June 2009

Fremont County FSA News

USDA
Fremont County FSA
1210 S Industrial Park Rd
St Anthony, ID 83445
208-624-7391 phone
208-624-4423 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/id

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

Fremont County Staff

Tauna Saurey, CED
Marian Mallard, PT
Bobbie Larsen, PT

Curtis Warner
Farm Loan Manager
208-359-5701

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ACRE Informational Meeting

The Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) will be reviewed during public meetings held at 2 PM on June 17th at the Sugar Salem High School auditorium and 2 PM on Thursday, June 18th at the Driggs City Hall. All operators and owners are encouraged to attend.

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.

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 LAA's. 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. Fremont County has three LAA's, and LAA #3 is up for election. This area is east of Newdale and south of Conant Creek to the county line.

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.

Crop Reporting

The annual requirement of reporting 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 Load Deficiency Payments.
The certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The producer certification deadline is June 30, 2009.

Reporting after this date triggers a late fee of at least $46 which includes a farm visit to verify all reported acres and crops, this amount may be greater depending on size of operation and time required to verify.

CRP & NAP Certification
Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.
Prevented Planting:
Prevented planting is to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.
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.

Conservation Reserve Program

by Sherrie Brooks

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 will help rejuvenate deteriorating CRP lands in order to increase community diversity and improve cover and food sources, benefiting wildlife and soil and water resources. All **new** CRP contracts starting after May, 5 2003 are required to complete a mid-management practice during the life of the contract. Please visit with you local FSA office to determine what mid-management practice is needed on your CRP contract land.

Expiring CRP Contract Options

If your CRP contract is expiring this year all or a portion of your expiring general signup CRP contract may be eligible to be re-enrolled into a new 10 to 15 year continuous contract provided the current contract is in full compliance and meets all eligibility criteria for continuous CRP. Some of the practices available under the continuous CRP program are: Field Windbreaks, Grass waterways, Shelterbelts, Filter strips and Riparian buffers among others. FSA encourages CRP participants with General Signup contracts expiring Sept. 30, 2009 to visit their local FSA office to get more information on the program.

Changes in Payment Limitations

Anyone that plans to participate in 2009 programs is required to submit a completed CCC-902, CCC-926, and CCC-901, if applicable, for payment eligibility and payment limitation purposes. The form used prior to 2009 was named 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 must include:

- personal labor, or
- active personal management,
- or a combination of active personal labor and active personal management to the farming operation;

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.

Banking Changes?

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. It has been calculated that having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit. Another benefit is that Direct Deposit to your account can be made within 48 hours.
To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.
If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

ISDA Seeking Specialty Crop Grant Applications

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) is pleased to announce the competitive solicitation process to award Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The US Department of Agriculture has allocated these funds to the state and ISDA will be passing them through as competitive grants. Funds will be available to interested local, state, and federal government, non-profit and for-profit organizations, and universities as competitive grants.

Eligible projects will solely enhance the competitiveness of U.S. grown specialty crops in either domestic or foreign markets and projects must benefit more than one product or organization.

See ISDA – page 4

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.

Fremont County FSA Office
1210 S Industrial Park Rd
St Anthony, ID 83445

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Kansas City, MO
PERMIT #BM-2175

Dates to Remember	
Continuous	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
June 17, 2009	Sugar Salem ACRE Mtg. 2:00 pm
June 18, 2009	Driggs ACRE Mtg. 2:00 pm
June 15, 2009	COC Nomination period opens
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	
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.25%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.25%
Farm Ownership Loans — Down Payment	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%

ISDA - Continued from page 2

Projects may include, but are not limited to, pest and disease control, sustainability, enhancing food safety, improving efficiency and reducing costs of distribution systems, developing new and improved seed varieties, increasing child and adult nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops; specialty crop research, and assisting all entities in the specialty crop distribution chain in developing "Good Agricultural Practices", "Good Handling Practices", "Good Manufacturing Practices", and in cost-share arrangements for funding audits of such systems for small farmers, packers, and processors.
"We are looking for quality projects that will have a significant and lasting impact on Idaho's specialty crop industry," commented Director Celia Gould, ISDA, "The evaluation committee will be looking for feasible proposals that will benefit a great number of producers with a good return on investment."
Specialty crops include fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture. Get more details at www.agri.idaho.gov. Applications are due to ISDA by July 1, 2009. For questions please contact Lacey Menasco at lacey.menasco@agri.idaho.gov or 208-332-8538.

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."