



TATER TALK – DECEMBER 2010 – ONLINE NEWSLETTER

**Twin Falls County
FSA Office**
1441 Fillmore
Twin Falls, ID 83301
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(208) 734-5138 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/Idaho

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

- December 13 – 10 A.M. -

DCP and ACRE Signup, Advance Payments

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and also the 2011 ACRE Program has begun and will continue through June 1, 2011.

Advance payments of 22% on the 2011 DCP program will be available starting December 1, 2010. The remaining 78% of your DCP payment will be issued after October 1, 2011. ACRE is a revenue based payment alternative to the price-based counter-cyclical (CC) payments.

In DCP, eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. DCP or ACRE contract signatures for enrollment are due by the signup deadline of June 1, 2011. For more information producers can contact their local FSA office.

Livestock Program Payment Deadline 2010 - Reminder

In 2010, Twin Falls County FSA accepted notices of loss for livestock due to natural occurring events from producers starting January 1, 2010. If you completed these notices of loss you have until **January 31, 2011** to complete an application for payment and provide the necessary documentation required for the program.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL) provides low-interest financing for producers to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

With the recent changes in available Malt Barley Storage a permanent facility with FSA might be a viable option to meet the reduced available storage. November Loan interest rates are included on page 4.

FSFL loans can be applied for through your local FSA office to store farm raised commodities into permanent structures, but also can be for controlled oxygen limiting or permanently affixed drying structure equipment. Loan terms are for 7,10, or 12 years depending on the amount loaned and 15% is required to be put down. Loan amounts can be up to a \$500,000 maximum. Collateral or Chattel for the loans are reviewed on a case by case basis depending on the amount of the loan. A previous refusal of funding from a bank is not required.

A storage facilities size is based upon the individual producer's crop history and can be sized to hold up to two years worth of the commodity. Loans can have a 1 time disbursement for up to 50% of the loan before completion of the facility, but amounts must be commensurate with the amount of construction completed.

As part of the agreement for an FSFL loan a producer is **required** to agree to carry multi-peril crop insurance on **all farmed crops** for the duration of the loan.

USDA People's Garden

The Twin Falls County FSA was able to provide technical assistance and sweat to implement the USDA's peoples garden initiative to help people get in touch with where their food comes from, improve nutrition and help bring fresh food to people in need in the community. The Kimberley Nazarene Church sponsored the

2010- ¼ acre garden and more than 2,800 lbs of fresh produce was given to the parishioners and two local senior centers.



The garden had a drip / low volume micro spray irrigation system sponsored by the Church where carrots, peas, pumpkins, squash, potatoes, beets, cucumbers, turnips, lettuce, eggplants, peppers, watermelons, and lots of tomatoes were raised.



Many helping hands contributed to the garden that made this a huge success. Special thanks goes to our local Les Schwab and D&B supply for donating tires for the melons and cucumbers and the seed donated from D&B for the pumpkins, potatoes, and other vegetables.

The garden was such a success that we are already looking forward to 2011. If you are interested in being part of raising food to fill local needs we have many needs to continue to grow this initiative that anyone can contribute to. If you

would like more information on The People's Garden please call the FSA office at (208) 733-5380 ext 111.

IRS Form 1099-G

Each year producers receive 1099-G forms from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) detailing payments producers have received from the CCC. CCC's annual report of program payments on the 1099-Gs help our customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the producer's own responsibility to report income to the IRS.

FSA staff cannot interpret IRS regulations or advise producers about which payments to report on their income tax returns. However, county office staff can review payments for accuracy.

Commodity Loans

Commodity loans, also referred to as Marketing Assistance Loans, are 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. During the term of the loan, loss of beneficial interest is a violation of loan provisions.

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.

Maintaining the Quality of Loaned Grain

This year's large grain crop has its obvious up side, but there is a downside too. Many producers are hard pressed to find adequate storage for every bushel harvested. Overfilled grain storage bins can lead to grain quality problems.

Bins are ideally designed to hold a maximum volume of grain. When bins are overfilled and grain is heaped up, airflow is hindered and the chance of spoilage increases.

Producers who take out marketing assistance loans and use the farm-stored

grain as collateral should remember that they are responsible for maintaining the quality of the grain through the term of the loan.

LDP Deadline on Unshorn Lamb Pelts

Eligible producers have until January 31, 2011, to apply for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) for unshorn pelts produced during the 2010 crop year.

To be eligible, producers must a) have beneficial interest in the pelts, b) own the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and c) sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter. Producers must also comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands they operate or have interest in.

To qualify for payment, pelts must have been produced by an eligible producer from live unshorn lambs of domestic origin in the United States. The deadline is also for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts – loans or LDPs.

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency 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.

