



April 2011

Jefferson/Clark FSA

Service Center
210 S 5th W
Rigby ID 83442

Phone: (208) 745-6664
FAX: (208) 745-0522

Hours:

Monday – Friday
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

CED:

Ben Evans

Staff:

Lisa Eaton, PT
Joy Lopez, PT
Elaine Roker, PT

County Committee:

Lee Burtenshaw
George Ellsworth
Robert McCulloch
Kevin Small
Andy Wagoner

Advisor:

Susan Stewart

**Jefferson/Clark County
Committee Meetings dates:**

May 10, 2011
June 14, 2011
July 12, 2011
August 9, 2011
September 13, 2011
October 11, 2011
November 8, 2011
December 13, 2011

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CRP Signup Ends April 15

Farmers and ranchers have until April 15 to enroll eligible land into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) during the general sign-up period, which opened earlier this month.

Contracts awarded under this sign-up are scheduled to become effective Oct. 1, 2011. Additionally, current CRP participants with contracts expiring this fall may make new contract offers.

FSA will evaluate and rank eligible CRP offers using an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) that shows the wildlife, water, soil, and air benefits of enrolling the land in CRP. Decisions on the EBI cutoff will be made after the sign-up ends and after analyzing the EBI data of all the offers.

In addition to the general sign-up, CRP's continuous sign-up program will be ongoing. Continuous acres represent the most environmentally desirable and sensitive land. More information can be found online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp>

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

*submitted by Chuck Pentzer,
Idaho Soil and Water Commission*

The Idaho Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a federal-state cooperative conservation program that targets reducing groundwater consumptive use from cropland and marginal pastureland. Participants receive cost-share assistance and rental payments for the 15 year contract period in exchange for converting the enrolled land to native grasses, forbs, and shrubs improving soil quality, water retention and wildlife habitat. The water savings each year helps to reduce the stress on the demands of the aquifer.

We encourage anyone interested in the program to contact either the Soil & Water

Conservation (SWC) staff or their local Farm Services Agency office (FSA).

- Annual rental rates range from \$124 to \$134 per acre depending upon location and type of irrigation system that will be retired. An additional \$30 incentive is offered for ground enrolled within the Idaho Ground Water Appropriators (IGWA) areas.
- Cost for establishment of native grasses varies depending upon individual locations and weather related challenges. Ground preparation, the cost of seed, seeding, chemical, clipping are all cost shared at an estimated 50% by FSA.

New changes to the program this past year include:

- Farmland with Non-Highly Erodible soils is now eligible for enrollment in the program.
- Eligibility dates for the program in regards to cropping history have changed from 1996-2001 to 2002-2007. Watering history eligibility dates will soon be changed to mirror the cropping history dates
- CREP acres in a county do not count towards that particular county's limit for CRP acres.
- Land enrolled in the CREP is also eligible for the new Idaho Fish and Game's Voluntary Public Access-Habitat Improvement Program (VPA-HIP). Willing Landowners who open their private property to public walk-in hunting and fishing access receive an additional \$1.25/acre per year.

For more information about the CREP, please contact:

Chuck Pentzer, Ag. Program Specialist/CREP Coordinator, Jerome

Chuck.Pentzer@swc.idaho.gov or 208-324-2501 ext. 114

Jordan Tollefson, Water Quality Resource Conservationist, Twin Falls
Jordan.Tollefson@swc.idaho.gov or 208-733-5380 ext. 139

Brian Reed, Water Quality Resource Conservationist, Idaho Falls

Brian.Reed@swc.idaho.gov or 208-522-6250 ext. 110

ACRE

The optional ACRE program provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. The sign up deadline is June 1, 2011. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.

A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a five year average state yield and the most recent two year national price for each eligible commodity.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. Total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may not exceed the total base on the farm. Farms participating in ACRE, do not receive counter-cyclical payments, direct payments are reduced by 20 percent, and marketing loan rates are reduced by 30 percent.

The decision to enroll in the ACRE program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year. Although past rates are no guarantee of the future, in Idaho the following crops triggered for ACRE payments in 2009: Irrigated and non-irrigated Barley, non-irrigated oats, all yield Dry Peas, irrigated and non-irrigated wheat.

ACRE Proven Production Deadline!!!

For Producers enrolled in ACRE for 2010 you have until July 15th to provide production for crop years 2005 – 2010.

Producers who enrolled in ACRE for 2009 have until July 15th to provide production for the 2010 crop year.

Failure to provide production or request the county average yield will make you ineligible for the ACRE Payments.

If you stored your grain on the farm and need it measured – Please contact this office at 208-745-6664 ext. 111.

2011 DCP Signup

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) will continue through June 1, 2011. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2011 DCP contract.

USDA computes DCP 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 2011, eligible producers may request advanced direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment.

Acreage Certification

Time is nearing for producers to certify their 2011 acreage. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops enrolled in programs other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program), acreage reports are to be certified by the June 30th deadline on all crops.

