



June 2009

Jerome FSA News

USDA
Jerome County FSA
310 W Nez Perce Ave
Jerome, ID 83338-6124

208-324-4325 phone
208-324-6483 fax

www.fsa.usda.gov

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

County Staff

Rob Lowe, Manager
Farm Loans

Tom Snow, Manager
Farm Programs

Carol McKay, Program
Technician, Farm Program

Lorie Gutknecht, Program
Technician, Farm Loans

Beth Sant, Farm Loan officer

Valerie Carpenter, Farm
Loan officer

County Committee:

Randy Grant, Chairman
Dixie Vargas, Vice-Chairman
Barrett McClure, member
Shannan Mirkin, Dairy Advisor

County Committee Elections "FSA Counts on You" Nomination Form Page 3

Since COC elections happen only once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into local administrative areas, or LAA's. Each LAA selects one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency county committee.

Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. In counties with three LAA's, one seat is up for election. This year, chairman **Randy Grant's** LAA is scheduled for election.

To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected. The completed nomination form must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Aug. 3, or postmarked by midnight **Aug. 3, 2009**.

Voting

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 farming operations on an entire farm can also vote.

ISDA Seeking Specialty Crop Grant Applications

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) is pleased to announce the competitive solicitation process to award Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The US Department of Agriculture has allocated these funds to the state and ISDA will be passing them through as competitive grants. Funds will be available to interested local, state, and federal government, non-profit and for-profit organizations, and universities as competitive grants.

Eligible projects will solely enhance the competitiveness of U.S. grown specialty crops in either domestic or foreign markets and projects must benefit more than one product or organization.

See ISDA – page 4

Annual Crop Reports

Deadline fast approaching

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Load Deficiency Payments.

The certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The producer certification deadline for Jerome is **June 30, 2009**.

Timely filing

Reports filed after the deadline will require a field visit and fee paid to remain eligible for FSA benefits. The starting fee is \$46.00 per farm.

Prevented Planting:

Prevented planting is to be reported no later than **15** calendar days after the final planting date.

Failed Acreage:

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

DCP & ACRE Signup Deadline

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been extended until **August 14, 2009**. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications. Signup in the ACRE option is also available through **August 14, 2009**.

An online tool to assist with the decision to either enroll or switch into the ACRE program is at www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp. Lots of information is available here to assist with making a decision to switch or enroll in ACRE.

ACRE payments are based upon actual planted acreages of program crops such as: wheat, corn, barley, oats, and dry peas. Two triggers must be met before any payments can be earned.



The state benchmark yield and ACRE guarantee price must be greater than the actual year's statewide yield and prices to trigger. Your farm benchmark yield and ACRE guarantee price must be higher than your actual year's farm yields and ACRE price for that trigger.

Once you decide to enroll in ACRE, all producers on the farm must agree and sign the election form. This is irrevocable and will be in effect until the end of this farm bill in 2012.

ACRE contracts are eligible for direct payments at a reduced level. (80%) Loan rates for commodity loans are reduced also (70%).

FSA computes DCP and ACRE 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. For 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. If ACRE is not elected, Counter-cyclical payments are available depending on market prices and are issued only when prices fall below a national threshold level.

Dry Peas are also new to base history this year. If you farm has a history of growing dry peas in 1998 – 2001, you may be eligible to add them to your farm. A letter will be mailed to farms with reported history. The deadline to update farm bases is **August 14, 2009**.

Changes in Payment Limitations

Anyone that plans to participate in 2009 programs is required to submit a completed CCC-902, CCC-926, and CCC-901, if applicable, for payment eligibility and payment limitation purposes. The form used prior to 2009 was named CCC-502.

All partners, stockholders, or members with an ownership interest in the legal entity must make an active contribution, whether compensated or **not** compensated. That active contribution must include:

- personal labor, or
- active personal management, or a combination of active personal labor and active personal management to the farming operation;

Note: that there are exceptions for spouses.

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office

If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information. If you want a crop loan, a power of attorney form will need to be completed for husband and wife, if both do not come into the office to sign the forms on the day the loan is disbursed.

We would appreciate your cooperation in providing documents of signature authority for partnerships, corporations, LLC's, etc. to verify the individuals that have authority to sign documents for these entities. Membership or stockholder shares are also needed to be on file if you have made any business change.

Youth Loan Participant is Essay Winner

by Nicole Ledesma

Tyler Hughes of Challis, Idaho, a youth loan participant at FSA, took tops honors in and essay contest sponsored by Farm Bureau. Farm Bureau sponsors this program to promote awareness of agriculture among Idaho 5th graders.

The essays are first judged at a local level, then at a district level, and finally the top 3 essay's are forwarded on to be reviewed at a state level. According to Farm Bureau officials, Tyler showed "a very complete and extremely mature understanding of Idaho agriculture," capturing first place in the state and \$50.

The last paragraph of his essay states:

"Idaho farmers and ranchers work hard. They spend long days and nights farming, harvesting crops, and taking care of livestock and the environment. They feed my family and your family. I am a fourth generation Idaho rancher and PROUD of it!"

FSA is proud of Tyler and would like to congratulate him on his honors!



FSA-669A
(02-25-08)

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency

NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

1. NAME OF NOMINEE (Type or print Nominee's Full Name)		TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE		
3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION <i>I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee. <input type="checkbox"/> I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.		5. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE (MM-DD-YYYY)
4A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE		6A. COUNTY
4B. DATE (MM-DD-YYYY)		6B. LAA NO.
		7. STATE
		DATE OF ELECTION IS 1st MONDAY OF DECEMBER OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR

8. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE

VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES: The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.

ETHNICITY <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> America Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	GENDER <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
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INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM

Complete the form as follows:

- ITEM 1 Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be:
 - A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election.
 - B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member.
 - C. Willing to serve if elected.
- ITEM 2 Enter the nominee's current address.
- ITEM 3 The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.
- ITEM 4 The nominee must sign and date.
- ITEM 8 Completing this item is voluntary.

ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 3.

NOTE: The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a) and the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, as amended. The authority for requesting the following information is 7 CFR Part 7. The information will be used to obtain nominees for County FSA Committee.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.



**PRESORTED STANDARD
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 Kansas City, MO
 PERMIT #BM-2175**

ISDA - Continued from page 1

Dates to Remember	
Continuous	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
June 15, 2009	COC Nomination period opens
June 30, 2009	Deadline to timely file crop reports
April 27 to August 14, 2009	ACRE program signup period
Aug. 1, 2009	Deadline for Recon Requests
Aug. 3, 2009	Deadline to file COC Nomination
Aug. 14, 2009	DCP / ACRE Signup Deadline
Selected Interest Rates for June 2009	
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.25%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.25%
Farm Ownership Loans — Down Payment	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%

Projects may include, but are not limited to, pest and disease control, sustainability, enhancing food safety, improving efficiency and reducing costs of distribution systems, developing new and improved seed varieties, increasing child and adult nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops; specialty crop research, and assisting all entities in the specialty crop distribution chain in developing “Good Agricultural Practices”, “Good Handling Practices”, “Good Manufacturing Practices”, and in cost-share arrangements for funding audits of such systems for small farmers, packers, and processors.

“We are looking for quality projects that will have a significant and lasting impact on Idaho’s specialty crop industry,” commented Director Celia Gould, ISDA, “The evaluation committee will be looking for feasible proposals that will benefit a great number of producers with a good return on investment.”

Specialty crops include fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture. Get more details at www.agri.idaho.gov. Applications are due to ISDA by July 1, 2009. For questions please contact Lacey Menasco at lacey.menasco@agri.idaho.gov or 208-332-8538.

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