



May 2010 -

Twin Falls FSA - Quarterly “Tater Talk”



USDA Twin Falls County FSA

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Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Staff

Lance Phillips – CED
Candy Hansing – PT
Susan Kime – PT
Jenae Prescott – PT
Angela Sandoval – PT

County Committee

Carol Wells–Chair LAA 1
Kent Lierman – LAA 2
FT Freestone – LAA 3

FSA Committee Meetings @ USDA Service Center

- June 1 – 10 A.M.
- July 6 – 10 A.M.



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 1, Twin Falls County had 25% of its contracts signed up for the 2010 season. That leaves 30 days to complete more than 800 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!! For more information on DCP rules contact Susan Kime – Twin Falls DCP program lead technician for more information.

ACRE Program Deadline for 2010!!!!!!

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 Twin Falls County are wheat, silage / grain corn, barley, oats, and peas. Each crop has it's own guaranteed price. The deadline for ACRE is the same **June 1st** deadline as the DCP program. For more information contact the office or check out the ACRE calculator web link on the bottom of page 3.

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.

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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.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

The New 2008 Farm Bill permanent Livestock programs have started to gain momentum now that producers are hearing about “normal mortality” vs. “weather related loss” factors that play into the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and other programs.

The LIP program is designed to assist producers when abnormal weather related events cause livestock losses that exceed normal mortality rates.

The rules for the program have had some recent changes. A recent amendment states that the following diseases will not be covered for payment but losses from the diseases still count towards normal mortality losses.

- Anaplasmosis, pneumonia, infectious bovine rhinotracheitis, and parainfluenza are not considered to be eligible causes of loss under LIP because preventable measures such as vaccination can be implemented as an acceptable management practice and the diseases are not considered accelerated or exacerbated by eligible adverse weather events.

Other weather related events that include fire, blizzards, lightening, flood, or extreme heat and cold are some of the eligible weather events that the County Committee can make payments on. The new program changes took affect 4-27-2010 and if you have additional questions please contact Jenae Prescott – Livestock program lead at the Twin Falls FSA Office.

Market Assistance Loan (MAL) Rates for 2010.

For 2010 the new loan rates for Market Assistance Loans (MAL’s) have been published. The table below shows the prices for Twin Falls County by class that will be available to producers.

<u>Wheat Class</u>	<u>2010 National Average Loan Rate (per Bushel)</u>
Barley	\$2.16
Corn	\$2.26
Oats	\$1.42
Hard Red Spring (HRS)	\$4.02
Hard Red Winter (HRW)	\$2.86
Soft White (SWH)	\$3.04

If you have additional questions or would like a measurement service of your harvested grain please contact the Twin Falls Office.

2010 County Office Committee (COC) Nomination and Election LAA 3 Kimberly / Hansen / Murtaugh

COC elections provide farmers and ranchers the opportunity to represent producers in their community by running for a seat on the FSA COC. All farmers and ranchers are encouraged to consider running for 1 of these seats.

As FSA strives for increased diversity on COC’s, FSA must also work to encourage voters to look toward beginning farmers and ranchers as a source for nominees for COC elections.

County Committee members are unique that they are direct supervisors and charged with fund distribution for the Farm Bill programs. As paid / part time employees, COC’s are an essential link to the farmers and ranchers in the counties that they serve. COC members receive pay and travel reimbursement for approximately 3-4 hours per month and review payments, manage county directors, and handle program appeals for producers in Twin Falls County.

In 2009 COC members allocated more than \$5 million dollars in Twin Falls County to assist farmers and ranchers with their farming operations.

Nomination forms (FSA-669A) that allows people to nominate themselves or others who are eligible can be picked up at the local FSA Office or Online. Eligible candidates may also be nominated by organization representing socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers or by any eligible producer whose records are administered in the same COC jurisdiction. Nominations will be accepted until **August 2, 2010** and can be mailed, faxed or delivered to the Twin Falls Office prior to the closing date.

Eligibility to Hold Office

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet each of the basic eligibility requirements described below:

1. Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA.
2. Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
3. Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate
NOTE: In special cases, this requirement may be waived. Check with the local FSA office.
4. A person must not have been:
 - Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee.

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- 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

People uncertain about their eligibility to vote in the county committee election should contact Lance Phillips – CED at the Twin Falls County FSA office.

SURE

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop years 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, producers are required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, for crops for which insurance is not available, producers must participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage. However, crop insurance or NAP coverage is no longer required for crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10% of the value of the coverage.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

The following are the conditions that trigger SURE payments:

- at least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition
- crop of economic significance is a crop that has contributed or would have contributed at least 5% or more of the total expected revenue from all crops on the farm
- producers in counties declared disaster counties by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties, or those who show proof of an individual loss of at least 50% are eligible to receive SURE payments for crop producer or crop quality losses. Note also that losses are measured with consideration to the whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.

A SURE calculator is available at: www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/sure_calculator_2008.xls. The calculator is not official, but is intended for educational use. A fact sheet and backgrounder are also available online.

Cold Storage Facility Loans

The Farm Storage Facility Loan program has been amended to allow producers to build cold storage facilities to store their fresh fruits and vegetables. To be eligible, cold storage facilities must have a useful life of 15 years and include:

- New structures suitable for a cold storage facility;
- New walk-in prefabricated permanently installed coolers suitable for storing fresh fruits and vegetables;
- New permanently affixed cooling, circulating and monitoring equipment;
- Electrical equipment integral to the proper operation of a cold storage facility; and must be
- An addition or modification to an existing storage facility.

USDA will not make cold storage facility loans for portable structures, portable handling and cooling equipment, used, or pre-owned structures or cooling equipment or structures deemed unsuitable.

The maximum loan amount for a Farm Storage Facility loan is \$500,000 per loan, which require a down payment of at least 15 percent. Applications must be approved before construction can begin. Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan.

Loans applications should be submitted to the administrative FSA county office that maintains the records of the farm or farms to which the application applies. If the commodities are produced on land that does not have farm records established, the application must be submitted to the FSA county office that services the county where the facility will be located.

For more information on this program or other FSA farm programs please contact your local FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

Direct and Guaranteed Loans

FSA is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the Jerome County Farm Loan office staff at (208) 324-4325.



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Dates to Remember	
<i>Monthly</i>	Report Livestock Losses by phone, fax, or email to the County office for the LIP program (<i>page 2</i>)
<i>June 1st, 2010</i>	DCP / ACRE 2010 Sign-up Close – 4:30 PM – (<i>page 1</i>)
<i>June 15th, 2010</i>	Deadline to Submit Average Gross Income Reviews (CCC-927 & CCC-928) to IRS for program certification. (<i>page 1</i>)
<i>June 30th, 2010</i>	Crop Reporting Deadline for 2010. (<i>page 1&2</i>)
<i>July 15th, 2010</i>	ACRE program participants production due to office for 2009 (Page 1)
<i>August 2, 2010</i>	Nomination Forms Due at Twin Falls Office for LAA 3 Candidates (<i>page 3</i>)

NAP Records

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with your 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 and need to show crop disposition. We recommend producers submit 2009 production records as soon as harvest is complete. **All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year’s final acreage reporting date.**

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."