



# NEWSLETTER



**May 2011**

## **Jerome County FSA Office**

310 W Nez Perce Ave.  
Jerome, ID 83338-6124

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

[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)  
Newsletters online

### **Hours**

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

### **County Staff:**

**Farm Loans**  
Rob Lowe, FLM

### **Farm Programs**

Tom Snow, CED

### **Farm Loan officers:**

Beth Sant  
Jessica Davis  
Jeff Larsen, trainee

### **Program Technicians:**

Carol McKay  
Lorie Gutknecht

The Jerome County FSA  
Committee members:

**Barrett McClure – LAA 1**

**Randy Grant -LAA 2**

**Dixie Vargas - LAA 3**

**Shannan Mirkin, DairyAdvisor**

## **2011 FSA County Committee Elections**

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established, large or small. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the producers and to represent all constituents. This means wherever possible, minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for these underrepresented groups.

County committees provide local input on commodity price support loans and payments, conservation programs, incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities, emergency programs and payment eligibility.

FSA county committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decision and operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal rules, regulations and laws.

### **Election Period**

June 15, 2011 – COC nomination period begins.

Aug. 1, 2011 - COC nomination forms (FSA-669A) due at the local USDA Service Center

Nov. 4, 2011 – COC ballots mailed to eligible voters

Dec. 5, 2011 - Last day to return completed COC ballots to the USDA Service Center

Jan. 2, 2012 - Newly elected COC members take office

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria as follows:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate

Candidates must not have been:

- Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

For more information about county committee elections, contact the county office staff.

### **Nominations**

This year, LAA 1, the area south of Jerome (Main Street) those agricultural producers that participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy. Nominees must complete and sign form FSA-669A available at USDA Service Centers and online at:

[http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/fsa\\_0669a\\_commiteelectform.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa_0669a_commiteelectform.pdf)

Nomination forms for the 2011 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on **Aug. 1, 2011.**

### **Who Can Vote**

Agricultural producers of legal voting age (18 years) may be eligible to 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 of an entire farm may also be eligible to vote. For more information about voting eligibility, please contact the office.

## Crop Reporting

The annual, timely and accurate reporting of acres 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.

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. **Producers need to file their acreage reports by June 30, 2011 to avoid late fees.**

**Prevented Planting:** Prevented planting needs 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.

## Emergency Assistance for 2010 Losses

More than \$8 million in disaster assistance will be issued to livestock, honeybee and farm-raised fish producers that suffered losses in 2010 because of disease, adverse weather or other conditions. The aid will come from the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP).

ELAP sign-up for 2011 losses is also under way. Producers with 2011 losses must file an ELAP application no later than Jan. 30, 2012. They also must file a notice of loss within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent to the producer or by Oct. 31, 2011, whichever is earlier. ELAP benefits related to 2011 losses are expected to be issued in early 2012.

## 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 is being established.

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly

denied farm loan benefits to you during certain time periods 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 claims process and other settlement issues contact:

**Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process** :[www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov) or 1-888-508-4429

**Pigford - Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation**  
[www.blackfarmercase.com](http://www.blackfarmercase.com) or 1-866-950-5547

**Keepseagle - Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement**  
[www.IndianFarmClass.com](http://www.IndianFarmClass.com) or 1-888-233-5506.

## AGI and the IRS

USDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent will be required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the verification report that IRS sends to FSA.

The agreement ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) to the Internal Revenue Service by June 15 to avoid interruption of program benefits. These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices.

## Farm Reconstitutions

At FSA, farms are “constituted” to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. NOTE: to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1, 2011** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

## Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with credit to meet their business needs. Farmers having trouble obtaining financing have both direct and guaranteed loan options.

Farmers who have had a setback and whose lenders are reluctant to extend or renew credit can ask their lender if they qualify for an FSA loan guarantee

FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to loan programs, contact the county office staff.

**FSA-669A** (03-24-10) **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)	<b>TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE</b>	
	4. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE RECEIVED	
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE	5. COUNTY	
	6. LAA	7. STATE
3. <b>NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION:</b>  <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.	8. <b>NOMINATOR'S CERTIFICATION:</b>  <i>If this nomination is by other than self, the following eligible voter or representative of a community based organization hereby nominates the afore-named person to be a candidate in the next County FSA Committee election for the county.</i>	
3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE	3B. DATE	8A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.		(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required).

**9. 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.

<b>ETHNICITY</b>	<b>RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)</b>	<b>GENDER</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	<input type="checkbox"/> American 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female

**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.
- ITEMS 3A & 3B The nominee must sign and date.
- ITEMS 8A & 8B The nominator must sign and date. (If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required.)
- ITEM 9 Completing this item is voluntary.

**ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 2, 2010.**

**NOTE:** The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a - as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246). The information will be used to obtain nominees for election to the County FSA Committee. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for County Personnel Records, USDA/FSA-6. Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination of ineligibility for nomination for election to the 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. The provisions of appropriate criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided. **RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.**

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



PRESORTED STANDARD  
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### Did Your Bank Change?

If you have changed banks and not notified FSA, your payment could be delayed. Payments are now electronically transferred into your bank account. If we are not aware of changes to your account and have incorrect routing numbers, there could be problems. For FSA to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in producer's account such as type of account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

Selected Interest Rates for May 2011	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Direct Farm Operating Loans	2.625%
Direct Farm Ownership and Conservation Loans	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	2.875%

Dates to Remember	
June 1	Deadline for Farm Record Changes
June 1	DCP Sign Up Ends
June 1	ACRE Sign Up Ends
June 30	Crop reports due (can be filed as soon as all crops planted)
Ongoing	Continuous Conservation Reserve program

**USDA is an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.**