



NEWSLETTER



**February
2012**

**Twin Falls County
FSA Office
1441 Fillmore
Twin Falls, ID 83301
(208) 733-5380 phone
(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 – KPT
Jenae Prescott – PT
Angela Sandoval – PT

County Committee

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

FSA Committee Meetings @ USDA Service Center

- March 6th, 10 A.M -

USDA Offers CRP General Signup

On February 1, 2012, USDA announced that the next general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will be held from **March 12, 2012**, through **April 6, 2012**. Land that is not currently enrolled in CRP may be offered for enrollment during this period. In addition, CRP participants with contracts expiring on September 30, 2012, may submit offers. Idaho currently has 164,000 acres scheduled to expire September 30, 2012 throughout the state. Accepted contracts will begin on October 1, 2012.

Land being offered for the first time must have been cropped 4 of the 6 years between 2002 and 2007, must be Highly Erodible or in a Conservation Priority Area. The producer must show control of the land for the 10 year period of a CRP contract.

FSA will evaluate and rank eligible CRP offers using an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) that shows the environmental benefits to be gained from enrolling the land in CRP. The EBI consists of five environmental factors (wildlife, water, soil, air and enduring benefits) and cost. Decisions on the EBI cutoff will be made after the sign-up ends and after analyzing the EBI data of all the offers.

Twin Falls County has acres eligible to be enrolled in CRP Signup 43 and if you would like to see if you qualify please visit the office for an actual scenario and rental rate.

Recent changes in the program have increased rental rates for Twin Falls land enrolled with many soils in the \$70 - \$100 / acre range. With the large number of pivots going in producers who have corners that are no longer going to be irrigated, may qualify and be able to earn yearly income, reduce

soil loss, and enhance wildlife / beneficial insects with a CRP contract. Contracts range between 10 & 15 years and recent changes allow different species of grasses, and flowering pollinator species to be planted that enhance wildlife and reduce soil loss. Also ask us about the Continuous CRP program (CCRP) that provides excellent cost share for windbreaks that enhance wildlife, save soil, and beautify areas. Small areas with CCRP can have a large impact for wind reduction with a properly designed windbreak.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

The sign-up for 2010 SURE losses continues through **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 crop production or quality losses, or both, and includes all crops grown by a producer nationwide, except grazed crops.
- Any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production on the farm because of disaster-related conditions is 50 percent or less than normal production of the farm.

1099-G

Producers who have received FSA payments should have received a CCC-1099-G, a report to the IRS about FSA payments made to producers the previous calendar year. The report is a service to help producers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the program participant's responsibility to report income to the IRS.

When the CCC-1099-G is received, it should be checked with your records to see that the amounts are correct. Refunds will no longer be reported on the 1099-G, but will be

available online from the FSA Financial Inquiries (FSA-FI) web-based database. Program participants with an eAuthentication user ID and password may access their refund information at FSA-FI and select "Inquiry Type 1099/Refund Reports". Refund amounts are displayed on the Producer's Year-to-Date Activity web page.

Contact your local FSA office concerning 1099-G details and eAuthentication access.

DCP/ACRE Sign-up

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment opened on Jan. 23, 2012 and closes on June 1, 2012. Call now for an appointment at the local office. Here are some 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 including: ownership changes, producer changes (individuals and entities) and changes in crop shares arrangements.
Note: All changes must be made by Sept. 30, 2012.

Marketing Assistance Loans

Marketing Assistance Loans, also referred to as Commodity 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 term of the loan. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for a loan — even if you regain beneficial interest.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling in 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.

Unauthorized Disposition of Grain

If grain used as collateral for a 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 will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call before you haul any grain under loan.

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 ownership.

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

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.

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.

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.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans have a maximum limit of \$1,214,000.

The one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans has increased from 1 percent to 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan, for loans obligated after October 1, 2011.

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

Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youth 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.

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 that 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
- For Farm Ownership Loans -Does not own a farm in excess of 30 % of the county's median size.

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.

An exception to the rule: 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.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The noninsured crop disaster assistance program (NAP) is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop's application closing date.

Production records and applications for payment for all crops must be reported to FSA no later than the acreage reporting date for the crop for the following year. FSA

requires that any production reported in a loss year be verifiable according to Agency specifications. *NAP Losses must be reported within 15 days of loss.*

March 15 is the upcoming deadline for annual crops. Contact your FSA County Office for deadlines and more information.

2012 Average AGI

The Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2012 included an additional AGI limitation applicable only to 2012 direct payments. A \$1 million average AGI limitation, in addition to the \$500,000 average nonfarm AGI and the \$750,000 average farm AGI limitations will now be applied to all persons and legal entities that request 2012 direct payments. The \$1 million average nonfarm AGI limitation remains effective for conservation program participants.

The recently deployed CCC-931 provided for the certification of average AGI compliance and the written consent to the disclosure of tax information in a single, 1-page document. The form has been revised to include the additional \$1 million average AGI limitation. Contact your local FSA office to make sure you have the most current form.

USDA Minority Farm Register (MFR)

MFR is a national USDA project that was developed by FSA and the USDA Office of Advocacy and Outreach. It establishes a database of individuals who voluntarily provide their name, residential address, telephone number, e-mail address, ethnicity, race, gender, and the location of their farm or ranch to FSA on AD-2035 or AD-2035SP. By registering for MFR, individuals authorize the release of this information for the purpose of USDA outreach efforts conducted through USDA Agencies and USDA-approved outreach partners, such as community-based organizations (CBO's), colleges and universities, and other nonprofit groups or organizations representing SDA farmers and ranchers.

