



## Tater Talk – July 2012

### July 2012

**1441 Fillmore**  
**Twin Falls, ID 83301**  
**(208) 733-5380 phone**  
**(208) 734-5138 fax**  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/Idaho](http://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

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

**FSA Committee Meetings @ USDA Service Center**

- September 4th, 10 A.M

### FSA COC Nomination Deadline

County committees (COC) play a crucial role in helping county office staff implement Farm Bill programs. Producers can participate in the FSA county committee election process by nominating an eligible candidate by the Aug. 1, 2012, deadline.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The form and more information about FSA county committee elections is available at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFileServices/eForms/FSA669-A.PDF>

During their three-year terms, FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support programs and more. Nationwide, more than 7,800 farmers and ranchers serve on FSA county committees. Committees consist of three to five members who are elected by eligible local producer voters.

### Crop Certification Deadline

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification.

Form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The producer certification deadline for 2012 Crop Reports is July 15<sup>th</sup>.

Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. 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. CRP reports are also a requirement and need to be completed by the deadline to stay in compliance with program provisions. If you missed the deadline still come in and file a late filed report.

### DCP / ACRE Program Deadline

The 2012 DCP signup deadline has come and gone as of June 1<sup>st</sup> 2012. Late-filed provisions allow us to complete contracts for producers until August 1<sup>st</sup> 2012. If you haven't completed your yearly contract stop by the office today and check that all paperwork is completed. Payments should be going out in October. If you have additional questions contact the Twin Falls Office.

### NRCS Soil Health Workshop Scheduled – Don't Miss!!!

2012 has greeted us with a drier than normal spring and consistent eroding winds. The blowing soil has caused road closures, accidents and walls of dust that have moved soil from agricultural fields. A unique opportunity is coming to our area as NRCS conducts a three stop soil health workshop bringing in National Soil Agronomist – Ray

Archuleta from the North Carolina tech center.

Ray has been working hands on with bio-mimicry, cover crops, and reduced till technologies that are showing enormous results for soil health, increased yields, and more

profits by changing the way we till Idaho silt-loam soils.

On August 30, 2012 at the Con Paulos dealership in Jerome off of I-84, three experts on these new soil technologies will be



Looking west toward Kimberly and Hanson, Marquette resident Kevin Ohlson shot this photo of Monday's dust and windstorm rolling across the Magic Valley.

presenting an introduction to soil health changes that could impact the way we farm and

graze. For more information contact Steve Schuyler at the Office at (208)733 5380 ext 130.

## **Filing for NAP Losses**

Form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a

CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

## **Over the Counter Channel (OTCnet)**

FSA/CCC is implementing OTCnet, an electronic method for processing customer check payments. When a check is submitted for payment either in person or through the mail, the check will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). Within 24 hours, the funds may be debited from the producer's account. Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury notices posted in the Service Center or visit the following Department of Treasury site for detailed information:

<http://fms.treas.gov/otcnet/legal.html>

### **What is OTCnet?**

OTCnet is a web-based online application process for converting paper checks presented to FSA into electronic debits to the producer's checking account. Benefits include reducing lost/misplaced checks, less paper handling, improved customer relations, more efficient check clearing process and reducing the potential for human error.

### **How will my check be handled?**

The check will be scanned into the system and voided. The customer will not receive the check back from FSA. FSA will hold checks for up to 14 calendar days to ensure that the

item was successfully processed, and then FSA will shred the check

### **How quickly will funds be transferred from my account?**

The transfer of funds from your account could occur within 24 hours. Therefore, you should be sure that you have sufficient funds in your account to process the transaction. If you do **not** have sufficient funds, we may initiate the transaction again.

### **How will this transaction appear on my account statement?**

The transfer of funds reflected on your account statement may be recorded in a different place on your statement. The transaction may appear under "withdrawals" or "other transactions".

### **What are my rights if there is a problem with the transaction?**

You have protections under Federal law for an unauthorized electronic fund transfer from your account. You should contact your financial institution immediately if you believe that a transaction reported on your account statement was not properly authorized or is otherwise incorrect.

## **Disaster Assistance**

The Farm Service Agency would like to remind crop and livestock producers that have recently experienced severe damage from natural disasters that FSA programs are available to assist with recovery.

We encourage all who have suffered a disaster due to the recent severe weather conditions to read the fact sheets and visit their local FSA county office to get a quick start in the recovery process.

