



# NEWSLETTER



## Idaho Farm Service Agency December 2012 Newsletter

### County Offices:

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#### Benewah/Kootenai

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Plummer 83851-0263  
686-1260

#### Bingham

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Dustin Carter, FLM  
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Blackfoot 83221-1684  
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#### Bonneville

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#### Boundary/Bonner

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#### Butte/S. Custer

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## 2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program Applications

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will continue to accept SURE applications for 2011 crop losses through June 7, 2013. The SURE Program provides payments to producers when crop revenues are less than the crop guarantee. The SURE Program payment is equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE guarantee and total farm revenue.

To determine the guarantee and revenue for the SURE Program, all crops on all farms for a producer are included in the calculation. Payments under the SURE Program are limited to \$100,000.

To be eligible for the 2011 SURE Program, producers must have crop insurance on all insurable crops. For crops that are not covered by crop insurance such as bluegrass seed, alfalfa, mixed forages and others, producers must have purchased Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage through FSA. The Crop Insurance and NAP purchase requirement is waived for crops that are not economically significant to the farming operation. A producer needs a 10% loss on at least one crop if they are located in a county with a Secretarial Designation; otherwise they must show a 50% loss overall.

For more information concerning the 2011 SURE program, contact your local FSA office or visit our website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/).

## IRS 1099 Changes

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

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

Starting with calendar year 2012, producers whose total reportable payments from FSA are less than \$600 will not receive IRS Form 1099-G.

Also, producers who receive payments from more than one county will only receive one Form 1099-G if the total of all payments from all counties is \$600 or more.

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

## LDPs for Unshorn Lamb Pelts

Eligible producers have until Jan. 31, 2013, to apply for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) for unshorn lamb pelts produced during the 2012 crop year.

Eligible producers must have beneficial interest in the pelts, owned the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter. Producers must also comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands they operate or have interest in.

For an eligible producer to qualify for payment, pelts must have been produced from live unshorn lambs of domestic origin in the United States.

## Canyon/Ada/Owyhee

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## Cassia

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## Elmore

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587-3303

## Franklin

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Todd Tueller, FLM  
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852-0482

## Fremont

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624-7391

## Gem/Boise/Valley

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365-3527

## Gooding/Camas

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## Jefferson/Clark

Lisa Eaton, Acting CED  
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Rigby 83442-5219  
745-6664

## Commodity Loans

Commodity loans, also referred to as Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL), are available to producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, producers must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the life of the loan. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest. The final date to apply for MALs is March 31, 2013.

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.

## Maintaining Quality of Loaned Grain

Bins are ideally designed to hold a level volume of grain. When bins are overfilled and grain is heaped up, airflow is hindered and the chance of spoilage increases.

Producers who take out marketing assistance loans and use the farm-stored grain as collateral should remember that they are responsible for maintaining the quality of the grain through the term of the loan.

## Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program 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.

Payments are made in two parts: a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available 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.

## 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 that has been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice without regard to his or her individual qualities.

## NAP Coverage Deadlines

Noninsured Crop Disaster applications are due at different times according to the crop being insured. Producers should apply for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage using form CCC-471 (Application for Coverage). Related service fees are due when the application is filed. The application and service fee MUST be filed by the crop sales closing date. Contact the local FSA office for the filing dates for your crops.

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756-4262

Lewis/Clearwater  
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937-2291

Madison  
Bart Linderman, CED  
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356-5701

Minidoka  
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Malad City 83252-1236  
766-4719

Power  
Deb Duba, CED  
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American Falls 83211-5418  
226-5139

## Increased Guaranteed Loan Limit

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

Producers should contact their FSA County Offices with questions about farm loans.

## 2013 Ag Census Coming

USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service will mail the 2013 Census of Agriculture in mid-December. If you receive an Ag Census form, please complete and return it by the February 4, 2013 deadline.

Producers can easily and securely respond online after receiving their census form at [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov). For questions or help completing the form producers can contact NASS at (888) 424-7828.

The Census of Agriculture is conducted only once every five years to accurately collect demographic information about farmers, ranchers and their operations. USDA agencies and many other institutions and organizations use the results of the Census for education, research, planning and policy-making decisions within government, as well as business, industry and academia. The use of this valuable information impacts **everyone** across our nation.