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (the Act) amended Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, Section 2501(e) to provide authority to carry out an outreach and technical assistance program. The Act

states, "the Secretary of Agriculture shall carry out an outreach and technical assistance program to encourage and assist socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in owning and operating farms and ranches and in participating, equitably, in the full range of agricultural programs offered by the Department". MFR was developed as a tool to allow producers to voluntarily provide personal information for outreach and assistance.

If you are a Twin Falls County producer and are a minority farmer, an FSA-2035 is available to be printed (*page 4*) and filled out so that accurate information can be received to assist your operation. If you need more information please do not hesitate to contact us at the Twin Falls Service Center.

Crop Reporting 2012 & 2013

The 2012 crop reporting deadline is approaching and for 2011 Fall crops and 2012 Spring crops the deadline is **June 30, 2012** or within 15 days of the crop being planted whichever is later. Remember to have the actual date that each field was planted and report after all crops are planted to save time. The exception would be if you have crops that are going to be planted after June 30th, you still need to complete a partial crop report of all the crops that were planted prior to the deadline and then bring in the remaining dates of crops that are planted after the 30th. By doing this you avoid the \$46.00 late filed fees per farm that are required for inspections of late filed reports.

For Fall 2012 and Spring 2013 Crop Reporting, deadlines make some large changes. Starting July 1, 2012 the following changes will be put into place;

- Apiculture, PRF need to be reported by **November 15 yearly.**
- Fall Planted Alfalfa Seed, Fall Barley, Dry Peas, Mint, Fall Wheat and other Fall Seeded small grains have a **December 15th yearly deadline.**
- Perennial Fruits i.e. Apples, Cherries, Apricots, Peaches, Grapes, Plums need to be reported by **January 15 yearly.**
- Spring Alfalfa Seed, Spring Barley, Dry Beans, Corn, Dry Peas, Green Peas, Spring Mint, Oats, Onions, Potatoes, Processing Beans, Sugar Beets, Sweet Corn, Spring Wheat and all other crops reported by **July 15 yearly.**

AD-2035
(10-13-11)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency

USDA MINORITY FARM REGISTER

The Register is a tool to promote equal access to USDA farm programs and services for minority farmland owners, farmers, ranchers, tenants, and other individuals with an agricultural interest. Participants may receive information or personal contact through USDA outreach efforts. USDA programs may include farm or ranch ownership and operating loans and loan guarantees, price and income support, conservation, and others.

NOTE: *The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a – as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is 7 U.S.C. 2279 and the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-171). The information will be used to assist in special minority farm outreach and assistance efforts to better inform minority farm and ranch operators, landowners, tenants, and others with an interest in farming or agriculture about USDA programs and services. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for USDA/FSA-17, Voluntary Minority Farm Register File (Automated). Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in individuals not being included in certain minority farm outreach and assistance efforts.*

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0231. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 5 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

The provisions of appropriate criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided. RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO MINORITY FARM REGISTER, USDA STOP CODE 0603, 1400 INDEPENDENCE AVE., SW, WASHINGTON, DC 20250-0603.

I certify that I am voluntarily granting permission to be listed on the USDA Minority Farm Register. I fully understand and agree that my name and the other information provided on this form may be released to organizations other than USDA.

Instructions: Items 1 through 4, 5C, 5D, 7A and 7B are optional. You must complete Items 5A, 5B, 6A and 6B.

1. Ethnicity: Are you Hispanic or Latino? YES NO

2. Race: Check the race or races that describe you best.

American Indian or Alaska Native

Asian

Black or African American

White

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

Other race (specify): _____ (Do not enter Hispanic or Latino here)

3. Gender: Male Female

4. Check one of the following: Mr. Mrs. Ms.

5A. Name (Last, First, Middle Initial)

5B. Address (Include City/State/Zip Code)	5C. Telephone Number (Include Area Code)
	5D. E-mail Address:

6A. Signature of Individual	6B. Date (MM-DD-YYYY)
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7. Farm or Ranch Location (If applicable):

7A. State	7B. County

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of 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, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (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 to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

"Helping You Keep Agriculture Growing"

Land Contract (LC) Guarantee Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes loans through the Land Contract (LC) Guarantee Program. The LC Guaranteed Loans will be offered to the owner of a farm who wishes to sell real estate through a land contract to a beginning farmer or a farmer who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group.

A land contract is an installment contract between a buyer and a seller for the sale of real property, in which complete ownership of the property is not transferred until all payments under the contract have been made.

Guarantees can be used for financing the purchase of a farm with a purchase price up to \$500,000 on a new land contract. FSA offers two types of guarantees under this program.

Prompt Payment Guarantee: A guarantee of up to the amount of three amortized annual installments plus the cost of any related real estate taxes and insurance; or

Standard Guarantee: A guarantee of 90 percent of the outstanding principal balance under the land contract.

To find out if you qualify contact your local FSA office today or see additional information, including a complete list of borrower and seller eligibility criteria and application materials through the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Selected Interest Rates for February 2012	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	1.375%
Farm Ownership - Direct	3.375%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency	3.750%

Dates to Remember	
Jan. 23	2012 DCP Enrollment began
Mar. 15	NAP Signup Ends
June 1	2012 DCP Enrollment ends
June 1	2010 SURE Sign up ends

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.