



September 2011

**USDA  
Gem/Boise/Valley  
County FSA Office**

1805 Hwy 16 Room 4  
Emmett, ID. 83617  
(208) 365-3527 x 2  
phone  
(208) 365-7183 fax

[www.fsa.usda.gov/](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/)

**Hours**

Monday - Friday  
8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

**County Office Staff**

Debbie Carlock, CED  
Deann Kersey, PT  
Sandra Becker, PT

**County Committee**

Blaine Lindley, Chair  
Shirley Florence, V Chair  
David Obermeyer  
Joe Kennedy  
Gary Biggers

**County Committee  
meets the second  
Thursday of the month  
@ 10:00 AM in the  
county office. Next  
meeting will be  
October 13, 2011.**

**Farm Loan  
Manager:**

John Lejardi  
Canyon/Ada FSA Office  
(208)454-8696

Ron Abbott, Chief  
Farm Programs

Terry Pobst-Martin, Chief  
Administration

**GEM COUNTY HAS BEEN  
DECLARED A DISASTER  
COUNTY FOR 2011**

The Secretarial Designation was approved by the Secretary on July 18, 2011.

A Secretarial disaster designation makes farm operators in both primary and contiguous counties eligible to be considered for assistance from the Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program.

**Emergency Loans** - Farmers in eligible counties have eight months, which is March 19, 2012, from the date of a Secretarial disaster declaration to **apply for emergency loan assistance**. FSA will consider each emergency loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of production losses, security available, and repayment ability. Emergency Loan assistance will be handled through the Canyon/Ada County office where John Lejardi is the Farm Loan Manager. The Canyon/Ada County office number is 208-454-8696.

**SURE Program - Applications for 2011 crop losses will be accepted in 2012**, when the 2011 farm revenue data required by statute becomes available. Contiguous counties to Gem County are Ada, Canyon, Boise, Elmore, Payette, Valley and Washington Counties. As stated above “**A qualifying loss is defined as a loss of 10 percent or more on at least 1 crop of economic significance because of disaster on a farm could qualify you for a SURE payment if all insurance provisions have been met.** Please give our office a call at 208-365-3527 x2 if you have questions.

**SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE  
ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS  
(SURE) PROGRAM**

The 2008 Farm Bill and regulations (7 CFR Part 760, Subpart G) specify to receive SURE payments; an eligible producer on a SURE farm must have a qualifying loss. A qualifying loss is defined as a loss that is either:

- 10 percent or more on at least 1 crop of economic significance because of disaster on a farm that is located in or contiguous to a disaster declared county
- Or, if not located in any disaster county or county contiguous to such a county, but has an overall loss greater than or equal to 50 percent of normal production on the farm (expected revenue for all crops on the farm) because of disaster.

**Notes:**

A **SURE farm** includes all crop acreage in all counties that a producer planted or intended to plant for harvest for normal commercial sale or farm livestock feeding.

**A crop of economic significance** is a crop that contributes at least 5 percent of the expected revenue for a producer's SURE farm.

\*\*A **disaster county** is a county for which a Secretarial disaster designation has been issued or a county contiguous to a county with a Secretarial disaster designation. The disaster designation must be effective for the crop year for which SURE payments are being applied.

**Qualifying Loss Requirements for 2011 and 2012 Crops**

At the time of filing the 2011 or 2012 SURE application for payment, the producer will be required to identify and certify the crop of economic significance on the SURE farm that suffered the 10 percent loss because of disaster occurring on or before September 30, 2011.

*Continued on next page*

**Note:** Crops are **not** required to be harvested on or before September 30, 2011, to maintain eligibility for SURE.

The determination of whether a producer's certification of crop loss is because of disaster occurring on or before September 30, 2011, FSA will review the crop's planting and growing period, asserted disaster event, and any other pertinent information that may be relevant or available.

## 2011 ELAP and LIP Sign Up

Sign up deadlines are approaching for FSA's Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Fact sheets for these programs can be found at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov); click on NEWSROOM, then FACT SHEETS.

Producers who have suffered a disaster due to the recent severe weather conditions should read the fact sheets and visit their local FSA office to get a quick start on the recovery process.

Both ELAP and LIP Sign-ups require a Notice of Loss filed by the earliest of earlier of:

- 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent to the participant or
- October 31, 2011

An application for payment must be received no later than January 30.

## Looking For a Farm Loan?

**FSA helps farmers and ranchers get started – and keeps them going.**

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers farm loans to farmers and ranchers who have experience and want to own or operate their own farm or ranch, but are unable to get financing from a traditional lender.

What sets FSA loans apart from traditional agricultural lenders?

