



November 2011

Idaho County FSA Office

Kyla Pearson,
County Executive
Director

102 South Hall St.
Grangeville, ID
83530

208-983-1050 phone
208-983-0519 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/id

Hours

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

Idaho County Staff

Julie Fowler, PT

Farm Loan Staff

Bardell Faux
Brian Hill
Jason Fisher

Idaho County Committee

Chris Arnzen,
Chairperson

Bill Kinzer, Vice-
Chairperson

Joe Chicane,
Member

Karen Lustig,
Advisor

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 candidates are:

William Kinzer is nominated in LAA 3, Idaho County, to serve as a committee member. Eligible voters in local administrative area 3 who have not received 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.

Final Dates for NAP Coverage

December 1st – Alfalfa, Mixed Forage,
Fruit & Vegetables

March 15 – Spring Seeded Crops

If you have other crops not listed above and need coverage please call the office for the specific deadline.

Office Closure

The Idaho County FSA Office will be closed **Tuesday, November 15, 2011** for SURE training. We are sorry for the inconvenience but ask that you please plan accordingly. Thank you!

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. SURE is available to eligible producers on:

- Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties that have incurred at least a 10% crop production or quality loss, or both. All economically significant crops grown by a producer are eligible, **except** grazed crops.

- Any farm in which disaster-related conditions reduced the actual crop year production on the farm to 50 percent or less than normal production of the farm.

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 1st 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.

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.

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 or call
1-888-508-4429
- **Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation:**
www.blackfarmercase.com or call
1-866-950-5547
- **Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement:** 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.

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.

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.

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 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.

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.

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.

A word from NRCS.....

Spill Prevention and Organic Initiative Funds Available through the NRCS's Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Idaho has been selected as a pilot State to offer financial assistance through EQIP for the development of Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Conservation Activity Plans (CAP). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires that all oil product storage facilities which contain 10,000 gallons or more must have a SPCC plan developed by a registered Professional Engineer (PE). Financial assistance of up to \$1,775.00 is available for the development of qualified SPCC CAPs. Sign-up for this program is ongoing. No cutoff dates have been established for the 2012 signup visit your local USDA Service Center for more information. Financial assistance for the construction of SPCC containment facilities is also available to producers who have an approved SPCC design at the time of the sign-up. The design must have been prepared by a licensed Professional Engineer (PE).

The Organic EQIP signup is a nationwide special initiative to provide financial assistance to National Organic Program (NOP) certified organic producers as well as producers in the process of transitioning to organic production. Eligible producers can apply for assistance to help offset the costs of adopting practices to improve resource conservation on organic operations. For more information on this program, refer to the NRCS national page: [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\) Support for Organic Growers.](#)

NRCS Continued.....

To be eligible for the program, applicants must be farmers or ranchers who earn a minimum agricultural income and meet other EQIP requirements. Growers may not receive EQIP payments for conservation work they have already undertaken.

Idaho agricultural producers and landowners interested in improving or protecting natural resources on their land are encouraged to visit their local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service at 102 South Hall Street, Grangeville or phone 208.983.1046 EXT 3.

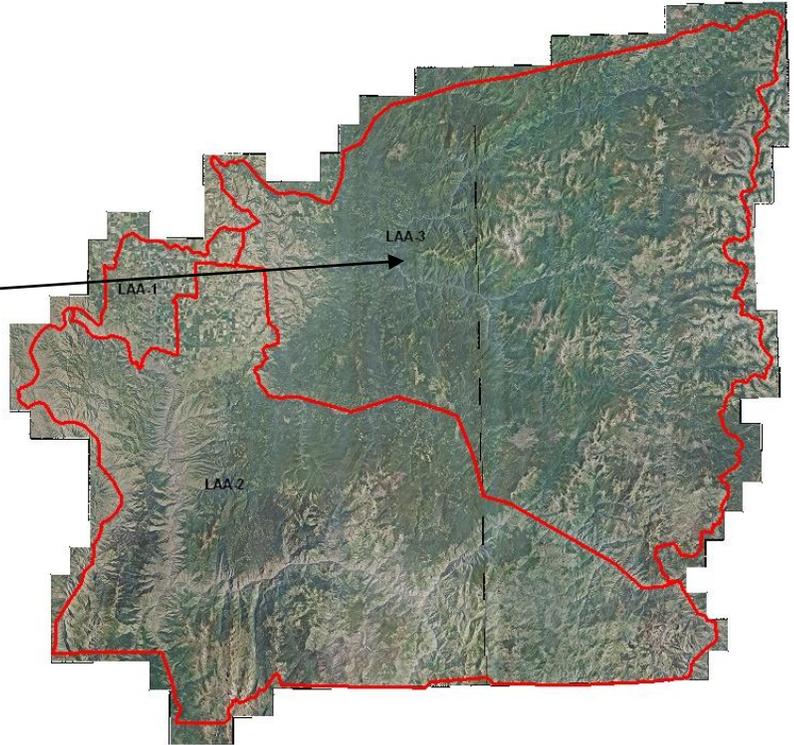
Upcoming.....

County Committee Elections

LAA 3 is up for election.

Current Members: LAA 1 – Chris Arnzen
 LAA 2 – Joe Chicane
 LAA 3 – William Kinzer
 Advisor – Karen Lustig

2012 Nominees: William Kinzer



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%

Dates to Remember	
Nov. 4	COC Ballots mailed
Nov. 14	SURE Sign-up begins
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

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of 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, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (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 to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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