



NEWSLETTER



May 2012

**Nez Perce County
USDA Service Center
1630 23rd Ave, Suite 1201
Lewiston, Idaho 83501**

**208-746-9621
208-798-3164 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/id**

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

County Committee
Neil Heitstuman,
Chairperson
Ralph Schwartz,
Vice Chairperson
Dale Wolff, Member

Staff
Tricia Uhlenkott,
Acting CED
Christy Randall, PT
Diana Menzel, PT

Bardell Faux, FL Manager
Brian Hill, FL Officer
Jason Fisher, FL Officer
Annette VonBargen, FL PT

DCP/ACRE Sign-Up Deadline

Enrollment for the 2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) will continue through June 1, 2012. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign-up or visit any USDA Service Center to complete the 2012 DCP contract.

USDA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For more information on this or other programs, contact the nearest FSA office.

ACRE Program

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) offers producers an alternative to Direct and Counter-Cyclical (DCP) payments. The ACRE alternative provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the five-year state Olympic average yield and the two-year national average price.

ACRE payments are made when both state- and farm-level triggers are met. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments. Producers also agree to receive a 20 percent reduction in direct payments and a 30 percent reduction in loan rates.

A decision to elect ACRE binds the producer to the program through the 2012 crop year, the last crop year covered by the 2008 Farm Bill. For more details contact the local FSA office.

2010 SURE Sign-Up Deadline

Sign-up for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payment (SURE) program for the 2010 crop year began Nov. 14, 2011, and will end on June 1, 2012. SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. A farm is eligible when either:

- A portion of the farm is located in a county, or a contiguous county, covered by a qualifying Secretarial disaster declaration.
- An overall loss greater than 50 percent of the actual production on the farm compared to expected production for the farm for that year.

For producers to be eligible for SURE, they must have obtained a policy or plan of insurance for all crops through either the Federal Crop Insurance Act or FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). Producers must suffer a 10 percent production loss due to a natural disaster to at least one crop of economic significance on their farm in order to be eligible for SURE

County Committee Nominations

The County Committee nomination period runs from June 15, 2012 through August 1, 2012. For detailed information contact your local FSA office.

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 (USDA).

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

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.

**NOTICE
TO HISPANIC
AND/OR
WOMEN
FARMERS OR
RANCHERS
COMPENSATION
FOR CLAIMS OF
DISCRIMINATION**

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

To register your name to receive a claims packet, call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or visit: www.farmerclaims.gov

The claims package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

New Crop Reporting Deadline

The annual, timely and accurate reporting of acres for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, 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.

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. Crop acreage for Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) also must be reported.

Crop reports — form FSA-578, Report of Acreage — must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. Producers need to file their acreage reports by **July 15th**.

Prevented Planting:

Prevented planting needs to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

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.

Notifying FSA of Prevented Planting

Producers that are prevented from planting crops this spring should file an FSA-576 "Notice of Loss" within 15 days after the Final Planting Date. This is separate from the notification that you must also provide to your crop insurance agent. Filing this "Notice of Loss" will help to ensure that all benefits for NAP, SURE, ACRE, and other FSA programs are maintained.

Failure to file a timely Notice of Loss may require that a paid-for farm inspection be completed.

Nez Perce Co final planting dates are:

Wheat –	April 30 (West of Hwy 95); May 15 (East of Hwy 95)
Barley -	May 20
Oats -	May 31
Dry Peas –	May 20
Lentils -	May 20
Garbonzo Beans-	May 20
S. Canola -	May 5
Mustard –	May 5
Triticale -	May 15

NAP Records

Production records for individual crops need to be filed at the FSA office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable. Records need to show crop disposition. We recommend producers submit production records as soon as harvest is complete. **All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.**

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. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. 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.

Adjusted Gross Income

USDA and the Internal Revenue Service have established an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent is required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA.

This 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.

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Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-931 to their local FSA County Office to avoid interruption of program benefits. This form may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices.

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 of the farm 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 Aug. 1, 2012, for farms enrolled in specific programs.

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.

Conservation Compliance (HEL & Wetland)

Producers intending to remove fence rows, convert woodlots to cropland, install new drainage, or improve or modify existing drainage, must notify the FSA and update Form AD-1026. FSA will notify NRCS and NRCS will make HEL and wetland technical determinations. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements per their conservation

plan. Failure to obtain ADVANCE approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all federal payments.

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. If an on-site visit is not required producers are charged 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.

Farm Record Changes

June 1, 2012 is the deadline to provide changes to your farm records at the local FSA office for the 2012 crop year. If you are changing your operation entity type, adding or dropping cropland or farms, or adding entities to your operation, contact the FSA county office by June 1.

2012 LAA 3 Election Info

Ralph Schwartz, COC member from the LAA3 is up for re-election. The LAA3 boundary description is as follows: North boundary is the Clearwater River, West boundary is Cottonwood Creek and Mission Creek, East boundary is the county line. Producers can begin nominating individuals for the election process on June 15 and producers in the described area will receive election ballots in November.



Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. Those producers who are having trouble getting credit for their farm or who regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask a lender about an FSA loan guarantee to help with a setback or if a lender has been reluctant to extend or renew a loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans have a maximum limit of \$1,214,000. This makes the maximum combination of direct and guaranteed loan indebtedness \$1,514,000.

The one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans has increased from 1 percent to 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan, for loans obligated after Oct. 1, 2011.

To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

Selected Interest Rates for May 2012	
Farm Operating - Direct	1.5%
Farm Ownership - Direct	3.5%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.5%
Emergency	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility – 7 year	1.5%

Dates to Remember	
May 28	Memorial Day, Federal Offices Closed
June 1	2012 DCP/ACRE Enrollment closes
June 1	Farm Record Changes Deadline
June 1	SURE Sign up ends
June 15	COC Nomination Period Opens
June 15	AGI Form CCC 931 Due
July 4	Federal Holiday, Office Closed
July 15	Crop reporting deadline
Aug. 1	Last Day to file COC nomination form
Aug. 1	Deadline to request Reconstitutions
Sept 30	Last day to purchased NAP ins for Bluegrass
Dec 1	Last day to purchase NAP ins on all other crops
Dec 15	Final Date to report Fall seeded crops