July 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
Dennis Behler
Justin McLeod
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.

FSA COC Nomination Deadline

County committees (COC) play a crucial role in helping county office staff implement Farm Bill programs. Producers can participate in the FSA county committee election process by nominating an eligible candidate by the Aug. 1, 2012, deadline.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The form and more information about FSA county committee elections is available at: **forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFileServices/eForms/FSA669-A.PDF**

During their three-year terms, FSA county committee members make decisions on programs covering disaster and conservation, emergency, commodity price support and more. Nationwide, more than 7,800 farmers and ranchers serve on FSA county committees. Committees consist of three to five members elected by eligible local voters.

Crop Certification Deadlines Are Changing For 2013

The annual requirement to report crops to FSA and RMA has not changed, but the deadline for reporting those crops **will be different beginning with the 2013 crop year:**

November 15	**Hay**					
	Grazing					
	Perennial Seed Crops					
December 15	**Fall seeded crops:**	Wheat	Barley	Dry Peas	Canola	Rapeseed
	All other fall-seeded small grains					
January 2	Honey					
July 15	**Spring seeded crops:**	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Dry Peas	Dry Beans
		Canola	Rapeseed	Flax	Mustard	
	All other spring-seeded crops					
	CRP					

Filing for NAP Losses

REMINDER: Form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is required to report losses for all crops covered by the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP). The Notice of Loss must be received in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster, or the date the loss becomes apparent.

Sign Up for FSA Fence Post Daily Updates

The Farm Service Agency Fence Post is an online newsletter that is updated on an almost daily basis. It contains articles of interest on the agency's programs and departments, as well as success stories from the field. To access Fence Post visit fsa.blogs.govdelivery.com/. Producers can sign up for weekly Fence Post updates by putting an email address in the box that says "Get Email Updates."

Highly Erodible Lands and Wetland Compliance

Participants in Federal farm programs that farm land areas identified as highly erodible land or a wetland must comply with certain land and environmental conservation requirements for payment eligibility purposes. Producers who fail to abide by or actively apply approved conservation practices on land identified as highly erodible or a wetland are subject to payment reductions or total ineligibility for program payments until the discrepancy is fully corrected and maintained.

Any individual, legal entity, business enterprise, State, political subdivision, or agency which requests payments, loans, or other benefits must comply with HELC and WC provisions to be eligible for such benefits. Certification of compliance is required on AD-1026 for programs subject to these provisions. There is no definite deadline for filing AD-1026 unless otherwise provided in specific program procedure. However, before a producer can be considered eligible for benefits, the producer and producer's affiliates must have filed and certified compliance with HELC/WC provisions.

To be in compliance with the highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions, producers must agree that they **will not**:

- Produce an agricultural commodity on highly erodible land without following an approved conservation system
- Plant an agricultural commodity on a converted wetland
- Convert a wetland to make possible the production of an agricultural commodity

Producers must notify the FSA and update Form AD-1026 if they plan to remove fence rows, convert non-cropland to cropland, combine crop fields, divide a crop field into two or more fields, install new drainage, or improve or modify existing drainage. FSA will notify NRCS who will then provide highly erodible land or wetland technical determinations and assistance.

For additional information on highly erodible land and wetland conservation compliance contact the FSA office or the NRCS office at a local USDA Service Center. Additional information about conservation programs offered by FSA can be found online at **www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation**, and information on NRCS programs can be found at **www.nrcs.usda.gov.**

Over the Counter Channel (OTCnet)

FSA/CCC is implementing OTCnet, an electronic method for processing customer check payments. When a check is submitted for payment either in person or through the mail, the check will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). Within 24 hours, the funds may be debited from the producer's account. Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury notices posted in the Service Center or visit the following Department of Treasury site for detailed information: **fms.treas.gov/otcnet/legal.html**

What is OTCnet?

OTCnet is a web-based online application process for converting paper checks presented to FSA into electronic debits to the producer's checking account. Benefits include reducing lost/misplaced checks, less paper handling, improved customer relations, more efficient check clearing process and reducing the potential for human error.

How will my check be handled?

The check will be scanned into the system and voided. The customer will not receive the check back from FSA. FSA will hold checks for up to 14 calendar days to ensure that the item was successfully processed, and then FSA will shred the check

How quickly will funds be transferred from my account?

The transfer of funds from your account could occur within 24 hours. Therefore, you should be sure that you have sufficient funds in your account to process the transaction. If you do **not** have sufficient funds, we may initiate the transaction again.

How will this transaction appear on my account statement?

The transfer of funds reflected on your account statement may be recorded in a different place on your statement. The transaction may appear under withdrawals" or "other transactions".

What are my rights if there is a problem with the transaction?

You have protections under Federal law for an unauthorized electronic fund transfer from your account. You should contact your financial institution immediately if you believe that a transaction reported on your account statement was not properly authorized or is otherwise incorrect.

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating expenses, or to purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, FSA has provided priority funding for socially disadvantaged applicants. A socially disadvantaged applicant is a member of a group that has been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as a group member without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact their local FSA office for details. FSA loans are available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Successor-In-Interest

Most FSA programs will allow payments to be made to heirs or successors when a program participant passes away. Conversely, contracts in programs such as CRP must be revised to reflect the successor(s) to a deceased participant's interest.

In the event of an FSA program participant's death, it is important that FSA be notified as soon as possible. Entities and joint operations that participate in FSA programs also need to notify FSA if a shareholder or member passes away. FSA benefits are reported to IRS and maintaining current, accurate participant records is vital to ensuring that those payments are reported correctly.

Farm Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped 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. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

Estate Method — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm 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.

Foreign Landowner Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are advised to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

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 July 2012	
Farm Operating - Direct	1.25%
Farm Ownership - Direct	3.375%
Limited Resource	5.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency	3.375%
Farm Storage Facility – 7 year	1.125%
Farm Storage Facility – 10 year	1.625%
Farm Storage Facility – 12 year	1.875%

Dates to Remember	
Aug. 1	Last Day to file COC nomination form
Aug. 1	Last Day to request farm reconstitution for crop year 2012
Aug. 31	FCIC Sales Closing Date for Fall Rape and Canola
Aug. 31	FCIC Premium Due Date - Canola
Sept. 14	Fall FCIC Grower Meeting
Sept 30	NAP Signup Deadline for 2013 Bluegrass
Sept 30	FCIC Sales Closing Date for Wheat – all types
Sept. 30	FCIC Premium Due Date – All crops except Canola