



NEWSLETTER



June 2011

**Power County
FSA Office
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STE B
American Falls ID
83211**

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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

Farm Loan Manager
Dustin Carter
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208 785-2090

Crop Reporting

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report 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.

The certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The producer certification deadline is June 30, 2011.

2010 ACRE Certification Deadline Extended

The deadline for a 2010 production certification to comply with the ACRE provisions for production reports has been extended to COB September 1, 2011. Because of this extension, using a register on September 1, 2011, is **not** authorized.

The extension is for completing both the farm benchmark yield (2005 through 2009) and the actual farm yield (2010). For more details contact the local FSA office.

AGI Certification

All persons and legal entities requesting certain program payments, either directly or indirectly are subject to average AGI provisions. USDA and IRS have developed an electronic average AGI verification process. IRS requires written

Consent from the individual or legal entity to provide USDA verification of the average AGI. Producers subject to average AGI limitations must complete CCC-927 or CCC-928.

A reconciliation process identified producers who did **NOT** file CCC-927 or CCC-928 with IRS for 2009 or 2010. Producers identified through this process received written notice from FSA in October 2010 of requirements to submit CCC-927 or CCC-928 to IRS to avoid interruption of program payments.

The CCC-927 or CCC-928 is required to be filed by June 1st of each year. If you have **NOT** sent yours in you may **have interruption of payments or be requested to repay program monies you have already received.**

CRP & NAP Certification

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

Prevented Planting:

Prevented planting is to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date. Failure to report prevented planting acreage could result in loss of benefits for the SURE program or possibly other disaster assistance programs.

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.

COC Election Nominations

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committee starts with the nomination of eligible candidates.

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. This form is available at USDA Service Centers and online at:

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_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 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.

Sodbusting

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 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.

Maintaining CRP Cover

Maintenance of CRP acreage is your responsibility as outlined in the provisions agreed upon at the time the CRP contract was originated including your specific conservation plan. Proper maintenance includes:

- Adequate approved vegetative cover to control erosion for the contract period.
- Control weeds and other types of undesirable vegetation.
- All control measures outside of the primary nesting season.

Idaho's primary nesting season is April 1st through August 1st.

Please keep in mind mowing for a cosmetic purpose is prohibited. That is why it is important to review your conservation plan and talk to FSA if you think undesirable plant species are invading your CRP land.

Common maintenance defaults:

- Unauthorized haying or grazing (this includes livestock of any ownership breaking through your fence and grazing on your CRP).
- Noncontrol of weeds, insects, rodents, or wind or water erosion.
- Failure to maintain eligible cover. (This includes parking equipment or putting haystacks on the CRP)

Defaults result in costly payment reductions. For example, the payment reduction for unauthorized grazing would be calculated by multiplying the value per acre of the grazed production as determined by the COC times the number of acres in violation, times 2. Don't let it happen to you.

FSA Signature Policy

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

For more clarification on spousal signature authority, feel free to contact your local FSA office.



Compliance

Compliance and spot checks will once again be utilized during the 2011 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for spot check and review, a nationwide selection of producers is used to achieve a statistical sampling of participating producers. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in the Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program, etc.

State and county offices shall view and print their producer spot check lists as posted on the designated web site.

If an entity is selected from the national database that is no longer farming or participating in the 2011 crop year, a notation shall be made on the spot check list. For more information about the new spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact your local office for additional clarification.

GIS

As part of a program to digitally map the nation's farms and fields, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has established the Common Land Unit (CLU) as a standardized GIS (Geographic Information Systems) data layer that has allowed mapping to be integrated easily on a nationwide basis. The Farm Service Agency manages this CLU data layer through a distributed database environment for all field service centers throughout the country.

Using GIS provides for more consistent and more accurate land measurements, such as field acreage and acreage boundaries of conservation practices, such as riparian buffers. With high quality digital imagery, new land use changes (farm transfers and land subdivisions) can be easily updated. Maps can be created in either paper or digital format for FSA customers or the public.

More information about the Common Land Unit and NAIP imagery can be found by visiting on-line, APFO (Aerial Photography Field Office) at www.apfo.usda.gov.

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.



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Dates to Remember

30 Jun	Crop Reporting Deadline
1 Aug	COC Nomination Due in County Office
1 Aug	Reconstitutions Request Deadline
1 Sept.	2010 ACRE Certification Deadline

Selected Interest Rates for June 2011

Farm Operating - Direct	2.75%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.00%
Limited Resource	5.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency	2.75%
7 Yr Farm Storage Facility	2.625%

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