



May 2010

Lincoln/Blaine FSA News

USDA

Lincoln/Blaine FSA
217 West F
Shoshone, ID 83352
208-882-2370 (FAX)
208-882-2258 (PH)
www.fsa.usda.gov/ID

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

County Staff:

Janie Hudson, CED
Gail Slagel, PT
Linda Kornder, PT

Farm Loan Manager:

Rob Lowe
(208)324-4325

County Committee:

Tom Peck
Ryan Telford
Terri Sherbine
Rick Astle
Tony Pantone

Critical DCP Deadline!!!!!!

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) will continue until **June 1, 2010** with no late signup provision to allow you to enroll after that date. What that means is if you don't have all signatures representing 100% of the DCP payment shares the contract payment will be lost with no options for appeal as this is a statutory deadline.

As of May 1, Lincoln County had 39% of its contracts signed up for the 2010 season and Blaine County had 40% completed. That leaves just 30 days to complete more than 200 contracts. We can fax or mail your contract(s) if you cannot make it into the office, but you must sign and return them by June 1st. All contracts being mailed back to the FSA office are required to be post-marked by June 1st or they will be ineligible regardless of the date of signature.

It is the responsibility of the Farm Operator to get all the required signatures back to the Office by 4:30 PM on June 1st. Faxes will be received until 4:30 PM as well on June 1st.

To avoid the lines and long waits the last week of DCP signup, come in today and sign this year's contract!! If you have any questions, please call your FSA office today!

ACRE Program Deadline!!!

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is a revenue based program that looks at farm and state guarantee price and yield triggers. If both triggers are below the guarantee threshold additional payments are made for the actual acres of commodities raised on the farm up to the total amount of base acres on the farm.

Typical eligible commodities in Lincoln and Blaine Counties are grain crops. Each crop has its own guaranteed price. The deadline for ACRE is the same June 1st deadline as the DCP program. For more information contact your local FSA office.

Average Gross Income – Deadline!!!

June 15th, 2010 is the deadline for submitting the simple form CCC-927 (Individuals) or CCC-928 (Entities and Trusts) to the IRS that gives permission for FSA to audit the gross income statement completed by all Owners & Operators who received any FSA payment in 2009.

If you haven't submitted these for all entities and individuals any payments received from FSA, NRCS or other USDA agencies will be required to be refunded. You can get these forms at your FSA Office or Online at the web address at the bottom of Page 2 of this newsletter.

Crop Reporting Deadline!!!!

The acreage reporting deadline for 2010 is **June 30th**. Crops that are not reported to the FSA office by 4:30 PM on June 30th will be subject to late-filed provisions that include inspection fees for each farm.

Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Only crops planted after June 30th have 15 days where they can still be reported to FSA without late filed provisions & fees being assessed.

Failed acreage 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.

2010 FSA County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers. 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 committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. Committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

Election Period

June 15, 2010 – The nomination period begins. Nominations for the 2010 election will be accepted in **LAA-1**, serving the **Richfield Area** of Lincoln County. (See Pg 3 for nomination form)

Aug. 2, 2010 - Last day to file nomination forms (FSA-669A) at the local USDA Service Center

Nov. 5, 2010 - Ballots mailed to eligible voters

Dec. 6, 2010 - Last day to return voted ballots to the USDA Service Center

Jan. 1, 2010 - Newly elected county committee members take office

Who Can Hold Office

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

- 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

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.

Nominations

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee

agrees to serve if elected.

Nomination forms for the 2010 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 2, 2010.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in a FSA program in LAA-1 (Richfield) may be nominated for the county committee in 2010. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. Nomination forms are filed for the county committee of the office that administers a producer's farm records.

Who Can Vote

Agricultural producers of legal voting age in LAA 1 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. Please contact the County Office for more information.

Sodbuster Regulations

The term "sod busting" is used to identify the plowing up of erosion-prone grasslands for use as cropland. Sodbuster violations are unauthorized tillage practices on highly erodible lands that converted native vegetation such as rangeland or woodland, to crop production after Dec. 23, 1985.

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 on a CPA-026 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.

In addition, producers and the producer's affiliates have to file an AD-1026 in the administrative or control county office before any farm program payments can be made. The AD-1026 is the producer's signed certification that HELC, as well as wetland conservation, provisions will not be violated.

Measurement Service

Farmers who would like a guarantee on their crop plantings and land use acreages can make it official by using the FSA measurement service. Producers must file a request with the county office staff and pay the cost of a field visit to have stake and referencing done on the farm. Measurement service is available using digital imagery and where an on-site visit is not required are charged at a reduced rate.

Incorrect acreage self-certification can result in reduced program payments, penalty, or loss of eligibility.

Producers can request ortho-imagery and CLU covering their land at no charge. This would provide the acreage of an entire field.

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency 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.

To find out more about FSA loan programs, call (208)324-4325.

| 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) | | TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE | |
| 2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE | | 4. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE RECEIVED | |
| 3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION: <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>IDO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>IDO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.</i> | | 5. COUNTY | |
| 3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE | | 6. LAA | |
| 3B. DATE | | 7. STATE | |
| 3C. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE | | 8. NOMINATOR'S CERTIFICATION: <i>If this nomination is by other than self, the following eligible voter or representative of a community based organization hereby nominates the above-named person to be a candidate in the next County FSA Committee election for the county.</i> | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.</i> | | 8A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR | |
| | | 8B. DATE | |
| 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 <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino | | RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | |
| | | GENDER <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. | | | |
| 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 non-governmental 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, US04FSA-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 0550-0229. 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 | | | |

Lincoln/Blaine Co FSA
 217 West F St
 Shoshone, ID 83352



**PRESORTED STANDARD
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 Kansas City, MO
 PERMIT #BM-2175**

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. If an owner or operator cannot agree about program participation, like in the case of the new ACRE program, then producers should inquire about a reconstitution at the local FSA office.

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 2, 2010 for farms enrolled in specific programs.

| Selected Interest Rates for May 2010 | |
|---|--------|
| Farm Operating - Direct | 2.875% |
| Farm Ownership - Direct | 5% |
| Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher | 1.5% |
| Farm Storage Facility | 3.25% |
| Sugar Storage Facility | 4.375% |

| Dates to Remember | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 June | DCP Sign-up Closes |
| 1 June | ACRE Sign-up Closes |
| 1 June | Recons Should be filed |
| 15 June | AGI Form Deadline |
| 30 June | Crop Reporting Deadline |
| | |

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.”