



August 2009

Idaho County FSA News



Idaho County USDA Service Center

Idaho County FSA
102 South Hall
Grangeville, ID 83530
208-983-1050 (phone)
208-983-0519 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov

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

County Committee
Joe Chicane
Chris Arnzen
Bill Kinzer
Karen Lustig, Advisor

Staff
Julie Fowler, Acting CED
Susan Kennedy, PT
Erica Baldus, PT

FSA Committee meetings are open to the public. Regular COC meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at the Grangeville USDA Service Center, beginning at 8:00 a.m.



FSA
ACRE PROGRAM
Sign Up Deadline:
August 14, 2009

Idaho FSA Welcomes Dick Rush



USDA Farm Service Agency in Idaho is pleased to welcome Dick Rush back to Idaho as State Executive Director. Mr. Rush was born and raised in Idaho, and his parents still live on the family farm near Moscow. He is a

graduate of the University of Idaho with a degree in agricultural economics and holds a master's degree in agricultural economics from the University of California at Davis. Dick has served as Administrator of the Idaho Wheat Commission, Director of the Idaho Department of Agriculture under two governors and our SED from 1992-2000. He also managed a 6000-acre dry land farm and livestock operation in north Idaho, owned by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe of Idaho. Besides a distinguished career in government, Dick has held management positions with Boise Cascade Corporation, Basic American Foods and served as Vice President of Natural Resources for the Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry. He also served as CEO of the American Red Cross for Greater Idaho. Dick is a past member of the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission and held the position of Supervisor of the Ada Soil and Water Conservation District. He is a member of the Idaho Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves (ESGR). Dick lives in Boise with his wife Nancy. They have three married children: Kelly, Leslie and Ben, and four grandchildren.

COC Ballots will be mailed -

Voting Starts Nov. 6

County Committee election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning Nov. 6, and must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Dec. 7, or postmarked by midnight Dec. 7, 2009.

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 operation on an

entire farm can also vote.

No one can 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. For additional clarification about county committee elections, contact your local county office staff.

LAST CALL - DCP & ACRE Signup Deadline is Aug 14

August 14th is the final day to sign up for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program. 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. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

The optional Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program is an alternative revenue-based safety net to the price-based safety net provided by counter-cyclical payments for crop years 2009 through 2012. Producers who elect and enroll a farm in ACRE agree to:

- (1) forgo counter-cyclical payments
- (2) a 20% reduction in direct payments
- (3) a 30% reduction in marketing assistance loan rates for all commodities produced on the farm that are eligible for ACRE payments.

ACRE payments are tied to current plantings on the farm as opposed to countercyclical payments, which are tied to the farm's base acres. ACRE payments are issued when two conditions are met for a commodity:

- (1) The Actual State Revenue falls below the State ACRE Guarantee, AND
- (2) The Actual Farm Revenue falls below the Farm ACRE Guarantee.

Check with your local FSA office for details on the ACRE calculator available on the internet.

Pulse Crops now Eligible for DCP and ACRE

The 2008 Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 provided for eligible pulse crops to be added to your farm as base acres. Eligible pulse crops are dry peas, lentils, Desi garbanzo beans, and Kabuli garbanzo beans. Counter-cyclical payments may be earned on pulse crops under DCP, but direct payments will not be authorized. Base acreage will be established using the acreage planted and considered planted to the commodities in the crop years 1998 through 2001. Yields will be determined one of two ways: (1) Actual production records from 1998 through 2001 can be provided to prove a yield, or (2) 75% of the county average yield will be assigned. If you are interested in providing actual production records, the deadline to submit them to the County Office is August 14th. Letters have been sent to eligible pulse crop producers with instructions on adding Pulse crop bases to a farm.

NAP Coverage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevent planting of an eligible crop. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

2010 application deadlines in Idaho County are:

- September 30 Grass Seed
- December 1 Hay, including grass and alfalfa Honey

Producers who already have coverage on 2009 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2010, if the applicable service fee (\$250/crop/producer, not to exceed \$750) is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops. A new Application for Coverage must be signed if:

- One or more new crops are added
- One or more existing crops are deleted
- crop shares are changed

NAP coverage requires participants to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports
- Provide acceptable records of harvested production by June 30 of the year following harvest.
- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss due to a natural weather event is apparent.

For more information on NAP coverage please contact your nearest Farm Service Agency office.

