



April 2010

# Lewis County FSA News

Lewis County USDA Service Center



Lewis County FSA  
521 Oak St, Room 9  
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Hours  
Monday - Friday  
7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee  
David Baldus  
Nathan Riggers  
Dennis Behler  
Steve Meek

Staff  
Karel Wemhoff, CED  
Vicky Riggers, PT  
Jennifer Lux, PT  
Justin Allen, PT

FSA Committee meetings are open to the public. Regular COC meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at the Nezperce USDA Service Center, beginning at 8:00 a.m.



## The ACRE Program

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) began in crop year 2009. Through ACRE, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers producers an alternative to Direct and Counter-cyclical (DCP) payments. The ACRE alternative provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price.

**The enrollment deadline for 2010 ACRE is June 1, 2010.**

ACRE payments are made when both state- and farm-level triggers are met. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments. When electing ACRE, producers also agree to a 20-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates.

A decision to elect ACRE binds the producer to the program through the 2012 crop year, the last crop year covered by the 2008 Farm Bill. For more details contact your local FSA office

## Acres Reporting

The acres reporting deadline is fast approaching. Filing an accurate acres report for all crops and land uses, including failed acres and prevented planting acres, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acres 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.

Acres reports are required for many FSA programs, including DCP/ACRE, SURE, Price Support, and CRP. For most of these programs, the reports are due by June 30<sup>th</sup>. For NAP crops, the acres report is due by the earlier of June 30<sup>th</sup> or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acres being reported.

## 2010 DCP Signup

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) will continue through June 1, 2010. 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 2010 DCP contract.

USDA computes DCP 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 2010, a 22% advance direct payment may be requested.

For more information on this or other programs, simply contact the nearest FSA office.

## NAP Reminders

### Crop losses:

A Notice of Loss on a NAP-covered crop must be filed in the County Office within 15 days of the date the loss is apparent. The loss may be filed by any person with an interest in the crop.

### Production Records:

Production records must be provided for NAP-covered crops each year to keep your Actual Production History up to date. The deadline to provide these records is June 30<sup>th</sup> of the year following harvest.

### Acres Reports:

Accurate reporting of acres and shares for crops covered by NAP insurance is very important. An inaccurate crop report affects NAP loss calculations, and can also impact the calculation of losses under the SURE program. Please double-check your acres and shares - make sure they are right!



## SURE

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. To be eligible for SURE payments, producers are required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, for crops for which insurance is not available, producers must participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) with the following exceptions:

- Grazed acres
- Crops that are not of economic significance (at least 5% of total farm revenue)
- Crops where the administrative fee for NAP coverage exceeds 10% of the value of the coverage.
- Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher

SURE payments are automatically triggered in counties with a Secretarial Emergency Declaration, as well as those that are contiguous to that county. Producers who can show at least a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition for at least one crop may be eligible for benefits.

Producers in counties that are not contiguous to a county with a Secretarial Designation may still be eligible if they can show proof of an individual loss of at least 50%. Note also that 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.

A SURE calculator is available at:

[www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/sure\\_calculator\\_2008.xls](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/sure_calculator_2008.xls)

The calculator is not official, but is intended for educational use. A fact sheet and background information are also available online.

Contact your local FSA office to apply!

## Farm Reconstitutions

In program terminology, farms are *constituted* to group tracts with a common farming operation 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.

There are four different methods used when doing a farm or tract division:

- **Estate Method** — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm/tract among heirs in settling an estate;
- **Designation of Landowner Method** — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;
- **DCP Cropland Method** — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;
- **Default Method** — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

If payments have already been issued on a particular farm, the reconstitution will be effective for the next year, unless the payments are refunded. The deadline to file a request for a recon is June 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Reminder: Keep your personal information current!

For several years now FSA has issued the majority of program payments directly to producer's bank accounts via electronic transfer.

Please remember – if you switch banks, you must update your account information with FSA. Failure to keep us informed of the correct account information can result in serious delays when transferring payments.



