June 2009

Clearwater County News

Clearwater County
USDA Service Center

Clearwater County FSA
12730 Highway 12, Ste C
Orofino, ID 83544
208-476-4612 (phone)
208-476-7365 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/

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

County Committee
Cory Brown
Leroy Praest
Earl Lawrence
Jean White

Staff
Karel Wemhoff, CED
Kathy Gruell, PT
Millie Lansing, PT
Justin Allen, PT

FSA Committee meetings are open to the public. Regular COC meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at the Orofino USDA Service Center, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

County Committee Elections
"FSA Counts on You"
Nomination Form Page 3

Since COC elections happen only once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into local administrative areas, or LAAs. Each LAA selects one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency county committee.

Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. In counties with three LAAs, one seat is up for election. In combined counties in some years, two seats may be up for election.

To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected. The completed nomination form must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Aug. 3, or postmarked by midnight Aug. 3, 2009.

Voting

Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm can also vote.

2009 Election

Candidates for the 2009 election must reside in LAA1, the western portion of the county.

Boundaries for LAA1 are:

North: County line to the northern edge of Township 38 North, then eastward to the North Fork of the Clearwater River.

East: North Fork of the Clearwater River

South: County line

West: County Line

CROP REPORTS DUE JUNE 30th

Accurate and complete crop reports must be filed each year to remain eligible for many program benefits, including DCP, NAP, SURE, and Price Support commodity loans, to name a few.

The deadline to report 2009 crops is **JUNE 30th.**

Conservation Reserve Program
by Sherrie Brooks

Expiring CRP Contract Options

If you have a CRP contract expiring this year AND it was enrolled during a general sign-up, all or a portion of the affected acres may be eligible to be re-enrolled into a new 10 to 15 year continuous CRP contract. The current contract must be in full compliance, and must meet all eligibility criteria for continuous CRP. Some of the practices available under Continuous CRP are: Field Windbreaks, Grass waterways, Shelterbelts, Filter strips, and Riparian buffers among others. If you have a General Signup contract expiring Sept. 30, 2009, contact FSA for more information.

Mid-management Practices

The purpose of mid-contract management activities is to enhance the wildlife habitat value of the enrolled acres by encouraging a diverse community and controlling noxious weeds and other invasive species. An integrated, adaptive management approach rejuvenates deteriorating CRP lands in order to improve cover and food sources, benefiting wildlife and soil/water resources. All CRP contracts starting with Sign-up 26 are required to complete a mid-management practice during the life of the contract. Please visit with your local FSA office to determine what mid-management practice is needed on your CRP contract land.

FSA offers 3 to 5 Year Limited Extensions

On May 1, Secretary Vilsack announced that certain CRP participants with CRP contracts that are scheduled to expire on September 30, 2009 may modify all or part of that contract to extend the expiration date for a period of 3 or 5 years at the same per acre payment rate. If you received a letter for the Secretary of Agriculture with an offer to extend your CRP contract 3 to 5 years, the deadline to signup is June 30, 2009. Please make sure you come into the office to modify your conservation plan and sign the extension before it's too late.

DCP & ACRE Signup Deadline

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been extended until August 14, 2009. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications. Signup in the ACRE option is also available through August 14, 2009.

FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when prices fall below a threshold level.

The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service will save you time, reduce paperwork and speed up contract processing at FSA offices. It is available to anyone eligible to participate in the DCP Program. To access this on-line service, you must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

Changes in Payment Limitations

Anyone that plans to participate in 2009 programs is required to submit a completed CCC-902 (Farm Operating Plan for Payment Limitation Purposes), CCC-926 (Adjusted Gross Income Certification), and CCC-901 (Member's Information, if applicable) for payment eligibility and payment limitation purposes. The form used prior to 2009 was CCC-502.

All partners, stockholders, or members with an ownership interest in the legal entity must make an active contribution, whether compensated or **not** compensated. That active contribution to the farming operation must include:

- Personal labor, or
- Active personal management, or
- A combination of active personal labor and active personal management.

Note that there are exceptions for spouses.

