June 2012

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
Justin McLeod
Dennis Behler
Nathan Riggers
Steve Meek

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

County Committee Nominations

County committee nominations are open from June 15, 2012 through August 1, 2012. The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers. Every eligible producer should participate in these elections to strengthen the link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County committee members are a critical component in the delivery of FSA services and programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with key decisions on programs in their counties and work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

Operating within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws, FSA county committees apply their local knowledge to make key program administration decisions.

For more information just contact your local FSA office. You can also find an nomination form on the web at www.fsa.usda.gov/id.

Average AGI Certification

Participants in Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) programs subject to average Adjusted Gross Income (AG() rules must annually certify their eligibility to receive program benefits. The IRS requires written consent from the individual or legal entity to provide USDA verification of the average AGI. Both the certification and written consent are accomplished by completion of Form CCC-931, available through your county office.

Compliance Check Methods

Compliance review and spot checks will again be performed during the 2012 crop year. This year, selections for various reviews will be made from a nationwide database of producers, achieving a valid statistical sampling of participating producers. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in the Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program and other programs.

State and county offices will view and print their producer spot check lists as posted on a designated website. For more information about the new spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact your local office for additional clarification.

Actively Engaged in Farming

To be eligible for payments and benefits under specified programs, all program participants, either individuals or legal entities, must provide significant contributions to the farming operation to be considered "actively engaged in farming." Contributions can consist of capital, land, and/or equipment, as well as active personal labor and/or active personal management. The management contribution must be critical to the profitability of the farming operation and the contributions must be at risk.

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to start, continue and expand agriculture production. Loans are available for operational needs or to help purchase or improve farms and ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for socially disadvantaged applicants. A socially disadvantaged applicant is an individual who has been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as a member of one of the groups described.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

REMINDER FOR FARMS ENROLLED IN ACRE:

June 30th is the last day to provide 2011 production evidence for crops covered by the Average Crop Revenue (ACRE) program.

Please identify on the production evidence by tract number where the crop was harvested.

Crop Reporting Changes

Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses (including failed acreage and prevented planting) 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 Loan Deficiency Payments programs.

The certification form **FSA-578, Report of Acreage**, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The reporting deadline for 2012 crops is as follows:

June 30 – Apiculture, Fall Barley, Fall Canola, Dry Peas, Fall Wheat, and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains

July 15 - Spring Barley, Spring Canola, Corn, Dry Beans, Dry Peas, Flax, Green Peas, Mustard, Oats, Spring Wheat, and all other crops.

For the 2013 crop year reporting deadlines are:

Nov. 15 - Apiculture

Dec. 15 - Fall Barley, Fall Canola, Dry Peas, Fall Wheat and all other Fall seeded small grains.

July 15 - Spring Barley, Spring Canola, Corn, Dry Beans, Dry Peas, Flax, Green Peas, Mustard, Oats, Spring Wheat, and all other crops.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

CRP & NAP Certification

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments.

Crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must be reported by the earlier of June 30th or 15 days prior to the onset of harvest.

Prevented Planting

Prevented planting is to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date. Failure to report prevented planting acreage could result in loss of benefits from disaster assistance programs.

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.

Sodbusting

Farmers and ranchers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in Farm Service Agency programs.

Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an **AD-1026,** indicating the area to be brought into production. If Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates that the area will be highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage before bringing land into production.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan program (FSFL) 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.

A partial disbursement can be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement is 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. For more information please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov/id .

Special Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

FSA Signature Policy

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other, e.g. for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

For more clarification on spousal signature authority, contact the local FSA office.

Beginning and Limited Resource Loans

FSA has a program to assist beginning farmers and members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for less than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed.

Additional program information, loan applications and other materials are available at the local USDA Service Center or visit www.fsa.usda.gov and www.nrcs.usda.gov .

GovDelivery – Free Reminders

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving into paperless operation to save your tax payer dollars. Producers can now enroll in the new **GovDelivery** system to receive instant electronic deadline reminders, bulletins and newsletters direct to your email address. Now you don't have to wait for a printed newsletter only occasionally sent through the mail.

Producers can subscribe to receive free e-mail updates by visiting this free enrollment website: www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe. You can also call your local Farm Service Agency office. Give it a try right now. All you need is an email address for yourself or a family member where you can receive the useful email updates.

Controlled Substances

Individuals convicted under federal or state law of planting, cultivating, growing, producing, harvesting or storing a controlled substance are ineligible for program payments and benefits.

