



# NEWSLETTER



## 2011 FSA County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established, large or small. 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.

County committees provide local input on commodity price support loans and payments, conservation programs, incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities, emergency programs and payment eligibility.

FSA county committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decision and operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal rules, regulations and laws.

### Election Period

June 15, 2011 – COC nomination period begins.

Aug. 1, 2011 - COC nomination forms (FSA-669A) due at the local USDA Service Center

Nov. 4, 2011 – COC ballots mailed to eligible voters

Dec. 5, 2011 - Last day to return completed COC ballots to the USDA Service Center

May 2011

**Power County  
FSA Office  
2769 Fairgrounds RD  
STE B  
American Falls ID  
83211-5418**

208 226-5139 phone  
208 226-3122 fax  
www.fsa.usda.gov/ID

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

**County Committee**  
Kevin Ramsey  
Adam Permann  
Larin Ward

**Advisor**  
Violet Isaak

**Office Staff**  
Deb Duba, CED  
Bennett Demoss, PT  
Jenny Peirsol, PT  
Chris Shriver, temp

**Farm Loan Manager**  
Dustin Carter  
Blackfoot  
208 785-2090

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

- 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

Candidates must 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

Nominees must complete and sign form FSA-669A available at USDA Service Centers and online at:

[http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/fsa\\_0669a\\_commiteelectform.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa_0669a_commiteelectform.pdf)

Nomination forms for the 2011 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 1, 2011.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy.

### Who Can Vote

Agricultural producers of legal voting age (18 years) 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.

For more information about county committee elections, contact the county office staff.

# 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](http://www.farmerclaims.gov)

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



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## CRP News

We have not heard any news on the results of the general CRP signup 41.

We expect to hear by the middle of May. Producers will receive a letter of acceptance or rejection as soon as we know the outcome.

## CRP Early Land Prep

Many producers have asked when they can begin early land preparation for land that will not be going back into CRP.

You can start as early as May 1 for fall seeded crops but this cost you two months of your CRP payments.

You can start July 1, of the year the CRP expires, planting a fall seeded crop with no reduction of payments.

To plant a spring seeded crop you can start August 1 to mow and spray, but no actual tillage of the ground can be done.

An approved conservation plan must be in place before any ground preparation can be done.

## CRP Mid-Management Practices

This is just a reminder to those Producers who have a CRP contract that expires in 2017 that you **MUST** complete a practice by September 30, 2014.

Mid Management Practices ensure plant diversity, wildlife benefits, and protection of soil and water resources. Practices **CANNOT** be performed during Primary Nesting season (April 1 – August 1).

For more information on Mid-Contract Management please contact your county FSA Office.

## Aerial Photos

Due to FSA budget cuts, one suggested area of cost savings is to do away with hard copy maps in color.

This will be enforced in the state of Idaho.

Sorry we really liked them too!

## CROP Reporting Deadline!

The acreage reporting deadline for 2010 is June 30<sup>th</sup>. Post cards with appointment dates are currently being mailed out or you can call to make an appointment.

Crops that are not reported to the FSA office by 4:30 PM on June 30<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> have 15 days where they can still be reported to FSA without late filed provisions & fees being assessed.

Failed acreage must be reported to the FSA office within 15 days of the date the loss was apparent. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

## Hispanic and Women Farmers

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans is being established.

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

For additional information on this claims process and other settlement issues contact:

## Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process

:[www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov) or 1-888-508-4429

## Pigford - Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation

[www.blackfarmerscase.com](http://www.blackfarmerscase.com) or 1-866-950-5547

## Keepseagle - Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement

[www.IndianFarmClass.com](http://www.IndianFarmClass.com) or 1-888-233-5506



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)	<b>TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE</b>	
	4. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE RECEIVED	
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE	5. COUNTY	
	6. LAA	7. STATE

<p><b>3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION:</b></p> <p><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></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.</p>	<p><b>8. NOMINATOR'S CERTIFICATION:</b></p> <p><i>If this nomination is by other than self, the following eligible voter or representative of a community based organization hereby nominates the afore-named person to be a candidate in the next County FSA Committee election for the county.</i></p>
---	--

3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE	3B. DATE	8A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR	8B. DATE
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.		<i>(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required).</i>	

**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.

<b>ETHNICITY</b>	<b>RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)</b>	<b>GENDER</b>
<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. *(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required.)*
- 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 nongovernmental 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, USDA/FSA-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 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, 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.*

Power County FSA Office  
 2769 Fairgrounds RD STE B  
 American Falls ID 83211-5418

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

### Did Your Bank Change?

If you have changed banks and not notified FSA, your payment could be delayed. Payments are now electronically transferred into your bank account. If we are not aware of changes to your account and have incorrect routing numbers, there could be problems. For FSA to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in producer's account such as type of account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

Selected Interest Rates for May 2011	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Direct Farm Operating Loans	2.625%
Direct Farm Ownership and Conservation Loans	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 10year	3.5%

Dates to Remember	
June 1	Deadline for Farm Record Changes
June 1	DCP Sign Up Ends
June 1	ACRE Sign Up Ends
June 30	ACRE Production Required
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program