Fact sheets for all of these programs can be found at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov); click on *Newsroom*, then *Fact Sheets*.

## **MILC Program**

FSA's Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC) compensates dairy producers when domestic milk prices fall below a specified level. MILC payments are made when the Boston Class I milk price falls below \$16.94 per hundredweight (cwt) as adjusted by the dairy feed ration adjustment. The monthly Boston price is posted online at:

[http://www.fmmone.com/Northeast\\_Order\\_Prices/NE\\_Prices\\_main\\_new.htm](http://www.fmmone.com/Northeast_Order_Prices/NE_Prices_main_new.htm).

Eligible producers should have a contract on file and should check their current start month. Call the office for details. Producers

new to the program are encouraged to apply before Sept. 30, 2012.

### **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 to purchase or improve farms or ranches. While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, FSA has provided priority funding for socially disadvantaged applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is a member of a group that has been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as a group member 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. FSA loans are available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

### **Farm Reconstitutions**

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

**Estate Method** — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

**Designation of Landowner Method** — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm

ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

**DCP Cropland Method** — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

**Default Method** — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

### **Foreign Landowner Notification**

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are advised to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

### **Successor-In-Interest**

Many FSA programs will allow payments to be made to heirs or successors when a program participant passes away. Additionally, contracts in programs such as CRP must be revised to reflect the successor(s) to a deceased participant's interest.

In the event of an FSA program participant's death, it is important that FSA be notified. Entities and joint operations that participate in FSA programs also need to notify FSA if a shareholder or member passes away. FSA benefits are reported to IRS and maintaining current, accurate participant records is vital to ensuring that those payments are reported correctly.

### **Highly Erodible Lands and Wetland Compliance**

Producers participating in most programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are required to abide by certain stipulations on any land owned or farmed that is highly erodible or that is considered a wetland.

To be in compliance with the highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions, producers must agree, that they **will not:**

- Produce an agricultural commodity on highly erodible land without a conservation system;
- Plant an agricultural commodity on a converted wetland;
- Convert a wetland to make possible the production of an agricultural commodity.

Producers must notify the FSA and update Form AD-1026 if they plan to remove fence into two or more fields, install new drainage, or improve rows, convert woodlots to cropland, combine crop fields, divide a crop field or modify existing drainage. FSA will notify NRCS who will then provide highly erodible land or wetland technical determinations.

To get additional information on highly erodible land and wetland conservation compliance contact the FSA office or the NRCS office at a local USDA Service Center. Additional information about conservation programs offered by FSA can be found online at [www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation), and information on NRCS programs can be found at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>.

### Sign Up for FSA Fence Post Daily Updates

The Farm Service Agency Fence Post is an online newsletter that is updated on an almost daily basis. It contains articles of interest on the agency's programs and departments, as well as success stories from the field. To access Fence Post visit <http://fsa.blogs.govdelivery.com/>. Producers can sign up for weekly Fence Post updates by

putting an email address in box that says "Get Email Updates."

### Kimberly Nazarene People's



### Community Garden – 2012 Update

2012 marks the third year of the USDA – FSA sponsored community garden in Twin Falls County at the local Nazarene Church in Kimberly. The ½ acre garden has helped many families over the past few years. Produce is continuing to be given to the Twin Falls and Shoshone Food banks, but the St. Edwards Soup Kitchen has been added as a receiver of garden produce. The educational elements of the garden continue to grow with more than 46 kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> graders getting the opportunity to learn about where food comes from and be involved. The garden has also expanded its scope to gleaning of fields. Already several local producers have put in motion becoming involved by scheduling gleaning crews for potatoes and sweet corn this fall. If you have a crop that could be gleaned or would like to donate produce or anything from manure, compost, straw or anything else that would add to the garden please contact Lance Phillips at the FSA Office (208) 733 5380 ext. 111.

Dates to Remember	
Aug. 1	Last Day to file COC nomination form
Sept 30	NAP Signup Deadline Fall Seeded Crop
Sept 30	MILC application Deadline

<b>Selected Interest Rates for July 2012</b>	
Farm Operating - Direct	1.25%
Farm Ownership - Direct	3.375%
Limited Resource	5.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency	3.375%
Farm Storage Facility – 7 year	1.125%
Farm Storage Facility – 10 year	1.625%
Farm Storage Facility – 12 year	1.875%

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.