**May 2011**

## Lewis County USDA Service Center

**Lewis County FSA**
521 Oak Street, Room 9
Nezperce ID 83543

(208) 937-2291 phone
(208) 937-2234 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/ID

**Hours**
Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

**County Committee**
David Baldus
Dennis Behler
Nathan Riggers
Steve Meek

**Staff:**
Karel Wemhoff, CED
Jennifer Lux, PT
Kaci Ralstin, PT
Jeannette Dreadfulwater, 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.

## 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.

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

### 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 basic eligibility criteria as follows:

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

Candidates must not have been:

- Removed or disqualified from the office of COC 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

Nominees must complete and sign form FSA-669A available at USDA Service Centers and online at:
http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_commiteeelectform.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.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy.

For 2011, Lewis County is seeking candidates to represent LAA1, the area currently represented by David Baldus. Dave has served the maximum 3 terms allowed, so will not be running again.

### 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. For more information, please contact the FSA office.

## SURE Program

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer must obtain crop insurance or NAP coverage on all crops in all counties. Exceptions: grazed acreage and crops that are not of economic significance, or those where the administrative fee for NAP coverage exceeds 10% of the value of the crop.

Lewis County was not declared a disaster county for 2009, so producers must show proof of an individual loss of at least 50% in order to be eligible to receive SURE payments for production or quality losses. Losses are measured with consideration to whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments.

## Crop Reporting Deadline is June 30

Producers have until June 30, 2011 to file a report of all seeded acres on Form FSA-578. One exception: NAP crops must be reported prior to the onset of harvest. (This could move up the reporting date for forage crops, depending on when you start haying.)

Accurate crop reports are required by several USDA programs, including commodity loans, ACRE/DCP contracts, and CRP. The report includes acres planted, intended use and planting dates, so come prepared! Please contact the County Office for more information.

## Prevented Planting

With all the excess rain this spring, prevented planting is a real possibility. FSA requires a report of acres that were prevented from being planted, filed on Form FSA-576 within 15 days of the final planting date. Final planting dates by County are listed on the last page of this newsletter.

Federal Crop Insurance may require a report within 72 hours after the final planting date. Please contact your FCIC agent for more details regarding FCIC rules.

## NAP Records

Production records for crops with NAP coverage need to be filed each year at the FSA office to establish or maintain an approved NAP yield. If this is your first year in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. After the initial year, records must be submitted annually, must be reliable or verifiable, and need to show crop disposition.

All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date. 2010 records are due by June 30, 2011.

## NAP Loss Filing

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 (notice of loss) in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster, or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

## AGI and the IRS

USDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the IRS to establish an electronic information exchange process to verify compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent will be required annually 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 IRS by June 15 each year to avoid interruption of program benefits. These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices.

Form Approved - OMB No. 0560-0229

**FSA-669A**
(03-31-11)

**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**<br>4. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE RECEIVED |
| 2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE | 5. COUNTY<br>6. LAA / 7. STATE |
| **3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION:**<br>*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.*<br>☐ *I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.*<br>☐ *I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.* | **8. NOMINATOR'S CERTIFICATION:**<br>*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.* |
| 3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE / 3B. DATE<br>☐ ***Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.*** | 8A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR / 8B. DATE<br>***(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.

| ETHNICITY | RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable) | GENDER |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ Hispanic or Latino<br>☐ Not Hispanic or Latino | ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native<br>☐ Asian<br>☐ White<br>☐ Black or African-American<br>☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | ☐ Male<br>☐ 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 1, 2011.**

**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.***

Lewis County FSA Office
521 Oak Street, Room 9
Nezperce, ID 83543

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Kansas City, MO
PERMIT No. BM-2175

| 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% |

| Dates to Remember | |
|---|---|
| June 1 | Deadline for Farm Record Changes |
| June 1 | DCP Sign Up Ends |
| June 1 | ACRE Sign Up Ends |
| June 15 | COC Nominations Open |
| June 30 | Acreage Reporting Deadline |
| July 4 | Independence Day, Office is closed |
| Continues | Continuous Conservation Reserve program |

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