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Washington/Adams FSA News

USDA Washington /Adams FSA

Kimberly Royer, CED
849 E 9th Street
Weiser ID 83672

208.549.4240 phone
208.549.4229 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/ID

Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Staff
Kyla Pearson, PT
Cheryl Rudd, PT
Lora Ulrich, Loan Officer

Idaho FSA Welcomes Dick Rush

USDA Farm Service Agency in Idaho is pleased to welcome Dick Rush back to Idaho as State Executive Director. Mr. Rush was born and raised in Idaho, and his parents still live on the family farm near Moscow. He is a graduate of the University of Idaho with a degree in agricultural economics and holds a master's degree in agricultural economics from the University of California at Davis. Dick has served as Administrator of the Idaho Wheat Commission, Director of the Idaho Department of Agriculture under two governors and our SED from 1992-2000. He also managed a 6000-acre dry land farm and livestock operation in north Idaho, owned by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe of Idaho. Besides a distinguished career in government, Dick has held management positions with Boise Cascade Corporation, Basic American Foods and served as Vice President of Natural Resources for the Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry. He also served as CEO of the American Red Cross for Greater Idaho. Dick is a past member of the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission and held the position of Supervisor of the Ada Soil and Water Conservation District. He is a member of the Idaho Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves (ESGR). Dick lives in Boise with his wife Nancy. They have three married children: Kelly, Leslie and Ben, and four grandchildren.

COC Nominating Closed – Voting Starts Nov. 6

By now you should be aware that the deadline for FSA county committee nominations passed on August 3, 2009.

Voting Begins Nov. 6

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning Nov. 6, and must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Dec. 7, or postmarked by midnight Dec. 7, 2009.

Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm can also vote.

No one can be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

For additional clarification about county committee elections, contact your local county office staff.

Livestock Indemnity Program

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from disaster. Using funds from the Agricultural Disaster Relief Trust Fund established under section 902 of the Trade Act of 1974, the program is administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA). LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold. Eligible losses must have occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011.

The following table provides the final dates to file a notice of loss and/or application for payment for either 2008 or 2009 livestock losses.

For more information on available supplemental disaster assistance programs, please visit your FSA county office or http://www.fsa.usda.gov .

Livestock Death	Final Date to File a Notice of Loss	Final Date to Submit an Application
Calendar Year 2008	Sept. 13, 2009	Sept. 13, 2009
Jan. 1, 2009 to July 12, 2009	Sept. 13, 2009	Jan. 30, 2010
July 13, 2009 to Dec. 31, 2009	30 days after death is apparent	Jan. 30, 2010

DCP & ACRE Enrollment Deadline

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

FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service will save you time, reduce paperwork and speed up contract processing at FSA offices. It is available to anyone eligible to participate in the DCP Program. To access this on-line service, you must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

NAP Coverage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

The application deadline date for the 2010 NAP coverage for Fall seed crops and all perennial crops is December 1, 2009.

Producers who already have coverage on 2009 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2010, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.

For more information on NAP coverage please contact your nearest Farm Service Agency office.

Preventing Fraud

The Farm Service Agency supports the Risk Management Agency in the prevention of fraud, waste and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will continue to refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse directly to RMA.

Producers can report suspected cases to the county office staff, the RMA office, or the Office of the Inspector General.

Electronic Services Available

If a producer has Internet access, program participants 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 pri vate information.

To utilize electronic services a producer needs an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires an e-mail address and filling out an online registration form at http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/ followed by a visit to the county office for identity verification.

If you have more questions, or would like assistance establishing your account, just contact your local USDA Service Center and talk with our trained FSA personnel.

New Payment Limitations

The 2008 Farm Bill provisions stipulate that for the 2009 crop year and later, **Direct Attribution** will be used to limit the total payments to individuals and entities. In other words, all program payments made to individuals or entities will be attributed to the individual <u>and</u> to the entity. That means if the individual is a member of a farming entity (corporation, trust, etc.) that payment will now be attributed to the individual partners or members <u>in addition</u> to the entity.

Another change for 2009 is that all participants must make an **active contribution in an entity**. All

partners, stockholders, or members with an ownership interest in the legal entity must make a contribution, whether compensated or **not** compensated, in the form of the following:

1) active personal labor, or
2) active personal management, or
3) a combination of active personal labor and active personal management to the farming operation;

Note that there are exceptions for spouses. For more detailed information on this and other programs please contact your local FSA office.

Marketing Assistance Loans

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. Commodities must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans.

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.

Wetland Compliance

Producers renting or purchasing land that may have a converted wetland status need to check with the county office to learn if there are restrictions. The last thing FSA wants to do is to deny a producer benefits due to wetland noncompliance.

The Farm Bill provides that, **unless exempt**, persons **are ineligible** for benefits under certain programs administered by USDA if they:

- plant an agricultural commodity on wetland that was converted after December 23, 1985
- convert a wetland after November 28, 1990

FSA may not approve any loan or loan guarantee to drain, dredge, fill, level or otherwise manipulate a wetland, or to engage in any activity that results in impairing or reducing the flow, circulation or reach of water except in the case of activity related to the maintenance of previously converted wetlands.

There are some permitted uses for wetlands. Contact your local office to learn what permitted uses and restrictions and Wetland compliance provisions impact your land.

Pulse Crops now Eligible for DCP and ACRE

The 2008 Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 provided for eligible pulse crop acreage to be added as base acres and yields for commodities eligible for the 2009 through 2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) and eligible for Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE). Eligible pulse crops are dry peas, lentils, Desi garbanzo beans, and Kabuli garbanzo beans. Pulse crops will be eligible for counter-cyclical payments under DCP, but not eligible for direct payments. Target prices have been established as follows:

To establish base acreage, FSA will use the acreage planted and considered planted to the commodities in the crop years 1998 through 2001. Yields will be determined by averaging the yields per planted acre from 1998 through 2001. If you planted dry peas, lentils, Desi garbanzo beans, or Kabuli garbanzo beans in any of the years 1998 through 2001, and you are interested in establishing a base for those crops, you will need to provide production reports to also establish yields. Letters have been sent to eligible Pulse crop producers with instructions on adding Pulse crop bases to a farm.

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CREP & Continuous CRP Available

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) allows farmers and ranchers to voluntarily enroll environmentally sensitive land into a program that decreases erosion, restores wildlife habitat and safeguards ground and surface water. CREP is a partnership with federal and state government and is limited to specific geographic areas.

USDA has indicated there will not be general signups scheduled for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in 2009. The budget has no available funding for CRP general signups, and instead advocates enrollment in either CREP or Continuous CRP.

Environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) or Continuous CRP will be eligible for annual rental payments and cost-share of up to 50 percent on approved practices. These targeted programs will remain funded, and continue to provide heightened environmental benefits on select areas.

Dates to Remember	
Continuous	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
Aug. 3, 2009	Last day to file COC election nomination forms
August 14, 2009	ACRE Signup Deadline
August 14, 2009	DCP Signup Deadline
Sept. 30, 2009	NAP sales closing date for fall seed crops
Sept. 30, 2009	NAP sales closing date for grass seed, Northern Idaho only
December 1, 2009	NAP sales closing date for honey and all 2010 perennials, including alfalfa and grass

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