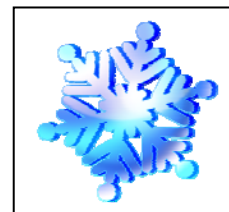




October 2009

Twin Falls FSA

“Tater Talk”



USDA Twin Falls County FSA

1441 Fillmore St. Ste B
Twin Falls, ID 83301

Phone: (208) 733-5380
Fax: (208) 734-5138
www.fsa.usda.gov

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

County Committee

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

Fiscal Year 2009 is History – Fiscal Year 2010 Begins

The US Governments 2009 fiscal year has come to an end as of September 30, 2009. The first year of implementation of the new Farm Bill has had many challenges and new programs. We have all appreciated the patience and willingness of Twin Falls County producers in completing all of the new documents.

With the start of 2010 producers can get ahead on FSA yearly paperwork during the slow winter months. As of October 1st producers can stop by and sign the 2010 DCP paperwork and update the required Average Gross Income (AGI) – CCC-926 statement for their operations. Completing the AGI statement is very important for any payments that are being paid in the next several months, as payments are held until the 2010 AGI is completed.

FY 2010 is also bringing on line FSA’s Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE), which is the permanent revenue based crop disaster program. As final provisions are being completed and signups are due to start in December 2009 for 2008 crops. The essential part of the SURE program is the Risk Management Purchase Requirement (RMPR) that required that all crops are covered by insurance through RMA, have a FSA Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, or the buy in coverage. The 2010 program deadline for NAP coverage of perennial crops is December 1st. For more information on the SURE or NAP programs please contact Candy Hansing at the Twin Falls County FSA Office.

Final Payments for 2009 DCP

Enrolled producers can expect their final direct payment to be deposited directly into personal bank accounts sometime during the first few weeks of October.

Producers who did not elect to receive an advance direct payment will receive their entire direct payment for the year in one lump sum after the end of the fiscal year (Sept. 30).

New Producer Maps for 2010

As expected a new aerial flyover has occurred for Idaho in 2009 with great results. The new imagery is clearer and shows clearer definition of fields.

In the next several months a copy of your previous farm maps will be sent to you asking about changes in your field management. If you have installed a pivot or crop fields have changed the new flyover will be your opportunity to get these records corrected and help simplify yearly crop reporting. Appointments will be scheduled with Angela Sandoval at Twin Falls County FSA Office.

Price Support Update

There have been many changes to the Price Support Program for the 2009-2012 crop years. To be eligible to receive a market loan gain (MLG) or loan deficiency payment (LDP), an entity or individual’s average adjusted gross NONFARM income cannot exceed \$500,000.

A person or legal entity with average adjusted gross NONFARM income that exceeds \$500,000 is eligible for a Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL), but the MAL must be repaid at principal plus interest.

Beginning with 2009 crop year, CCC will no longer limit MLG’s and LDP’s. Starting with the 2009 crop year, CCC will no longer adjust loan rates for warehouse-stored loan using premiums and discounts at loan making time. If the loans are not repaid and are forfeited to CCC, grading factors effecting premiums and discounts will be applied during forfeiture.

Effective with the 2009 crop year, loan rates for farm-stored Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) shall NOT be adjusted for test weight at loan making. Another change to the 2009 MAL’s are that stored commodities at all federal and state licensed facilities are eligible for loans.

For all the changes for 2009-2012 as they apply for MALs and LDPs, please contact Jenae Prescott at the Twin Falls County FSA Office.



Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) Update – October 2009

LDP's continue to apply for several crops in October 2009. Durum Wheat continues to fluctuate between \$1.52 & \$1.31 for October. Hard Red Spring continues to show between \$.01 & \$.04 LDP's for various days in October. Please contact the FSA Office for information concerning a particular LDP.

ELAP for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-Raised Fish

ELAP provides compensation to eligible producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other loss conditions, including losses due to blizzards and wildfires caused by natural occurrence (for example, lightning.) ELAP is for losses that are not covered by Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), or Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE).

Eligible producers under ELAP may receive assistance for losses that occur on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011. Eligible losses include feed losses, physical losses and additional costs incurred in providing feed to eligible livestock. Losses due to drought are not eligible.

The two parts to the ELAP application are:
1) A notice of loss and 2) Application for payment
An application for payment cannot be filed until a notice of loss is submitted.

Signup for eligible losses during 2008 and 2009, began September 14, 2009. For losses in calendar year 2008, producers must provide a notice of loss and application for payment in their administrative county office no later than **December 10, 2009**. Application for payment for calendar year 2009 losses shall be filed no later than January 30, 2010.

Producers who suffer losses September 14, 2009, through December 31, 2009, shall file a notice of loss within 30 days of when the loss is apparent to the participant, but no later than January 30, 2010.