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## Census Counts Rural America

The USDA Farm Service Agency and the U.S. Census Bureau encourage all farmers and ranchers to complete the 2010 census. Census forms mailed in March to all residents in the U.S. and Puerto Rico contain only 10 questions.

Counting everyone is critical to the security of rural communities. It ensures that more than \$400 billion in yearly federal funding is allocated to communities for schools, broadband initiatives, hospitals, emergency services and public works. The census also determines the state's number of seats in the House of Representatives and will affect a state's gain or loss in house seats.

## Direct and Guaranteed Loans

FSA is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

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 get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

## CRP Maintenance Reminders

Weeds must be controlled on acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, but participants are prohibited from performing full-field maintenance activities during the primary nesting season:

### **April 1 through August 1**

Spot maintenance activities such as spraying and/or clipping can be approved by the County Committee if requested in advance. Please contact the FSA office for more information.

## NOTICE OF PREVENTED PLANTING and FAILED ACRES

In order to receive credit for acres that are prevented from being planted due to adverse weather conditions, a Notice of Loss must be filed in the FSA office no later than 15 days after the final planting date of the crop. Final planting dates for Lewis County are:

May 15	Wheat, Canola, Mustard
May 20	Beans
May 25	Barley, Dry Peas, Lentils
May 31	Oats
June 10	Flax

Failed acres also need to be reported to FSA.

## Rural Youth Loans

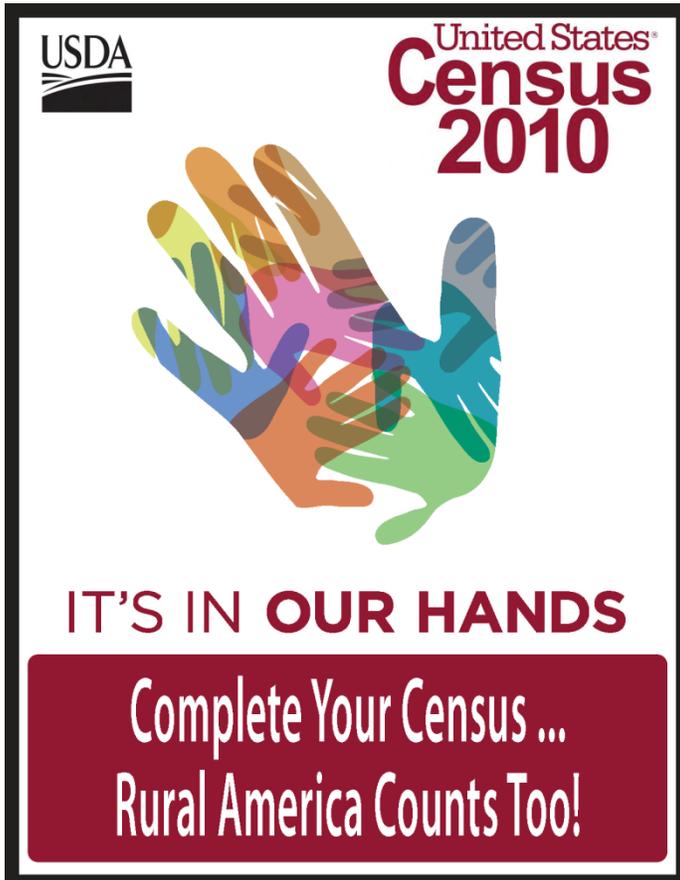
The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

The project must be an organized and supervised program of work. It must be planned and operated with the assistance of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. Contact your local FSA office for more details.

## 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.



Dates to Remember	
May 31	Office closed in observance of Memorial Day
June 1	Last day to request 2009 crop commodity loan on pulse crops
June 1	DCP / ACRE Sign-up Closes
June 1	Deadline to report farm changes
June 1	Nomination period for 2010 COC election begins

Selected Interest Rates for April 2010	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	2.875%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment	1.50%
Emergency	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility	4.250%

## NAP Records

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with your FSA office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable and need to show crop disposition. We recommend producers submit 2009 production records as soon as harvest is complete. **All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all 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, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (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 USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."