October 2009

Boundary/Bonner FSA News

Richard Rush, State Executive Director

USDA Boundary/Bonner FSA Office

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Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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Final Payments for 2009 DCP

Enrolled producers can expect their final direct payment to be deposited directly into personal bank accounts sometime during the first few weeks of October.

Producers who did not elect to receive an advance direct payment will receive their entire direct payment for the year in one lump sum after the end of the fiscal year (Sept. 30).

The direct payment for a crop equals 83.3 percent of the farm's base acreage times (x) the farm's direct payment yield times (x) the direct payment rate.

If there are any unearned payments, Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically subtract those amounts from the final Direct and Counter-cyclical Program payments you are about to receive.

Livestock Forage Disaster Program

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to: drought conditions or fire on federally managed land.

Eligible livestock producers may receive assistance for eligible livestock grazing losses that occur due to drought or fire on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011, during the calendar year in which the loss occurs.

County committees can only accept applications after being notified by the National Office of qualifying drought as signified by a Drought Monitor level of D2 or higher, or if a Federal agency prohibits producers from grazing normally permitted livestock on Federal managed lands due to a qualifying fire.

FSA began accepting 2008 calendar year applications September 14, 2009. The applications must be filed by December 10, 2009. Late filed applications for LFP cannot be approved.

For 2009 and subsequent years, signup applications must be filed no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the grazing losses occurred. Losses must occur in the calendar year the application is being filed.

The monthly payment rate will be an amount equal to 60 percent of the lesser of:

- the monthly feed cost for all covered livestock, using a feed grain equivalent (for example, the feed grain equivalent for an adult beef cow is 15.7 pounds of corn per day)
- the monthly feed cost calculated using the normal carrying capacity for the grazing land.

Drought eligibility criteria require that the drought must have occurred on:

- native or improved permanent vegetative cover
- small grains or forage sorghum planted specifically for grazing

Losses due to drought must occur during the normal grazing period for the specific type of grazing land.

Additional Information about LFP including eligible livestock and fire criteria is available at county FSA offices or on line at: www.fsa.usda.gov.

ELAP for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-Raised Fish

ELAP provides compensation to eligible producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other loss conditions, including losses due to blizzards and wildfires caused by natural occurrence (for example, lightning.) ELAP is for losses that are not covered by Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), or Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE).

Eligible producers under ELAP may receive assistance for losses that occur on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011. Eligible losses include feed losses, physical losses and additional costs incurred in providing feed to eligible livestock. Losses due to drought are not eligible.

The two parts to the ELAP application are: 1)A notice of loss and 2) Application for payment

An application for payment cannot be filed until a notice of loss is submitted.

Signup for eligible losses during 2008 and 2009, began September 14, 2009. For losses in calendar year 2008, producers must provide a notice of loss and application for payment in their administrative county office no later than **December 10, 2009**. Application for payment for calendar year 2009 losses shall be filed no later than January 30, 2010.

Producers who suffer losses September 14, 2009, through December 31, 2009, shall file a notice of loss within 30 days of when the loss is apparent to the participant, but no later than January 30, 2010.

There are no late filed provisions for ELAP. Producers with eligible losses must timely file an acreage report on grazing land acres, honey bee colonies and farm-raised fish pond acres

Physical losses of honey bees and honey bee hives lost due to adverse weather or natural occurrence are eligible under ELAP. Producers will be required to provide documentation of beginning and ending inventory of honey bee colonies when claiming a physical loss of honey bees or honey bee hives. Physical losses will be compensated at 60 percent of the actual replacement cost of the honey bees or honey bee hives.

Comment Period for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Dick Rush, State Executive Director is encouraging agricultural producers who are enrolled or may wish to be enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program to take advantage of the comment period on proposed changes to this program. "There are substantive changes being proposed for this program that will affect Idaho CRP enrollees and the future of land use for our producers," said Rush. "We have a vested interest in maintaining a sound program in Idaho and I encourage producers to learn as much as they can and let their opinions be heard so that Idaho producers have a say in how the program goes forward." The deadline for submitting comments is October 18, 2009.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), often considered the most successful conservation program in modern times, is at a critical juncture as Congress contemplates whether to continue the program. Since 2005, more than 4.2 million acres have expired, and over the next five years, another 21 million more acres are slated to expire.

