



NEWSLETTER



November 2011

County Committee Voting Begins

Ballots for this year's county committee election will be mailed to eligible voters on Nov. 4, 2011. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on Dec. 5, 2011. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight Dec. 5, 2011.

The candidates are:

Adam Permann is nominated in LAA 2, Power County, to serve as a committee member. Permann resides south of American Falls and produced wheat, barley and safflower for close to 10 years.

He is currently the vice-chairman for the Power County Committee.

Eligible voters in local administrative area 2 (south of the river, to just north of Rockland and including Fort Hall reservation) who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

Voter Requirements - Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, are eligible to vote:

1. Legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as any of the following: an individual, an authorized representative of an entity, spouses when property is owned jointly or in community property states.

2. Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm.

3. Participates or cooperates in any FSA program that is provided by law.

Eligible to Vote- Every member of an Indian tribe is considered a landowner if the land in question is tribally owned or held in trust for the tribe by the United States. All members of Indian tribes holding agricultural land are eligible to vote if they meet the age requirement.

Discrimination Prohibited No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

Move with FSA to Instant Electronic Information

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation.

Producers can now enroll in the new GovDelivery system for notices, newsletters and electronic reminders and discontinue their slow and costly paper copies received through the mail.

FSA, like many other organizations, is working smarter and more efficiently. Conversion to electronic notifications via email helps conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars.

County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers.

Subscribe now to receive free e-mail updates by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe> or use the box "Sign up for updates" on the FSA homepage.

2012 DCP/ACRE

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment begins Jan. 23, 2012 and ends June 1, 2012.

Here are IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

1) All producers planting on **DCP base** acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.

2) Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1st in DCP/ACRE **must** be reported to your local FSA office such as:

- Ownership changes
- Producer changes (Individuals and Entities)
- Change in crop shares arrangements

3) Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012.

NOTE: as required in the 2008 Farm Bill there are no 2012 advance payment for DCP and ACRE.

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

208 226-5139 ext.2 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

Farm Loan Manager
Dustin Carter
Blackfoot
208 785-2090



**20,000 SAFE
ACRES still
Available!**

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

The sign-up for 2010 losses begins **Nov. 14, 2011** and will end **June 1, 2012**.

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop year 2010. SURE is available to eligible producers on:

- Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties that have incurred at least a 10% crop production or quality loss, or both. All economically significant crops grown by a producer are eligible, **except** grazed crops.

- Any farm in which disaster-related conditions reduced the actual crop year production on the farm to 50 percent or less than normal production of the farm.

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 has been established.

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.

For additional information on this and other settlement issues contact:

- **Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process:**

www.farmerclaims.gov or call
1-888-508-4429

- **Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation:**

www.blackfarmercase.com or call
1-866-950-5547

- **Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement:**

www.IndianFarmClass.com or call
• 1-888-233-5506

Marketing Assistance Loans

Marketing Assistance loans are commodity loans available to producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time of application. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity, maintaining responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity, and maintaining title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for a loan.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; reporting use of cropland acreage on the farm and ensuring that the commodity meets CCC minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, and exist in a storable and merchantable condition for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program to be eligible for commodity loans.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans.

The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

Interest rate for Nov. is only 1.125!

Unauthorized Disposition of Grain

If grain under loan has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe and a producer's name is placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call to check for restrictions before you haul any grain under loan.

Adjusted Gross Income Report to IRS – Act Now

Producers should remember they must submit an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) verification consent form (CCC-931) to maintain eligibility for 2010 and 2011 program benefits. Individuals and legal entities now are using one form: CCC-931 Certification and Consent.

The consent form authorizes IRS to verify that a producer's AGI is within the requirements for FSA programs eligibility. Producers who failed to file these forms before Sept. 2011 will receive a final notice from the National Office. This notice will give the producer a final opportunity to submit the CCC-931 prior to becoming ineligible for all program payments (with the exception of some earlier multi-year CRP contracts.) The letter will provide instruction on where the completed form must be sent.

IRS requires written consent from all individuals or legal entities before verification of AGI eligibility can be provided to USDA.

For more information contact your local FSA office.

Online Services

Producers with Internet access can fill out a variety of FSA forms online. Producers can also register for secure electronic access that will allow them to electronically sign and transmit some forms directly to the county office staff. If you are new to the website, first you will want to obtain a Level 2 USDA Service Center Customer ID and password at: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> and then click on "Create an Account Page" link.

If you already have a Customer ID and password, then click on the following eForms website at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/main.servelet> and then click on the "Sign In" button. A disclaimer window will open and after you read the "Warning message" click on the "Continue" button.

Then the USDA Web services page will open to the eAuthentication login page. Enter your login User ID and password and then click on the "Login" button. To sign and transmit forms electronically, you must sign-up and get a User ID and password.

TIP

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 amendments to the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended, authorized \$25 million for the transition of expiring CRP land from a retired or retiring owner or operator to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher to return land to production for sustainable grazing or crop production.

The Transition Incentive Program (TIP) provides annual rental payments for up to two additional years after the date of the expiration of the CRP contract, provided the transition is not to a family member.

Signup

Enrollment in TIP is on a continuous basis. Beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and CRP participants may enroll in TIP beginning one year before the expiration date of a CRP contract.

For example, if a CRP contract is scheduled to expire on Sept. 30, 2012, the land may be enrolled in TIP from Oct. 1, 2011, through Sept. 30, 2012.

Looking For a Farm Loan?

FSA helps farmers and ranchers get started – and keeps them going.

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers farm loans to farmers and ranchers who have experience and want to own or operate their own farm or ranch, but are unable to get financing from a traditional lender. What sets FSA loans apart from traditional agricultural lenders?

- **No down payment** required
- Lower interest rates than traditional financing
- Longer terms available (up to 40 years for real estate loans)
- FSA provides financial assistance and business planning to help ensure the future well-being of American agriculture.

Changing Banks

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. To maintain efficient payment processing, it is critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make with your financial institutions. If you have made changes to accounts or have changed banking institutions, these changes might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments. When changes like these are made, be sure to contact the FSA county office so we can update our records to ensure efficient and uninterrupted service.

| Selected Interest Rates for November 2011 | |
|--|--------|
| 90-Day Treasury Bill | 0.125% |
| Farm Operating - Direct | 1.375% |
| Farm Ownership - Direct | 3.750% |
| Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher | 1.500% |
| Emergency | 3.750% |
| | |

| Dates to Remember | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Nov. 4 | COC Ballots mailed |
| Nov. 11 | Office closed Veterans Day |
| Nov. 14 | SURE Sign-up begins |
| Nov. 28 | Office closed Thanksgiving |
| Dec. 1 | NAP Signup for Perennial Crops Ends |
| Dec. 5 | COC Ballots due back in County Office by COB |
| Dec. 12 | Count ballots 9:30 a.m |
| Jan. 23 | 2012 DCP Enrollment begins |
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