Acreage reports on crops covered by NAP are due in the county office by the earlier of June 30th on all crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

Conservation Loan Program

The Conservation Loan (CL) program provides farmers with the funding necessary to implement approved conservation measures on their land. The available limit for a direct CL is \$300,000, and the limit for a guaranteed CL is \$1,119,000.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will work with applicants to develop a conservation plan containing approved conservation practices, such as water conservation structures, forest cover, permanent pastures, manure digesters and other installations.

For more information on a potential Conservation Loan, call the local FSA office and make an appointment with a farm loan officer.

Join USDA and FSA Celebrating Earth Day 2011

April 22 marks Earth Day 2011. In recognition of the power of millions of individual actions, Earth Day 2011 will be organized around A Billion Acts of Green®: Personal, organizational and corporate pledges to live and act sustainably. The Earth Day Network (EDN) works with over 22,000 partners in 192 countries and more than 1 billion people now participate in Earth Day activities each year, making it the largest civic observance in the world. For more information about Earth Day, visit www.earthday.org



Hay Net – Your No-Cost Online Buying and Selling Market

Hay Net is a free, online hay locator service on the FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/haynet>. Producers who want to buy or sell hay can post their ads at no charge to make connections. Hay Net is a popular site for farmers and ranchers who have an emergency need, such as the one caused by the current extreme winter conditions. Individual ads can be posted by producers after completing a simple online registration form.

Cold Storage Facility Loans

The Farm Storage Facility Loan program allows producers to build cold storage facilities to store their fresh fruits and vegetables. To be eligible, cold storage facilities must have a useful life of 15 years and include:

- New structures suitable for a cold storage facility;
- New walk-in, prefabricated, permanently-installed coolers suitable for storing fresh fruits and vegetables;
- New permanently affixed cooling, circulating and monitoring equipment;
- Electrical equipment integral to the proper operation of a cold storage facility;
- An addition or modification to an existing storage facility.

USDA will not make cold storage facility loans for portable structures, portable handling and cooling equipment, used or pre-owned structures, cooling equipment or structures deemed unsuitable.

The maximum loan amount for a Farm Storage Facility loan is \$500,000 per loan, which requires a down payment of at least 15 percent. Applications must be approved before construction can begin. Loan terms of seven, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan.

SURE – 2009 and Later

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. **SURE sign up for crop year 2009 losses runs from Jan. 10 to July 29, 2011. Deadlines for 2010 and 2011 crop years will be announced later.**

To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage. This requirement does not apply for crops that are not of economic significance or where the administrative

fee for the NAP coverage exceeds 10% of the value of the crop coverage.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

The following conditions are required to trigger SURE payments: 1) At least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition. 2) A crop of economic significance is a crop that has contributed or would have contributed at least 5% or more of the total expected revenue from all crops on the farm. 3) Producers in counties declared disaster counties by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties, or those who show proof of an individual loss of at least 50% are eligible to receive SURE payments for crop production or crop quality losses. Losses are measured with consideration to the whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.

Note: Due to the need to wait for end of year market price data to make final SURE calculations, SURE assistance payments lag the crop year's end by one full year.

Farm Record Changes

June 1, 2011 is the deadline to provide changes to your farm records at the local FSA office for the 2011 crop year. If you are changing your operation entity type, adding or dropping cropland or farms, or adding entities to your operation, contact the FSA county office.

**Visit Idaho's FSA Website at:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/id>**

NOTICE TO HISPANIC AND/OR WOMEN FARMERS OR RANCHERS

COMPENSATION FOR CLAIMS OF DISCRIMINATION

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.

To register your name to receive a claims packet, call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or visit: www.farmerclaims.gov.

The claims package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process.

Jefferson/Clark Farm Service Agency
210 South 5th West
Rigby, Idaho 83442



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2011 Dates to Remember!



- Ongoing** : Continuous CRP signup
- April 15th** : Final date to apply for CRP General Sign-up
- May 10th** : COC Meeting - 1:00 p.m. at the Rigby Service Center
- May 30th** : Office Closed for Memorial Day
- May 31th** : Final date to request loan/LDP on 2010 crop corn, dry peas, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, safflower seed, small chickpeas, soybeans, sunflower seed
- June 1st** : Deadline to sign into DCP/ACRE
- June 30th** : Crop reporting deadline
- June 30th** : Deadline to provide production evidence for producers' with NAP Insurance
- July 4th** : Office Closed for the Independence Day
- July 15th** : Deadline to provide production evidence for producers enrolled in the ACRE Program
- July 29th** : Deadline to apply for the SURE Program for 2009 crop year losses
- August 1st** : Deadline to Request Recons for farms enrolled in DCP/ACRE
- September 1st** : Office Closed for Labor Day

April 2011 Interest Rates

- 2.750% Farm Operating – direct
- 5.000% Farm Ownership – Direct and Conservation Loans
- 1.500% Farm Ownership – Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher
- 3.750% Emergency

- 1.250% Commodity Loans

- 2.275% FSFL (Farm Storage Facility Loans) with 7-year loan terms
- 3.375% FSFL with 10-year loan terms
- 3.625% FSFL with 12-year loan terms

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer