



NEWSLETTER



Idaho Farm Service Agency

February County Newsletter

County Offices:

Bannock

Ben Evans, CED

1551 Baldy Ave, Ste 1

Pocatello 83201-7105

237-3435

Bear Lake

Rex Payne, CED

785 N 4th, Ste A, Montpelier

83254

847-1264

Benewah/Kootenai

Micki Linehan, CED

900 E St, PO Box 263

Plummer 83851-0263

686-1260

Bingham

Tyler Kendall, CED

Dustin Carter, FLM

725 Jensen Grove Dr Ste 2

Blackfoot 83221-1684

785-2090

Bonneville

Megan McGuire, Acting CED

1120 E Lincoln Rd, Ste B

Idaho Falls 83401-2122

522-6250

Boundary/Bonner

Micki Linehan, CED

6813 El Paso, PO Box 98

Bonnors Ferry 83805-8569

267-2707

Butte/S. Custer

Tony Potter, CED

125 S Water, PO Box 69

Arco 83213-0069

2013 Women in Agriculture Conferences

Two conferences directed especially to women farmers and ranchers will be held in Washington and Idaho. The Northern Idaho conference is titled "Palouse Women in Agriculture" and will be held on Saturday, February 23, 2013. Pullman and Spokane are among the 21 locations. It will feature a local Idaho and Washington Farmer Panel.

Registration is at www.womeninag.wsu.edu

A 2nd conference will be held on Saturday, March 2, 2013 in Twin Falls where Maxine Bell will be the keynote speaker and topics will include marketing trends, selling your products to local markets and creative financing. Registration is at:

www.idwomeninag.wordpress.com

DCP and ACRE Sign-up

FSA will begin sign-ups for DCP and ACRE for the 2013 crops on **Feb. 19, 2013**. The DCP sign-up period will end on Aug. 2, 2013; and the ACRE sign-up period will end on June 3, 2013.

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013. Likewise producers who were enrolled in DCP may opt for ACRE enrollment.

[Read more about DCP and ACRE](#) or contact the FSA county office for more information, or an appointment to enroll.

New Microloan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan (ML) program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and the smallest of family farm operations.

The program will operate similar to the Operating Loan program but will include reduced requirements for managerial experience and loan security, as well as reduced paperwork. The microloan program can be used for such expenses as annual crop inputs, marketing and distribution expenses, purchase of livestock and equipment, and minor farm improvements such as wells and coolers. Eligible applicants may obtain a microloan for up to \$35,000. The repayment term may vary and will not exceed seven years. Annual operating loans are typically repaid within 12-18 months of when the loan is closed. The interest rate is the same as the regular Operating Loan (currently 1.25%.)

MILC Contracts Extended

Dairy producers enrolled in the Milk Income Loss Contract program (MILC) will have their contracts automatically extended through Sept. 30, 2013. There is no need to re-enroll in the program. The MILC program was part of several FSA-related programs that were continued with the extension of the 2008 Farm Bill. Dairy operations may select a new production start month and to do so must visit their local office between Feb. 1 and Feb. 28, 2013 (relief period.)

Canyon/Ada/Owyhee
Kyla Pearson, CED
Lora Ulrich, FLM
2208 E Chicago, Ste B
Caldwell 83605-4496
454-8696

Caribou
Chad Bybee, CED
390 E Hooper, Soda Springs
83276
547-4396

Cassia
Cary Curtis, CED
1351 E 16th St
Burley 83318-2406
678-1157

Elmore
Jeff Groat, CED
795 S Haskett
Mtn. Home 83647-3378
587-3303

Franklin
Layne Peterson, CED
Todd Tueller, FLM
98 E 800 N, Ste 2
Preston 83263-5388
852-0482

Fremont
Tauna Saurey, CED
1210 S. Industrial Park Road
St Anthony 83445-5014
624-7391

Gem/Boise/Valley
Debbie Carlock, CED
1805 Highway 16, Ste 4
Emmett 83617-9076
365-3527

Gooding/Camas
Harold Boggs, CED
820 Main St, Gooding 83330
934-8472

Idaho
Julie Fowler, Acting CED
102 South Hall
Grangeville 83530
983-1050

Jefferson/Clark
Lisa Eaton, Acting CED
210 S. 5th West
Rigby 83442-5219
745-6664

Payment Limitations (PL)

All payment eligibility and payment limitation provisions, including AGI limitations, are extended for the 2013 crop year, program year, and fiscal year. All rules and requirements effective for 2012 program payments and benefits are applicable to eligible recipients of 2013 program payment and benefits. This includes the requirements of actively engaged in farming, cash-rent tenant, substantive change, minor child, and spousal provisions. Payments will continue to be limited by direct attribution to person and legal entity.

Hispanic and Women Claims of Discrimination

Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims until March 25, 2013.

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied their applications for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000.

The voluntary claims process will make available at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief. There are no filing fees to participate in the program. Claimants can obtain a claims package in through the toll-free number or by visiting the website below.

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov

Phone: 1-888-508-4429

Deadline for Claims: March 25, 2013.

IRS 1099-G Changes

Calendar year 2012 brought changes to the way FSA reports farm program payments to the producer and to the IRS.

In past years, IRS Forms 1099-G would be issued to show all program payments received from the Farm Service Agency, regardless of the amount.

For calendar year 2012, producers whose total reportable payments from FSA were less than \$600 will not receive IRS Form 1099-G. Also, producers who received payments from more than one county will only receive one Form 1099-G if the total of all payments from all counties was \$600 or more.