There are no late filed provisions for ELAP. Producers with eligible losses must timely file an acreage report on grazing land acres, honey bee colonies and farm-raised fish pond acres.

Comment Period for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Dick Rush, State Executive Director is encouraging agricultural producers who are enrolled or may wish to be enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program

to take advantage of the comment period on proposed changes to this program. "There are substantive changes being proposed for this program that will affect Idaho CRP enrollees and the future of land use for our producers," said Rush. "We have a vested interest in maintaining a sound program in Idaho and I encourage producers to learn as much as they can and let their opinions be heard so that Idaho producers have a say in how the program goes forward." The deadline for submitting comments is October 18, 2009.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), often considered the most successful conservation program in modern times, is at a critical juncture as Congress contemplates whether to continue the program. Since 2005, more than 4.2 million acres have expired, and over the next five years, another 21 million more acres are slated to expire.

Some of the changes proposed are: Using National Agriculture Statistic Services data to establish rental rates; Adding alfalfa and legumes to the eligible crop history; and Making mid-management practices optional.

Submit comments **online** at <http://public.geomarine.com> or the **Federal eRulemaking Portal**. **Email** comments to CRPcomments@tecinc.com; or mail or hand-deliver comments to CRP SEIS, c/o TEC Inc., 8 San Jose Dr., Suite 3-B, Newport News, VA 23606. Fax comments to: 757-594-1469.

Farm Loan Update - Raised Limits on Guaranteed Loans

The Farm Service Agency 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. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. FSA also offers Guaranteed Loans in partnership with commercial lenders up to \$1,112,000 (new maximum as of October 1, 2009.) 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 just contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

Electronic Services Available

Producers with Internet access can access many services from home 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and receive approval and payment by direct deposit within 48 hours.

To participate in these services, you must meet all program eligibility requirements. Online services have stringent security measures to protect your private information.

To utilize electronic service, a producer needs an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account and an e-mail address. You can visit www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/ to complete the online registration form. Note that you must also visit your FSA county office for identity verification.

For assistance establishing your account, contact your local USDA Service Center or your nearest FSA County Office.

Livestock Forage Disaster Program

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to: drought conditions or fire on federally managed land.

Eligible livestock producers may receive assistance for eligible livestock grazing losses that occur due to drought or fire on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011, during the calendar year in which the loss occurs. County committees can only accept applications after being notified by the National Office of qualifying drought as signified by a Drought Monitor level of D2 or higher, or if a Federal agency prohibits producers from grazing normally permitted livestock on Federal managed lands due to a qualifying fire.

FSA began accepting 2008 calendar year applications September 14, 2009. The applications must be filed by December 10, 2009. Late filed applications for LFP cannot be approved.

For 2009 and subsequent years, signup applications must be filed no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the grazing losses occurred. Losses must occur

in the calendar year the application is being filed.

The monthly payment rate will be an amount equal to 60 percent of the lesser of:

- the monthly feed cost for all covered livestock, using a feed grain equivalent (for example, the feed grain equivalent for an adult beef cow is 15.7 pounds of corn per day)
- the monthly feed cost calculated using the normal carrying capacity for the grazing land.

Drought eligibility criteria require that the drought must have occurred on:

- native or improved permanent vegetative cover
- small grains or forage sorghum planted specifically for grazing

Losses due to drought must occur during the normal grazing period for the specific type of grazing land.

Additional Information about LFP including eligible livestock and fire criteria is available at county FSA offices or on line at:

www.fsa.usda.gov.

County Committee Elections – Buhl / Castleford – LAA 1 Area

Be watching your mailbox for your official county committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters starting on November 6, 2009. If you don't receive a ballot, notify the county FSA office. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on December 7, 2009.

DEQ – Crop Residue Burning Magic Valley

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality manages crop residue burning in the Magic Valley. The DEQ wants to remind growers that burn days are limited to daylight hours between 11:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. and that burning on weekends, holidays and after sunset are prohibited by the Idaho legislature.

We would like to thank all the growers who participated in the crop residue burning program this year and we hope to see you all next year. For questions please contact Bobby Dye or J.R. Wolters @ 736-2190.

Twin Falls FSA
1441 Fillmore Suite B
Twin Falls, ID 83301



"Helping You Keep Agriculture Growing"

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

Rural Youth Loans

Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural 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 \$5,000. See your local FSA office for details

Selected Interest Rates for October 2009

Farm Operating - Direct	3.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.000%
Limited Resource	5.000%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency - Actual Loss	3.750%

Dates to Remember

Nov. 6	County committee ballots mailed to voters
Nov. 11	Veterans Day Holiday
Nov. 26	Thanksgiving Day Holiday
12/1/09	NAP sales closing date for honey and all 2010 perennials, including alfalfa and grass

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."