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 Farm Service Agency office near you for more information. If you want a crop loan, a power of attorney form will need to be completed for husband and wife, if both do not come into the office to sign the forms on the day the loan is disbursed.

2009 Commodity Loan Rates

Crop	Type	Lewis	Clear water	Nez Perce	Idaho	Whitman	Asotin
Wheat	Durum	4.90	4.90	4.95	4.90	4.90	--
	HRS	3.71	3.66	3.76	3.66	3.81	3.81
	HRW	2.89	2.74	2.94	2.84	2.94	2.98
	SWH	3.12	3.02	3.17	3.02	3.17	3.17
Barley		2.09	2.09	2.14	2.09	2.10	2.12
Oats		1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.30	1.30
Mustard		9.04	9.18	9.03	9.11	8.96	8.97
Canola		7.45	7.60	7.37	7.52	7.30	7.37
Flaxseed		8.65	8.79	8.65	8.72	8.58	8.58
Rapeseed		9.29	9.43	9.29	9.36	9.22	9.22
Dry Peas		6.12	6.12	6.12	6.12	6.12	6.12
Sm Chickpeas		7.43	7.43	7.43	7.43	7.43	7.43
Lg Chickpeas		11.48	11.48	11.48	11.48	11.48	11.48
Lentils		14.62	14.62	14.62	14.62	14.62	14.62

Pulse Crop Base Information Coming Soon!

The 2008 Farm Bill included provisions for adding pulse crop bases to farms with a history of planting peas, lentils and/or garbanzo beans during the period from 1998 – 2001. Notices will be mailed within the next two weeks to producers determined to have pulse crop history, offering this one-time opportunity to add pulse crop bases.

Please review the information carefully and contact the FSA office with any questions. Form CCC-515 must be signed to add bases, and DCP contracts will need to be re-signed after farm records are updated.

Individuals can nominate themselves or another individual. Deadline to File is August 3, 2009

Form Approved - OMB No. 0560-0229

FSA-669A
(02-25-08)

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency

NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

1. NAME OF NOMINEE *(Type or print Nominee's Full Name)*

2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE

TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE

5. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE *(MM-DD-YYYY)*

3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION

I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.

☐ *I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.*

☐ *I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.*

6A. COUNTY

6B. LAA NO.

7. STATE

4A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE

4B. DATE *(MM-DD-YYYY)*

DATE OF ELECTION IS 1st MONDAY OF DECEMBER OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR

8. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE

VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES: The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.

ETHNICITY	RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)		GENDER
☐ Hispanic or Latino	☐ America Indian or Alaska Native	☐ Black or African-American	☐ Male
☐ Not Hispanic or Latino	☐ Asian	☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	☐ Female
	☐ White		

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM

Complete the form as follows:

ITEM 1 Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be:

A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election.
B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member.
C. Willing to serve if elected.

ITEM 2 Enter the nominee's current address.

ITEM 3 The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.

ITEM 4 The nominee must sign and date.

ITEM 8 Completing this item is voluntary.

ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 3.

NOTE: *The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a) and the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, as amended. The authority for requesting the following information is 7 CFR Part 7. The information will be used to obtain nominees for County FSA Committee.*

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.

Clearwater Co FSA Office
12730 Highway 12, Suite C
Orofino ID 83544

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
KANSAS CITY MO
PERMIT #BM-2175

Dates to Remember	
Continuous	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
June 15, 2009	COC Nomination period opens
June 30, 2009	Last day to file 2009 crop report
July 3, 2009	Office closed in observance of Independence Day
Aug. 1, 2009	Deadline for Recon Requests
Aug. 3, 2009	Deadline to file COC Nomination
Aug. 14, 2009	DCP / ACRE Signup Deadline

Selected Interest Rates for June 2009	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.25%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.25%
Farm Ownership Loans — Down Payment	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%

IMPORTANT NAP REMINDERS

Acreage reports for crops with NAP coverage must be filed by the **earlier of** 15 days prior to harvest, or June 30th. Hay must be reported two weeks before it is cut!

June 30th – Last day to provide 2008 production records to prove yields for crops with NAP coverage.

Happy 4th of July!

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."