



July 2009

Twin Falls FSA

“Tater Talk”



USDA Twin Falls County FSA

1441 Fillmore St. Ste B
Twin Falls, ID 83301

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Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

County Staff

Lance Phillips – CED
Candy Hansing – PT
Susan Kime – PT
Jenae Prescott – PT
Angela Sandoval – PT
Abbie Walker – Student Intern (SI)

County Committee

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



FSA Crop Reporting Deadline Extended

The June 30th deadline for filing crop reports was extended last week until **August 14, 2009**. If all of your crops have been planted take the time to come see the new faces at the office and get your crop report done for the 2009 crop season.

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. If you have prevented planting acreage, that acreage needs to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

Department of Environmental Quality – Burn Notice

By Bobby Dye- Air Quality Science Officer
“It’s That Time of Year Again”

Many growers are planning to burn the crop residue in their fields. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is the agency assigned by the Idaho Legislature to manage Crop Residue Burning (CRB) on all farming lands other than the five Indian Reservations in Idaho. DEQ has established a CRB program to assist growers.

DEQ considers air quality before deciding if a burn can take place, so an acceptable day to burn is when air quality is good and is expected to remain good. To determine air quality, DEQ measures pollutant levels using data from DEQ air quality monitors. DEQ also considers proximity to sensitive areas (towns, schools, roads, hospitals, canyon rims, local seasonal events, ect.) before making the decision that a burn can occur.

Burn Days are limited to weekdays during daylight hours only (usually between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.). Burning on weekends, holiday, and after sunset is prohibited by the Idaho Legislature.

Before burning, growers must register their field with DEQ. The DEQ CRB program encourages

growers to register their fields early to plan ahead for the 30-day processing time. Growers must also complete field burning training, which is required once every five years. Growers who complete the training and are ready to burn pay a \$2 per acre fee to DEQ and obtain approval from DEQ before burning.

Grower training in the Magic Valley are listed below. One Pesticide recertification credit is given and Lunch will be provided.

- **July 16th** – Minidoka County Extension Office – 85 E. Baseline, Rupert, ID 83336. 10:30 am – 1:30 pm
- **July 15th** – Health and Welfare – 601 Pole Line Road, Twin Falls, ID 83301 10:30 am – 1:30 pm.

For more information, Contact DEQ staff Bobby Dye or JR Wolters at (208)736-2190 or visit DEQ’s Website at: http://www.deq.idaho.gov/air/prog_issues/burning/crop_residue_burning.cfm

FSA COC Nomination Deadline

County committee members play a crucial role in helping the county office staff implement the Farm Bill Programs. Right now, producers can have an impact on the election of the county committee by nominating eligible candidates by the August 3, 2009, deadline.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must complete and sign form FSA-669A. The form and other valuable information about FSA county committee elections are available online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>; click on News & Events, then County Committee Elections. Nomination forms for the 2009 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 3, 2009.

FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price sup-

port loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms. Nationwide, there are more than 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees. Committees consist of three to five members who are elected by eligible local producers.

FSA will mail ballots to producers beginning Nov. 6, 2009. The completed ballots are due back at the local county office by Dec. 7, 2009 either via mail or in person. .

DCP & ACRE Signup Deadline

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been extended until August 14, 2009. Signup in the ACRE option is also available through August 14, 2009. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications.

An online calculator and ACRE fact sheet is available to producers by going to www.fsa.usda.gov and clicking on *Direct and Counter Cyclical Program/Acre* in the subject area on the left-hand side of the page and then following the link to the spreadsheet.

Online Services

Producers, if you have Internet access you can electronically log on, fill out and print a variety of FSA paper forms in the comfort of your home as your schedule allows. You can also register for secure electronic access that will allow you 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.

USDA eAuthentication is the system used by USDA agencies to enable customers to obtain accounts that will allow them to access USDA Web applications and services via the Internet. This includes things such as submitting forms electronically, filing eLDPs, completing DCP contracts, filling out surveys online, and checking the status of your USDA accounts.

Help Available to Stressed Farmers

In the past year, the economy, inclement weather, drought and other factors have hurt many farming operations around the country. These events pushed some farmers to the emotional breaking point. Watching their livelihood being threatened is difficult

for farmers and ranchers and especially for those who care about them.

The National Suicide Prevention Hotline is available to help. If you know a farmer or rancher who is under stress and is reluctant to ask for help, or if you just need to talk to someone, call 1-800-273-TALK (8255). Your call will be routed to the crisis center nearest you, where trained staffers are available 24/7. This nationwide service is free and confidential. Help is just a phone call away.

For more information, go to <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>. **This service is not affiliated with the US Department of Agriculture.**

Crop Insurance Decisions

To maintain eligibility for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) and to qualify for disaster assistance, producers must obtain a policy or plan of insurance of at least catastrophic (CAT) level coverage for crop year 2010. Note: the more crop insurance coverage a producer has, the more the SURE guarantee will be.

Therefore, producers with fall planted commodities need to be making important crop insurance decisions for the 2010 crop year. Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office and visit with a crop insurance agent (a list of agents is available at all USDA Service Centers) to fully understand what crop insurance programs are available in the county and to ensure they are obtaining adequate coverage for eligibility. The next round of sales closing dates for Federal crop insurance is:

August 31: Canola and Onions (fall planted types); September 30: Barley with winter coverage; dry peas with winter coverage; mint with winter coverage; forage production; forage (alfalfa) seed pilot; and wheat.

Note: The Adjusted Gross Revenue-Pilot and Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite programs do meet the linkage requirements for SURE. Also, if there is no crop insurance coverage in a county for a specific crop, and that crop is insurable in another county under the traditional Federal crop insurance program, a producer may seek coverage by asking an agent whether they would be eligible for crop insurance coverage under a written agreement.

A 2010 Multi-Peril Crop Availability Listing by county is posted on RMA website, http://www.rma.usda.gov/aboutrma/fields/wa_rso/. Producers are encouraged to contact their local agent for additional details.

In addition to USDA Service Centers, a listing of crop/livestock agents is also available at, www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents).

FSA Farm Loans

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit elsewhere. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers may have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or may have limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,094,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For details on loan eligibility or available loan programs, contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other ag groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age

- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms. The FSA staff can help you with questions you may have about a particular program.

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

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"Helping You Keep Agriculture Growing"

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged Applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact their local

FSA office for details. Applicants must fully qualify and be unable to obtain credit from another source.

Crop Reporting Deadline Extended to Aug. 14, 2009.

Dates to Remember	
Aug. 1, 2009	NAP Deadlines Start for 2010
Aug. 3, 2009	Deadline to file COC Nomination
Aug. 14, 2009	DCP / ACRE Signup Deadline
Aug. 14, 2009	New - Crop Reporting Deadline

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