If convicted of one of these offensives, a current program participant shall be ineligible during that crop year and the four succeeding crop years for Direct and Counter-Cyclical payments, price support loans, loan deficiency payments, market loan gains, storage payments, farm facility loans, Non-Insured crop Disaster Assistance Program payments or disaster payments.

Program participants convicted of any federal or state offense consisting of the *distribution (trafficking) of a controlled substance* shall, at the discretion of the court, be ineligible for any or all program payments and benefits:

- For up to 10 years after the second conviction
- Permanently for a third or subsequent conviction.

Program participants with a federal or state conviction for the *possession of a controlled substance* shall be ineligible, at the discretion of the court, for any or all program benefits as follows:

- up to one year upon the first conviction
- up to five years after a second or subsequent conviction.

Banking Changes? – Let FSA Know to Prevent Payment Delays

If you changed banks and did not notify FSA, your payment could be delayed. Because payments are electronically transferred into your bank account, changes to your account and/or routing number needs to be shared with FSA immediately. FSA borrowers must also notify the office of banking changes. Changes can include the type of account, bank mergers, and new routing numbers or account numbers.

PRIMARY NESTING SEASON REMINDER

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) participants are reminded that maintenance and management activities on CRP acres must be completed outside of the primary nesting season, which began on April 1st and continues through August 1st. Participants with maintenance issues that require attention prior to the end of nesting season must contact their local county FSA office for permission prior to performing any spot spraying or spot mowing on CRP acres. Failure to contact the county FSA office prior to maintenance activities during the nesting season may result in payment reductions or possible contract termination.

2012 Commodity Loan Rates

Crop	Type	Lewis	Clearwater	Nez Perce	Idaho	Latah	Whitman	Asotin
Wheat	Durum	$ 2.64	$ 2.64	$ 2.64	$ 2.64	$ 2.64	$ 2.64	--
	HRS	$ 3.17	$ 3.12	$ 3.22	$ 3.12	$ 3.17	$ 3.27	$ 3.27
	HRW	$ 3.41	$ 3.31	$ 3.46	$ 3.31	$ 3.41	$ 3.46	$ 3.50
	SWH	$ 3.01	$ 2.91	$ 3.06	$ 2.91	$ 3.00	$ 3.16	$ 3.06
Barley		$ 2.17	$ 2.12	$ 2.19	$ 2.13	$ 2.17	$ 2.18	$ 2.20
Oats		$ 1.32	$ 1.32	$ 1.32	$ 1.32	$ 1.32	$ 1.37	$ 1.37
Mustard		$ 9.31	$ 9.45	$ 9.27	$ 9.38	$ 9.31	$ 9.20	$ 9.24
Canola		$ 8.28	$ 8.43	$ 8.20	$ 8.35	$ 8.28	$ 8.13	$ 8.05
Flaxseed		$10.12	$ 10.26	$ 10.12	$ 10.19	$ 10.12	$ 10.05	$ 9.90
Rapeseed		$10.14	$ 10.28	$ 10.14	$ 10.21	$ 10.14	$ 10.07	$ 9.92
Dry Peas		$ 6.05	$ 6.05	$ 6.05	$ 6.05	$ 6.05	$ 6.05	$ 6.05
Sm Chickpeas		$ 7.43	$ 7.43	$ 7.43	$ 7.43	$ 7.43	$ 7.43	$ 7.43
Lg Chickpeas		$11.28	$ 11.28	$ 11.28	$ 11.28	$ 11.28	$ 11.28	$ 11.28
Lentils		$13.68	$ 13.68	$ 13.68	$ 13.68	$ 13.68	$ 13.68	$ 13.68

Selected Interest Rates for June	
Farm Operating - Direct	1.50%
Farm Ownership - Direct	3.625%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility – 7 year	1.250%
Farm Storage Facility – 10 year	1.875%
Farm Storage Facility – 12 year	2.125%

Dates to Remember	
June 15	COC Nomination Period Opens
June 30	Acreage Reporting Deadline - See Pg 2 for details
June 30	Last day to provide 2011 production records for farms enrolled in ACRE
July 4	Office closed – Independence Day
Aug 1	Last day to file COC nomination form
Aug 31	Last day to purchase or change 2013 FCIC coverage for Canola
Sept. 3	Office closed – Labor Day
Sept. 30	Last day to purchase 2013 NAP coverage for grass seed
Sept. 30	Last day to purchase or change 2013 FCIC coverage for Wheat