



May 2010

Minidoka County FSA News



USDA Minidoka Co. FSA

98 C South 200 West
Rupert, Idaho 83350

208-436-4777 phone
208-436-3098 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/id

Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Minidoka Co. Committee:

Lyle Nef, Chairman
Wayne Schenk, Vice
Chairman
Jerry Tominga, Member

Staff:
Lynette Bowers
Cindy Brown
Melisa Davis
Marcia Karnopp
April Ward

Farm Loan Manager:
Kelli Bott

**County Executive
Director:**
Nick Treasure

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 10, Minidoka County had 128 of its contracts signed up for the 2010 season. That leaves under 3 weeks to complete more than 500 contracts. With limited staff resources we will only be mailing or faxing contracts that have special circumstances and due to the busyness of the office, mailings may not be timely enough to sign and return them to the office by June 1st. All returned contracts being mailed back to the FSA office are required to be postmarked by June 1st or 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!!.

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 Minidoka County are wheat, barley, oats and corn. 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 the office.

Average Gross Income – Deadline!!!

June 15th, 2010 is the deadline for submitting the simple form CCC-927 (individuals) or CCC-928 (Entity including 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

Minidoka County elections in 2010 will be held in LAA 2, this includes areas north of Rupert. The current COC member from this LAA is Lyle Nef.

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. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

Election Period

June 15, 2010 – The nomination period begins. The nomination form can be found on Page 3

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 an FSA program may be nominated for the county committee. 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 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.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

CREP sign-up continues in Minidoka County. The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a voluntary land retirement program that helps agricultural producers protect environmentally sensitive land, decrease erosion, restore wildlife habitat, and safeguard ground and surface water.

Like CRP, CREP contracts require a 15-year commitment to keep lands out of agricultural production. CREP provides payments to participants who offer eligible land. A federal annual rental rate, including an FSA state committee-determined maintenance incentive payment, is offered, plus cost-share of up to 50 percent of the eligible costs to install the practice. Further, the program generally offers a sign-up incentive for participants to install specific practices.

Like CRP, CREP is administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA). By combining CRP resources with state, tribal, and private programs, CREP provides farmers and ranchers with a sound financial package for conserving and enhancing the natural resources of farms.

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 (commonly referred to as a clip) at no charge. This would provide the acreage of an entire field.

FSA-669A (03-24-10) Page 2		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE		Form Approved - OMB No. 0560-02	
FSA-669A (03-24-10)		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:			5. COUNTY		
<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>I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.</i>			6. LAA		
3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE			7. STATE		
3B. DATE			8. NOMINATOR'S CERTIFICATION:		
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.</i>			<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>		
3C. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE			9A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR		
3D. DATE			9B. 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		RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)		GENDER	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino		<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> White		<input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander <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. <i>(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required.)</i>					
ITEM 9 Completing this item is voluntary.					
ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 2, 2010.					
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 Count record records, USDA FSA-669A. Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination of ineligibility for nomination by 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, reviewing and collecting the data, and reviewing and editing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to Washington, DC 20503. Send all requests for privacy information to the Privacy Office, Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250. Send all requests for information on this collection of information to the information provided. RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.					

Minidoka Co. FSA
 98 C South 200 West
 Rupert, Idaho 83350



**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 reconstitutions 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	
31 May	Last day to request corn loans on 2009 crop
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.”