## Emergency Farm Loans

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine.

Emergency loan funds may be used to:

- Restore or replace essential property;
- Pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year;
- Pay essential family living expenses;
- Reorganize the farming operation; and
- Refinance certain debts.

Further information and applications for the loan programs described are available at local FSA county offices.

## Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period

USDA has announced that Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims between Sept. 24, 2012 and 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.

As announced in February 2011, 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, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

USDA will continue reaching out to potential Hispanic and female claimants, around the country to get the word out to individuals who may be eligible for this program so they have the opportunity to participate.

Claimants can obtain a claims package in the mail by calling 1-888-509-4429 or by visiting the website [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov). Claims packages will be mailed to claimants.

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 Twin Falls 83301-3380  
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Washington/Adams/Payette  
 Kim Royer, CED  
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 549-4280

**Hispanic and Women Claims Process (continued)**

**Website:** [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov)

**Phone:** 1-888-508-4429

**Claims Period: Sept. 24, 2012 - March 25, 2013.**

An independent third-party administrator will administer the claims process and adjudicate the claims. There are no filing fees to participate and a lawyer is not required to participate in the claims process, but claimants may retain an attorney or other legal services provider. The USDA news release provides more background: <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/09/0309.xml&contentidonly=true>

**Farm Bill Update**

As of September 2012, the 2008 farm bill expired and FSA moved into a transition phase until Congress completes new program requirements and the President signs it into law. The process of implementing a new farm bill after enactment will take several months. There will be new regulations to write, handbook development, employee training, and software changes to be made before implementation.

**CROP REPORTS** – Producers participating in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or who wish to be protected under the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) or participate in future USDA programs must file a crop report. The dates to file have changed, but for the next year, there is no penalty if a producer misses one of the new dates. We are providing a one year transition to the new dates, which coincide with dates required for Federal Crop Insurance. An update on Idaho FSA programs is listed below:

**CRP** – FSA will continue to pay all Conservation Reserve Program SIP, PIP, annual rental, and cost-share payments for contracts approved before October 1, 2012. FSA will not hold a general CRP signup until and unless the program is re-authorized and funded. Along with the 2008 Farm Bill, authorization and funding lapsed for Continuous CRP, CREP and SAFE. Farms with CRP contracts that required a reduction in base acres when CRP was approved may restore the base acres if CRP expired, was voluntarily terminated, or early released **after** September 30, 2008, and **before** October 1, 2012.

**DCP/ACRE** -Idaho FSA has made Direct and Cyclical Payment and Average Crop Revenue Election program payments for 2012 crops. No legislation has been enacted to reauthorize or extend DCP or ACRE. FSA may still be required to maintain the number of base acres and yields on each farm and tract, based on legislation enacted at a later date.

**ECP** – In counties approved for Emergency Conservation program, authorization continues and County offices continue to accept applications and make payments if, and when, funding becomes available.

**LIP/LFP/ELAP** – Authorization for the Livestock Indemnity Program, Livestock Feed Program and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program ended as of September 30, 2011.

**Loans** - FSA is still accepting and processing direct operating, farm ownership, youth and emergency loans. FSA is also accepting Farm Storage Facility Loan applications.

**MILC** – The Milk Income Loss Contract Program ended with the 2008 Farm Bill on September 30, 2012.

**NAP** – The Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program is still in effect. As of October 1, 2012, and until further notice, 2013 NAP benefits are not subject to compliance with average Adjusted Gross Income limitations.

**SURE** – Signup for the SURE Program for 2011 crop losses began October 22, 2012, and will end June 7, 2013. SURE was not authorized for 2012 crop losses.

**Selected Interest Rates for Dec. 2012**

Farm Operating - Direct	1.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct	3.125%
Limited Resource	5.000%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency - Actual Loss	2.125%

**Dates to Remember**

Dec. 25	Christmas Day, FSA office closed
Jan. 31	Unshorn Pelt Application Deadline
Feb. 4	Ag Census Deadline
March 15	NAP application closing date for Spring planted crops
March 31	Final date for Commodity Loans
June 7	SURE applications for 2011 losses due