



November 2011

On Line Only

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:

December 12, 2011

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Voting for County Committee Begins

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

This year's elections will be in LAA #2 and LAA #4. The boundaries of the LAA's are:

- ◆ LAA #2 – that area in Clark County East of I-15 & South of Hwy 22
- ◆ LAA#4 – that area in Jefferson County South of Hwy 33 and West and North of the Snake River

Eligible voters in a local administrative area LAA #2 and LAA #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, is eligible to vote:

- 1.** Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either of the following: a partner in a general partnership or a member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper; **Or**
- 2.** Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; **and**
- 3.** Eligible to participate in any FSA program that is provided by law, regardless of the status of funding.

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.

Move with FSA to Instant Electronic Information

The USDA Farm Service Agency is moving toward a paperless operation. You can now enroll in the new GovDelivery system for notices, newsletters and electronic reminders and discontinue the 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 at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe> or use the box "Sign up for updates" on the FSA homepage.

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.

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. 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.

Hispanic and/or 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 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.

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 Loaned Grain

Disposing of grain, that is under loan with FSA, through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe and a producers name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call the office before any grain under loan is fed or sold.

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 e-Forms 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.



Happy Thanksgiving

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

***Fiscal Year 2012 Farm Storage Facility
Loan Funds have been approved. The Jefferson/Clark
County Office is now accepting applications.***

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of 7, 10, or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

You must carry Multi-Peril or Cat and NAP on all crops of economic significance. You must also carry all peril structural insurance for the length of the 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.

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



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

2011 Dates to Remember!

Ongoing : Continuous CRP signup
November 4th : COC Ballots mailed
November 6th : Day Light Saving Time Ends
November 11th : Office closed for Veterans Day
November 14th : SURE Sign-up begins
November 24th : Office closed for Thanksgiving
December 1st : Deadline to purchase NAP Insurance
December 5th : COC Ballots due back in County Office by COB
December 12th : COC Meeting
December 25th : Office Closed for Christmas

November 2011 Interest Rates

1.375% Farm Operating – direct
3.750% Farm Ownership – Direct
1.500% Farm Ownership – Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher
3.750% Emergency & Limited Resource
1.125% Commodity Loans
1.500% FSFL (Farm Storage Facility Loans) with 7-year loan terms
2.000% FSFL with 10-year loan terms
2.250% FSFL with 12-year loan terms

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