The same changes will apply to those who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

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 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 7, 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.

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.

Jerome/Lincoln/Blaine
Tom Snow, CED
Beth Sant, FLM
310 W. Nez Perce Ave.
Jerome 83338-6124
324-4325

Latah
Jim Knecht, CED
1848 S. Mountain View Rd,
Ste 1 Moscow 83843
882-4960

Lemhi/N. Custer
Tony Potter, CED
945 Riverfront Drive
Salmon 83467-5222
756-4262

Lewis/Clearwater
Karel Wemhoff, CED
521 Oak St, Room 9
Nezperce 83543-5066
937-2291

Madison
Bart Linderman, CED
Curtis Warner, FLM
302 Profit Street
Rexburg, ID 83440-5307
356-5701

Minidoka
Nick Treasure, CED
Kelli Bott, FLM
98 "C" S 200 West
Rupert 83350-9133
436-4777

Nez Perce
Tricia Uhlenkott, Acting CED
Bardell Faux, FLM
1630 23rd Ave, Ste 1201
Lewiston 83501-6350
746-9621

Oneida
Kim Jenkins, CED
137 N. 100 West
Malad City 83252-1236
766-4719

Power
Deb Duba, CED
2769 Fairgrounds Rd, Ste B
American Falls 83211-5418
226-5139

Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL)

Short-term financing is available by obtaining low interest commodity loans for eligible harvested production. A nine-month Marketing Assistance Loan provides financing that allows producers to store production for later marketing. The crop may be stored on the farm or in a warehouse.

Loans are available for producers who share in the risk of producing the eligible commodity and maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the duration of the loan. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity, responsibility for loss because of damage to the commodity and maintaining title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, it is ineligible for a loan, even if you regain beneficial interest.

Guaranteed Loan Program

The Farm Service Agency loan limit for the Guaranteed Loan Program has increased to \$1,302,000. The limit is adjusted annually based on data compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The lending limit increases every year according to an inflation index. The maximum combined guaranteed and direct farm loan indebtedness has increased to \$1,602,000. As a reminder, the one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans is 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan.

SURE Program Status

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program provides assistance to producers suffering crop losses due to natural disasters occurring through Sept. 30, 2011. To receive SURE payments, an eligible producer must have qualifying losses of at least 10 percent production loss affecting at least one crop of economic significance due to natural disaster on a farm in a disaster county. Producers outside a declared disaster county are eligible if they experience production losses greater than or equal to 50 percent of normal production in the farm. To be eligible for SURE, a producer must have obtained a policy or plan of insurance for all crops through the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation and obtained Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, if available, from the Farm Service Agency. Forage crops intended for grazing are not eligible for SURE benefits.

Actively Engaged

To be eligible for payments and benefits under specified programs, all program participants, either individuals or legal entities, must provide significant contributions to the farming operation to be considered as "actively engaged in farming." Contributions can consist of capital, land, and/or equipment, as well as active personal labor and/or active personal management. The management contribution must be critical to the profitability of the farming operation and the contributions must be at risk.

Partners, stockholders, or members with an ownership interest in the legal entity make contributions, whether compensated or **not** compensated, of active personal labor, active personal management, or a combination of active personal labor and active personal management to the farming operation.

The collective contribution of active personal labor or active personal management by partners, stockholders, or members is a significant contribution to the farming operation. There is an exception allowed for legal entities, such as corporations, if total direct payments received both directly and indirectly, by the legal entity and its members do not exceed \$40,000.

Teton
 Bart Linderman, CED
 275 Old Railroad Way, Driggs
 83422
 354-2680

Twin Falls
 Lance Phillips, CED
 1441 Filmore, Ste B
 Twin Falls 83301-3380
 733-5380

Washington/Adams/Payette
 Kim Royer, CED
 849 E 9th St, Weiser 83672
 549-4280

Land Contract (LC) Guarantees

The Land Contract (LC) Guarantee Program is a valuable tool to transfer farm real estate to the next generation of farmers and ranchers. Guarantees will be offered to the owner of a farm who wishes to sell real estate through a land contract to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher. The guarantee reduces the financial risk to the seller.

FSA offers two types of guarantees:

- Prompt Payment Guarantee - A guarantee up to the amount of three amortized annual installments plus the cost of any related real estate taxes and insurance.
- Standard Guarantee - A guarantee of 90 percent of the outstanding principal balance under the land contract.

The guarantee period is 10 years and the contract payments must be amortized for a minimum of 20 years. The purchase price of the farm cannot exceed the lesser of \$500,000 or the market value of the property.

For additional information, go to:

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/lc_guarantee_program.pdf.

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 purchase or improve farms or ranches. 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 a member of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice without regard to their individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere

Selected Interest Rates for February 2013	
Farm Operating - Direct	1.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct	3.125%
Limited Resource	5.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency (Operating)	1.125%
Farm Storage Facility – 7 year	1.250%
Farm Storage Facility – 10 year	1.875%
Farm Storage Facility – 12 year	2.125%

Dates to Remember	
Feb 19	DCP/ACRE sign-up begins
Feb 1-28	MILC Start Date Relief Period
Mar 15	NAP Spring planted coverage deadline
Mar 31	Deadline to request Market Assistance Loans for certain crops
June 3	ACRE Sign-up deadline
June 7	SURE application deadline for 2011 losses
Aug 2	DCP sign-up deadline