Notice of Change in Direct Deposit Process

Farm Service Agency and Commodity Credit Corporation payments that are made by direct deposit are currently transmitted by Kansas City directly to the Federal Reserve Bank, and then on to producer's accounts. Beginning August 3, 2009 FSA/CCC payments made by direct deposit will first be transmitted by Kansas City to the Treasury. This allows FSA to be compliant with the Debt Collection Improvement Act (DCIA) of 1996, which requires that payments made by Federal Agencies be processed through the Treasury so that any delinquent Federal debt can be offset.

What does this mean to you? As a result of this processing change, direct deposit payments will be credited to your account one day later than under the existing payment process. There is a potential for your payment to be offset if you have a delinquent Federal debt. And – the description of the direct deposit on your bank statement will now read "FSA TREAS 310".

Livestock Indemnity Program

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from disaster. Using funds from the Agricultural Disaster Relief Trust Fund established under section 902 of the Trade Act of 1974, the program is administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA). LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold. Eligible losses must have occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011.

The following table provides the final dates to file a notice of loss and/or application for payment for either 2008 or 2009 livestock losses.

For more information on available supplemental disaster assistance programs, please visit your FSA county office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

Livestock Death	Final Date to File a Notice of Loss	Final Date to Submit an Application
Calendar Year 2008	Sept. 13, 2009	Sept. 13, 2009
Jan. 1, 2009 to July 12, 2009	Sept. 13, 2009	Jan. 30, 2010
July 13, 2009 to Dec. 31, 2009	30 days after death is apparent	Jan. 30, 2010

Multi-Peril Crop Insurance Deadlines Approaching

Deadlines to purchase multi-peril coverage for several crops grown in the area are approaching fast.

August 31st is the last day to obtain or revise coverage for **Canola and Rapeseed**. That is also the final planting date for those crops.

September 30th is the deadline to obtain or revise coverage on **wheat**.

Please contact your local insurance agency for more information.

Preventing Fraud

The Farm Service Agency supports the Risk Management Agency in the prevention of fraud, waste and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA assists RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will continue to refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse directly to RMA.

Producers can report suspected cases to the county office staff, the RMA office, or the Office of the Inspector General.

Electronic Services Available

Through the internet, program participants can access many FSA 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 in place to protect your private information.

To utilize electronic services a producer needs an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires an e-mail address and filling out an online registration form at:

<http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/>

followed by a visit to the county office for identity verification. If you have questions, or would like help establishing your account, contact your local USDA Service Center and talk with our trained FSA personnel.

Marketing Assistance Loans

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available as a marketing tool for producers who share in the risk of producing an eligible crop. Producers 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.

Other program requirements include compliance with conservation and wetland protection provisions; filing a timely and accurate acreage report; and ensuring that the commodity meets minimum grade and quality standards. Commodities 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.

Wetland Compliance

Producers renting or purchasing land that may have a converted wetland status need to check with the county office to learn if there are restrictions. The last thing FSA wants to do is to deny a producer benefits due to wetland noncompliance. The Farm Bill provides that, **unless exempt**, persons **are ineligible** for benefits under certain programs administered by USDA if they:

- plant an agricultural commodity on wetland that was converted after December 23, 1985
- convert a wetland after November 28, 1990

FSA may not approve any loan or loan guarantee to drain, dredge, fill, level, or otherwise manipulate a wetland, or to engage in any activity that results in impairing or reducing the flow, circulation or reach of water except in the case of activity related to the maintenance of previously converted wetlands.

There are some permitted uses for wetlands. Contact your local office to learn what permitted uses and restrictions and Wetland compliance provision impact your land.



Continuous CRP Available

USDA has indicated there will not be a general signup scheduled for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in 2009. The budget has no available funding for CRP general signups, and instead advocates enrollment in Continuous CRP.

Environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for Continuous CRP will be eligible for annual rental payments and cost-share of up to 50 percent on approved practices. These targeted programs will remain funded, and continue to provide heightened environmental benefits on select areas.

Dates to Remember	
Continuous	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
Aug. 3, 2009	Last day to file COC election nomination forms
August 14, 2009	Last day to sign for pulse crop bases
August 14, 2009	Last day to provide actual production records to prove pulse crop yields
August 14, 2009	ACRE Signup Deadline
August 14, 2009	DCP Signup Deadline
September 5, 2009	Office closed in observance of Labor Day
Sept. 30, 2009	NAP sales closing date for fall seeded crops
Sept. 30, 2009	NAP sales closing date for grass seed, Northern Idaho only
December 1, 2009	NAP sales closing date for honey and all 2010 perennials, including alfalfa and grass

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."