- **No down payment** required
- Lower interest rates than traditional financing
- Longer terms available (up to 40 years for real estate loans)
- FSA provides financial assistance and business planning to help ensure the future well-being of American agriculture.

**Guaranteed Loans** - FSA also offers loans partnering with local lenders to provide a guarantee of up to 95% of the loss of principle and interest of the loan. FSA guaranteed loans are for both Farm Ownership (real estate purchases) and operating purposes.

**Loans for Socially Disadvantaged** - While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged Applicants. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Native, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

**Emergency Farm Loans** – FSA provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production losses and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters or quarantine.

**Rural Youth Loans** – FSA provides loans up to the amount of \$5,000 to rural youths from age 10 years to 20 years of age to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups.

## NAP Loss Filing

For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), you must file a CCC-576 (Notice of Loss) in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. The CCC-576 is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

## Hispanic and Women Farmers

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established.

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

For additional information contact:

•**Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process:**

[www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov) or call 1-888-508-4429

•**Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation:**

[www.blackfarmercase.com](http://www.blackfarmercase.com)  
or call 1-866-950-5547

•**Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement:**

[www.IndianFarmClass.com](http://www.IndianFarmClass.com) or call 1-888-233-5506

## **Farm Safety**

Flowing grain in a storage bin or gravity-flow wagon is like quicksand, it can kill quickly. It takes less than five seconds for a person caught in flowing grain to be trapped.

The mechanical aspects of grain handling equipment, also presents a real danger. Augers, power take offs, and other moving parts can grab people or clothing.

These hazards, along with pinch points and missing shields, are dangerous enough for adults; not to mention children. It is always advisable to keep children a safe distance from operating farm equipment. Always use extra caution when backing up or maneuvering farm machinery. Ensure everyone is visibly clear and accounted for before machinery is engaged.

FSA wants all farmers to have a productive crop year, and that begins with putting safety first.

## ***eNewsletters and eUpdates through GovDelivery!***

The Farm Service Agency is providing more cost-effective and resource-conserving options to deliver news, deadlines and bulletins. You have the option to receive information instantly and electronically from your state or local FSA office directly to your farm or ranch. Several states already have GovDelivery for news releases.

Take a look at your current state and county options for electronic delivery by visiting the FSA home page at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

To enroll in Gov-Delivery go to the Idaho Homepage at [www.fsa.usda.gov/id](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/id) and click on [email updates](#) in the right column.

Once you enroll in GovDelivery, you can select electronic subscriptions via e-mail. For more information contact your FSA state office and watch for more news and opportunities to sign up to receive your news quicker and at less cost via e-mail.

## **Continuous CRP**

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program is a voluntary private lands environmental improvement program that allows participants the opportunity to enroll environmentally sensitive acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources.

Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment.

To be eligible, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. Provided the eligibility requirements are met, FSA will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year. For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments, please contact your local FSA office.

## **Marketing Assistance Loans**

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as

determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans.

***The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.***

## AFIDA

Any foreign person who acquires transfers or holds any interest, other than a security interest, in agricultural land in the United States is required by law to report the transaction no later than 90 days after the date of the transaction. They must file Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) reports with the FSA county office that maintains reports for the county where the land is located. For AFIDA purposes, agricultural Land is defined as any land used for farming, ranching or timber production, if the tracts total 10 acres or more. For more information contact the FSA office near you or visit the USDA Web site at [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov).

## Succession in Interest

If you have made any changes that affect your interest in base acres since you signed your last Direct and Counter-cyclical Program contract, you must report these ***successions-in-interest*** to the county committee by Sept. 30, so a determination can be made on who is eligible for the program.

Changes that qualify as a succession-in-interest include:

- A sale of land
- A change of operator or producer, including a an increase or decrease in the number of partners
- A foreclosure, bankruptcy or involuntary loss of the farm.
- A change in producer shares to reflect changes in the producer's share of the crop(s) that were originally approved on the contract.

If a succession-in-interest has taken place, you, as the “predecessor,” are required to refund any advance DCP payments you received for the affected base acres before a payment can be made to the “successor.” Not reporting a succession-in-interest can result in contract termination and a loss of program benefits for all producers involved.

Dates to Remember	
Sept. 1	2010 ACRE Certification Deadline
Sept. 30	Fall Seeded Crop NAP sign-up ends
Sept. 30	Succession in Interest Report to County Office

Selected Interest Rates for September 2011	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	2.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.625%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency	3.750%
Farm Stored Facility Loan - 7 years	1.875%
Farm Stored Facility Loan - 10 years	2.500%
Farm Stored Facility Loan - 12 years	2.875%
2011 Crop Year Commodity Loans	1.125%