Some of the changes proposed are: Using National Agriculture Statistic Services data to establish rental rates; Adding alfalfa and legumes to the eligible crop history; and Making mid-management practices optional.

Submit comments **online** at http://public.geomarine.com or the **Federal eRulemaking Portal**. **Email** comments to CRPcomments@tecinc.com; or mail or hand-deliver comments to CRP SEIS, c/o TEC Inc., 8 San Jose Dr., Suite 3-B, Newport News, VA 23606. Fax comments to: 757-594-1469.

Help Available to Stressed Farmers

In the past year the economy, inclement weather, drought and other factors have hurt many farming operations around the country. These events pushed some farmers to the emotional breaking point. Watching their livelihood being threatened is difficult for farmers and ranchers and for those who care about them.

If you know a farmer or rancher who is under stress and is reluctant to ask for help call the **National Suicide Prevention Hotline** or if you just need to talk to someone, call **1-800-273-TALK (8255)**. Your call will be routed to the nearest crisis center, where trained staffers are available 24/7. This nationwide service is free and confidential. Help is just a phone call away.

Visit http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/ for more information. This service is not affiliated with the US Department of Agriculture.

Farm Loan Update - Raised Limits on Guaranteed Loans

The Farm Service Agency offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to $300,000. FSA also offers Guaranteed Loans in partnership with commercial lenders up to $1,112,000 (new maximum as of October 1, 2009.) Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For details just contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

Electronic Services Available

Producers with Internet access can access many services from home 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and receive approval and payment by direct deposit within 48 hours.

To participate in these services, you must meet all program eligibility requirements. Online services have stringent security measures to protect your private information.

To utilize electronic service, a producer needs an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account and an e-mail address. You can visit www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/ to complete the online registration form. Note that you must also visit your FSA county office for identity verification.

For assistance establishing your account, contact your local USDA Service Center or your nearest FSA County Office.

Acreage Spot Check Determinations and Notification

Each year FSA completes spot checks of acreage reports. Acreage reports are an integral part of farm program participation. Acreage spot checks are completed to ensure accurate acreage reports in farm program computations.

FSA will conduct spot checks on a selected number of farms in each state. All acreage determinations use the FSA Geographic Information System official acreages.

After farms are spot checked, a Notice of Determined Acreage will be sent to the farm operator. Questions concerning determined acres should be directed to your local FSA office for further explanation.

Price Support Update

There have been many changes to the Price Support Program for the 2009-2012 crop years. To be eligible to receive a market loan gain (MLG) or loan deficiency payment (LDP), an entity or individual's average adjusted gross NONFARM income cannot exceed $500,000.

A person or legal entity with average adjusted gross NONFARM income that exceeds $500,000 is NOT eligible for MLG and LDP. However, the person or entity is eligible for a Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL), but the MAL must be repaid at principal plus interest. Beginning with 2009 crop year, CCC will no longer limit MLG's and LDP's.

Starting with the 2009 crop year, CCC will no longer adjust loan rates for warehouse-stored loan using premiums and discounts at loan making time. If the loans are not repaid and are forfeited to CCC, grading factors effecting premiums and discounts will be applied during forfeiture.

Effective with the 2009 crop year, loan rates for farm-stored Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) shall NOT be adjusted for test weight at loan making. Applicable discounts will be taken at the time of loan settlement, if the commodity is delivered to CCC at loan maturity.

For all the changes for 2009-2012 as they apply for MALs and LDPs, please contact your local Farm Service Agency office.

County Committee Elections

Be watching your mailbox for your official county committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters starting on November 6, 2009. If you don't receive a ballot, notify the county FSA office. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on December 7, 2009.

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Rural Youth Loans

Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is $5,000. See your local FSA office for details.

Selected Interest Rates for October 2009	
Farm Operating - Direct	3.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.000%
Limited Resource	5.000%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency - Actual Loss	3.750%

Dates to Remember	
Oct. 12	Columbus Day Holiday
Nov. 6	County committee ballots mailed to voters
Nov. 11	Veterans Day Holiday
Nov. 26	Thanksgiving Day Holiday
12/1/09	NAP sales closing date for honey and all 2010 perennials, including alfalfa and grass

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