with CRP acreage; please contact this office for additional details. In some cases, an eligible new owner may continue with the contract. Contract(s) will be cancelled and the current contract holder(s) required to repay all funds advanced on the contract plus interest charges when the CRP acreage is not in compliance or the new owner elects not to continue with an existing contract.
- Failed cover, shrubs and/or trees must be replaced as needed and irrigation systems must be maintained. Undesirable vegetation, noxious weeds, insects and rodents that jeopardize CRP must be controlled at all times. Spot treatment of weeds is strongly encouraged. Committee approval is needed before beginning spot treatment during the primary nesting and brood rearing season (April 1 through August 1) or before beginning other maintenance actions which are more invasive (tree thinning, mowing, broadcast spraying, etc.).
- Mid-management maintenance practices are required for most contracts. Management activities must be completed within the middle 4 years of a contract and may not occur during the primary nesting and brood rearing season. Some common practices include light disking or chiseling, harrowing, strip seeding, or mowing. Cost-shares are available but must be established before beginning any work. Call our office for further details.
- Any temporary use of CRP acreage (access, cattle crossing, meteorological towers, overnight parking, etc.) must be preapproved by the

Committee. To request temporary use of CRP land, submit a written request through this office explaining the timeframes and intended use. Contract holders are responsible for all restoration expenses.

- Be sure to file a 2011 crop report by June 30, 2011, to avoid any delay of your annual rental payment(s).

Risk Management Agency (RMA)

USDA's Spokane Risk Management Agency (RMA) Office reminds producers of the important link between Federal crop insurance and FSA's Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance programs including the new SURE program.

To maintain eligibility for most Supplemental Disaster Programs producers must obtain a policy or plan of insurance of at least the catastrophic level (CAT) of insurance for the crop year 2011.

The next round of sales closing dates for Federal crop insurance are:

January 31, 2011

Final date to obtain or change AGR insurance in select counties in Idaho, Oregon and Washington. Final date to submit required documents to continue or change 2011 AGR-Lite insurance for EXISTING POLICY HOLDERS in AK, ID, OR and WA.

February 1, 2011

Final date to obtain or change crop insurance coverage for 2011 Spring Planted Onions in Idaho, Oregon and Washington and Cabbage in Oregon and Washington.

March 15, 2011

Final date to obtain 2011 Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite (AGR-Lite) insurance for NEW APPLICATION/ENROLLMENT POLICIES.

March 15, 2011

Final date to obtain or change ALL OTHER Spring Seeded Crop insurance coverage (excluding wheat in counties with Fall and Spring planted types).

Note: The Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite program meets the linkage requirements for SURE. Also, if there is no crop insurance coverage in a county for a specific crop, and that crop is insurable in another county under the traditional Federal crop insurance program, a producer may be eligible for crop insurance coverage under a written agreement. Interested producers should contact their local crop insurance agent for details.

State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)

FSA continues to accept offers to enroll acreage in the CRP program for Sharp Tail Grouse habitat. If you are interested in submitting an offer, contact our office for eligibility and program details. Enrollment is limited and offers are processed on a first-come first-serve basis.

Customer Statement

January signals the beginning of a new year, and a time to starting thinking about filing taxes. Producers who have signed up for a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account will be able to access their farm data via their Customer Statement.

The Customer Statement puts a range of USDA services and programs into a single report that's at your fingertips and available online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

It allows USDA customers to view their participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation programs; information on farm loans; and conservation plan and land unit information.

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 FSA office near you for more information.

Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

Appeal Process

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree.

Generally, program participants have three choices — an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency.

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

Farming Operation Changes

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have added or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. This is especially important if you have CRP contracts.

You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan.

Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.

Foreign Buyers 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. FSA administers this program for USDA.

All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and 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 (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Bonneville Farm Service Agency
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Idaho Falls, ID 83401-2122



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Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

Visit Idaho's FSA Website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/id>

2011 Dates to Remember!

- Ongoing** : Continuous CRP signup
- January 10** : 2009 SURE signup begins
- January 17** : Office Closed for Martin Luther King's Jr's Birthday
- January 31** : Dead line for LDP's on Unshorn Lamb Pelts and Wool
- February 21** : Office Close for George Washington's Birthday

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