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

Direct farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained from FSA for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum of \$1,119,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that the application and loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

Conservation Loan Program

The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with the funds to implement conservation measures on their

land. The available limit for a direct CL is \$300,000, and the limit for a guaranteed CL is \$1,119,000.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will work with applicants to develop a conservation plan containing approved conservation practices. Examples of some conservation practices are: water conservation structures, forest cover, permanent pastures, manure digesters and other installations.

For more information on a potential Conservation Loan, call the local FSA office and make an appointment with a 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 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.

Many farm and even city families have found the Youth Loan program an excellent means to introduce the next generation to the business of agriculture. Is there someone in your family who may qualify?

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA sets aside targeted funding to assist 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 % of the county's average size.

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

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for Farm Service Agency loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for 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 a group.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Both operating loans and loans for the purchase or improvement of farms or ranches are available under this category.

Spousal Signatures

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.

Continuous CRP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program allows participants to enroll acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources.

Continuous CRP program participation is voluntary. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment.

For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments or local Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) availability, please contact your local FSA office or visit the website <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/crpcont03.htm>.

2010 Reconstitutions

FSA Rules require that Twin Falls FSA publicize the "Designation by Landowner Method of Division" for farms on a yearly basis. The designation by landowner method is the division of base, established on a farm, in the manner agreed to by the parent farm owner and purchases or transferee. The designation by landowner method may be used when any of the following apply:

- Part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred.
- An entire farm is sold to 2 or more persons
- Farm ownership is transferred to 2 or more persons
- Part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred.
- A tract is sold to 2 or more persons

- Tract ownership is transferred to 2 or more persons

Reconstitutions have begun for the FY 2011 as owners and operator changes are made. If you make changes to either the ownership or who is operating a farm this year a reconstitution can be done to combine or split farms so that correct FSA crop reports and other records can be completed. Please let us here at FSA know if any of these changes have occurred.

If you have farm changes during the year new maps of each tract will be sent and you have **30 days** from the date of the reconstitution to contact the office for changes or modifications before those records become set for the year.

Paper Check Conversion (PCC)

Over the next year, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) are moving to an electronic method for processing checks from producers. This will allow FSA/CCC to process collections faster.

When producers present checks, either in person or through the mail, the checks will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) and debited from the producer's account, usually within 24 hours of receipt.

Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the USDA Service Center office or visit the following U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site for detailed information:

<https://www.pccotc.gov/pccotc/pcc/usingpcc/Legal%20Notices/legalnotices.htm>

“Helping You Keep Agriculture Growing”

Twin Falls County Office
1441 Fillmore
Twin Falls, ID 83301

FSA Calendar of Events – IMPORTANT!!!



Selected Interest Rates - December 2010	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	1.750%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Conservation Loan	4.125%
Emergency	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loan – 7 year	2.00%
Farm Storage Facility Loan – 10 year	2.50%
Farm Storage Facility Loan – 12 year	3.00%

Dates to Remember	
Dec. 6, 2010	County Committee ballots due back to County Office
Dec. 24, 2010	Christmas Holiday-Offices Closed
Dec. 31, 2010	New Years Eve – Offices Closed
Jan. 31, 2011	Yearly Deadline for Livestock Programs Application for Loss
30 days	Loss of Livestock reported to Office due to Natural Event
January 31, 2011	Deadline for Wool and Unshorn Pelts LDP & Market Assistance Loans for 2010
Spring 2011	New Signup for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to be announced
Spring 2011	Signup for 2009 Crop Disaster (SURE) program to be announced
March 15, 2011	Deadline for Spring Planted Crops to Purchase Non-Insured Assistance Coverage (NAP)
March 31, 2011	Deadline for Barley, Honey, Oats, Wheat LDP's and Market Assistance Loans (MAL)
May 31, 2011	Deadline for Corn and Dry Peas LDP & MAL's
June 1, 2011	DCP / ACRE Filing Deadline
June 15, 2011	Deadline for Completing 2011 Average Gross Income Statement to IRS
June 30, 2011	Crop Reporting Deadline
August 1, 2011	Election Nominations for LAA 2 (Twin Falls, Salmon Tract, Filer) due to local FSA Office
August 1, 2011	Deadline for Initiating a Farm Reconstitution (Changes in Farm Owner / Operators)
October 1, 2011	Start up for Initiating 2012 Reconstitutions (Changes in Farm Owner / Operators)
October 1, 2011	Signup for 2012 DCP / ACRE Begins
December 1, 2011	Deadline for Perennial Planted Crops to Purchase Non-Insured Assistance Coverage (NAP)for Alfalfa, Grass, Grazing, etc.
14 th of Preceding Month	MILC program monthly deadline to change start month for payments

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