

August 2013



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Wallowa County FSA Updates

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The next County Committee meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2013 @ 10:30 a.m.

Dates to Remember

- Sept. 2: Labor Day Holiday, Office Closed
- Sept. 16: DCP Deadline
- Oct. 14: Columbus Day Holiday, Office Closed
- Nov. 4: COC Ballots Mailed to Eligible Voters
- Nov. 11: Veteran's Day Holiday, Office Closed
- Nov. 28: Thanksgiving Holiday, Office Closed
- Dec. 2: Last Day to Return COC Ballots

DCP Deadline

The sign-up period for DCP has been extended and is still open. Producers are encouraged to sign before the extended **Sept. 16, 2013**, deadline. For an appointment or more information, contact the FSA county office.

Adjusted Gross Income

USDA and the Internal Revenue Service have established an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent is required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA.

This ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs. Starting with 2012, a combined overall income exceeding \$1 million excludes participation in DCP or ACRE.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-933 to their local FSA County Office to avoid interruption of

program benefits. This form may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainservlet>.

Emergency Loans

The Farm Service Agency reminds crop and livestock producers who have recently experienced severe damage from weather-related natural disasters (including drought) to aid affected operations. Note that a USDA Secretarial Disaster Designation must be declared for your county before the low-interest Emergency Loan (EM) can be made available.

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

For FSA disaster assistance information: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?ea=home&subject=diap&topic=landing>.

For FSA Emergency Loan information: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=fmlp&topic=efl>

Compliance Spot Checks

Compliance spot checks will be conducted on 2013 crops. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, and deficiency loans, for review, a nationwide selection of producers is employed. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in the Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program or other relevant program.

For more information about the spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact a local Farm Service Agency office for additional clarification.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFLP) allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of seven, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the U.S. Treasury Department.

A partial disbursement of loan funds is available prior to the final disbursement. The partial disbursement can occur after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

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 FSA office, RMA, or the Office of the Inspector General.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).