



# NEWSLETTER



November 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  
December 8, 2011**

**Farm Loan Manager:**  
John Lejardi  
Canyon/Ada FSA Office  
(208)454-8696

## County Committee Voting Begins

Ballots for this year's county committee election will be mailed to eligible voters on Nov. 4, 2011. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on Dec. 5, 2011. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight Dec. 5, 2011.

The candidate is:

Joe Kennedy is nominated in LAA #4, the area south of Gold Fork in Valley County, to serve as a committee member. Kennedy lives in Cascade and has been a cow/calf operator there for a number of years.

Eligible voters in local administrative area #4 who do not receive a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

**Voter Requirements** - Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, are eligible to vote:

**1.** Legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as any of the following: an individual, an authorized representative of an entity, spouses when property is owned jointly or in community property states.

**2.** Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm.

**3.** Participates or cooperates in any FSA program that is provided by law.

**Discrimination Prohibited** No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

## 2012 DCP/ACRE

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment begins Jan. 23, 2012 and ends June 1, 2012.

Here are **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**:

1) All producers planting on **DCP base** acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.

2) Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1<sup>st</sup> in DCP/ACRE **must** be reported to your local FSA office such as:

- Ownership changes
- Producer changes (Individuals and Entities)
- Change in crop shares arrangements

3) Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012.

**NOTE:** As required in the 2008 Farm Bill there are no 2012 advance payment for DCP and ACRE.

## Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

The sign-up for 2010 losses begins **Nov. 14, 2011** and will end **June 1, 2012**.

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop year 2010.

For the 2010 crop year, producers in Gem, Boise or Valley counties who experienced disaster-related conditions which reduced the actual crop year production on the farm to 50 percent or less than normal production of the farm may be potentially eligible for benefits under the program. Insurance requirements apply.

(Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties only require a minimum 10% crop production loss. However, neither Gem, Boise nor Valley counties received such a designation for 2010.)

## Marketing Assistance Loans

Marketing Assistance loans are commodity loans available to producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time of application. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity, maintaining responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity, and maintaining title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for a loan.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; reporting use of cropland acreage on the farm and ensuring that the commodity meets CCC minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, and exist in a storable and merchantable condition 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 Program 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.

## Non- Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

**Next deadline: Dec. 1 - *perennials, fruits, honey, grass seed crops***

Administered by your local county Farm Service Agency (FSA) office, the NAP program is designed to provide the equivalent catastrophic (CAT) level coverage for prevented planting or low yield occurrences for commercially produced crops or agriculture commodities for which CAT insurance is not available and is produced for food or fiber. Eligible crops also include: floriculture,

ornamental nursery, Christmas trees, turf grass sod, industrial crops and seed crops. To participate in NAP, producers must purchase coverage by the following application closing dates: *Sept. 30 – Fall planted crops, Dec. 1 – perennials, fruits, honey, grass seed crops and Mar. 15 – Spring planted crops*. The fee is \$250 per crop, per county. Coverage attaches 30 days after the application for coverage is filed or the date the crop is planted, whichever is later.

Additionally, producers must file a notice of loss within 15 days after the possibility of crop loss is apparent, an acreage report by Jan. 2 for honey and June 30 for all other crops, and must submit an application for payment, all production records and certification of actual production history prior to the next year's acreage reporting date. Losses for all hand harvested crops require an appraisal by a certified loss adjuster. Eligible producers must have title, risk and control of the commodity (renters are acceptable as long as they retain full control, risk and title to the crop) and have an adjusted gross non farm income of less than \$500,000. Eligible causes of loss include damaging weather, adverse natural occurrences or related conditions (including but not limited to: excessive precipitation, wind, heat, drought, freeze, etc.) that the County Committee (COC) determines occurred during or before harvest and directly caused, accelerated or exacerbated the destruction or deterioration of the eligible crop. Annual payments under NAP are not to exceed \$100,000 for any person. Additional program provisions may apply.

## Disaster Assistance Programs

The array of FSA disaster assistance programs include:

- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)
- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program

To be eligible for SURE, TAP, and ELAP, producers must purchase catastrophic risk protection insurance for all insurable crops, and coverage for non-insurable crops. For LFP, grazed land must be covered.

Farm-Raised Fish means all fish being produced for sale by an eligible producer. In the case of honey, the term "farm" means all bees and beehives in all counties that are intended to be harvested for a honey crop by the eligible producer.

Producers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource Producer or Beginning Farmer or Rancher do not have to meet this risk management purchase requirement.

## Adjusted Gross Income Report to IRS – Act Now

Producers should remember they must submit an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) verification consent form (CCC-931) to maintain eligibility for 2010 and 2011 program benefits. Individuals and legal entities now are using one form: CCC-931 AGI Certification and Consent.

The consent form authorizes IRS to verify that a producer's AGI is within the requirements for FSA programs eligibility. Producers who failed to file these forms before Sept. 2011 will receive a final notice from the National Office. This notice will give the producer a final opportunity to submit the CCC-931 prior to becoming ineligible for all program payments (with the exception of some earlier multi-year CRP contracts.) The letter will provide instruction on where the completed form must be sent.

IRS requires written consent from all individuals or legal entities before verification of AGI eligibility can be provided to USDA.

For more information contact your local FSA office.

## Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Funds are available for operating loans and to purchase or improve farms or ranches (ownership loans.)

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of socially disadvantaged applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is someone who has been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as a member of a group, without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

## 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 on this and other settlement issues 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

## Changing Banks

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit.

To maintain efficient payment processing, it is critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make with your financial institutions.

If you have made changes to accounts or have changed banking institutions, these changes might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments. When changes like these are made, be sure to contact the FSA county office so we can update our records to ensure efficient and uninterrupted service.

## Move with FSA to Instant Electronic Information

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation.

Producers can now enroll in the new GovDelivery system for notices, newsletters and electronic reminders and discontinue their slow and costly paper copies received through the mail.

FSA, like many other organizations, is working smarter and more efficiently. Conversion to electronic notifications via email helps conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars.

County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers.

Subscribe now to receive free e-mail updates by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe> or use the box "Sign up for updates" on the FSA homepage.

## Online Services

Producers with Internet access can fill out a variety of FSA forms online. Producers can also register for secure electronic access that will allow them to electronically sign and transmit some forms directly to the county office staff. If you are new to the website, first you will want to obtain a Level 2 USDA Service Center Customer ID and password at: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> and then click on "Create an Account Page" link.

If you already have a Customer ID and password, then click on the following eForms website at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainervlet> and then click on the "Sign In" button. A disclaimer window will open and after you read the "Warning message" click on the "Continue" button.

Then the USDA Web services page will open to the eAuthentication login page. Enter your login User ID and password and then click on the "Login" button. To sign and transmit forms electronically, you must sign-up and get a User ID and password.

## Unauthorized Disposition of Grain

If grain under loan has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe and a producer's name is placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call to check for restrictions before you haul any grain under loan.

Selected Interest Rates for November 2011	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	1.375%
Farm Ownership - Direct	3.750%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loan (7 year)	1.500%
Farm Storage Facility Loan (10 year)	2.00%
Farm Storage Facility Loan (12 year)	2.25%

Dates to Remember	
Nov. 4	COC Ballots mailed
Nov. 11	Veterans Day Holiday-Office Closed
Nov. 14	SURE Sign-up begins
Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Day Holiday-Office Closed
Dec. 1	NAP Signup for Perennial Crops Ends
Dec. 5	COC Ballots due back in County Office by COB
Jan. 23	2012 DCP Enrollment begins