

March 2013



# NEWSLETTER



## Idaho FSA County Newsletter - March

Idaho Farm Service Agency

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125 S Water, PO Box 69  
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### 45th CRP General Sign-Up

USDA will conduct a four-week general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), beginning May 20 and ending June 14, 2013. CRP protects the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities across the United States.

Currently there are 622,470 acres enrolled in CRP in Idaho. Producers that are accepted in the sign-up can receive cost-share assistance to plant long-term, resource-conserving covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the contract (10-15 years).

Contracts on approximately 68,000 acres in Idaho are set to expire on Sept. 30, 2013. Producers with expiring contracts or producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP.

For more information on CRP and other FSA programs, visit a local FSA service center or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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### NAP Coverage Deadline

March 15, 2013 is the last day for producers to apply for Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage using Form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, and pay the service fee at the FSA county office.

The service fee is \$250 per crop per county or \$750 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$1875 per producer with farming interest in multiple counties. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of service fees.

To qualify, a producer must be a landowner, tenant or sharecropper who shares in the risk of producing an eligible crop. More information about NAP may be found on the FSA website located at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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### Hispanic and Women Claims Deadline March 25

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack reminds Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades that the filing period will close March 25,

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390 E Hooper, Soda Springs  
83276  
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Cassia  
Cary Curtis, CED  
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Burley 83318-2406  
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Elmore  
Jeff Groat, CED  
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Mtn. Home 83647-3378  
587-3303

Franklin  
Layne Peterson, CED  
Todd Tueller, FLM  
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Preston 83263-5388  
852-0482

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

Gem/Boise/Valley  
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934-8472

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Rigby 83442-5219  
745-6664

2013. USDA urges potential claimants to contact the Claims Administrator for information and mail their claim packages on or before the deadline.

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied their application(s) 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.

Claimants can obtain a claims package by calling the telephone number or by visiting the website below.

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

Phone: 1-888-508-4429

Claims Period: September 24, 2012 - March 25, 2013

An independent adjudicator will administer the claims process and adjudicate the claims. Although there are no filing fees to participate and a lawyer is not required to participate in the claims process, persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider. Legal resources ready to assist nationwide can be found at [www.nationalaglawcenter.org](http://www.nationalaglawcenter.org).

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## 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.

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## Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL)

Marketing Assistance Loans, also referred to as Commodity Loans, are available to producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time of the application. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for a loan even if you regain beneficial interest. Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger

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Oneida  
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Malad City 83252-1236  
766-4719

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

administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans. The most common violations are providing an incorrect quantity certification.

**Maintaining the 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.

**Unauthorized Disposition of Grain** - If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe and a producer's name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call before you haul any grain under loan.

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## Honey Loans

Honey marketing assistance loans are available until April 1, 2013. The national loan rate for honey is \$.69 per pound. Market prices currently exceed the loan rate, so LDPs are not available at this time.

To be eligible for a loan, the producer must have produced honey in the United States during the calendar year for which the loan is requested, and extract the honey on or before Dec. 31 of the applicable crop year; have continuous beneficial interest in the honey through date of repayment of the loan; and been responsible for the financial risk. Producers are responsible for maintaining the quality of farm-stored honey during the term of the loan. The containers must be marked with the producer's name, type of honey, number of container and net weight. Pre-loan inspections are required before the loans can be disbursed. Honey used as collateral may not be disposed of without approval of the county office staff.

## FSA Adopts New Check Processing Method

Producers who make payments by check to the Farm Service Agency can expect to see a change soon in how those checks are processed. FSA is adopting an electronic method for processing check payments from customers. Using the electronic method, if you submit a paper check payment either in person or through the mail, the check will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) using Over the Counter Channel (OTCnet), a web-based application. The transfer of funds will be reflected on your account statement. The transaction may be recorded in a different place on your statement than where your checks normally appear, such as under "other withdrawals" or "other transactions." You have protections under Federal law for an unauthorized electronic fund transfer from your account. You should

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354-2680

Twin Falls  
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Twin Falls 83301-3380  
733-5380

Washington/Adams/Payette  
Kim Royer, CED  
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549-4280

contact your financial institution immediately if you believe that the transaction reported on your account statement was not properly authorized or is otherwise incorrect. It is important for you to have sufficient funds in your bank account because the electronic transfer of funds could occur within 24 hours. FSA will hold the paper check for up to 14 calendar days to ensure that the transaction was successfully processed and then the check will be shredded. You will not receive the paper check back from FSA. The agency is implementing the new system to reduce the possibility of losing or misplacing checks, speed up the check clearing process and to reduce the potential for human error.

For more information regarding electronic check processing, contact the county FSA office or see the U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site <http://fms.treas.gov/otcnet/legal.html> .

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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 payments are equal to 60 percent of the difference between the crop guarantee and revenue. To be eligible, the producer must have at least one crop with a 10 percent production loss. To determine the guarantee and revenue for the SURE Program, all crops on all farms for a producer are included in the calculations. 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 hay or fresh vegetables, producers must have purchased Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage from FSA. The Crop Insurance and NAP purchase requirements are waived for crops that are not economically significant to the farming operation. For more information visit the Farm Service Agency website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/ps/](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ps/).

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## Selected Interest Rates - March 2013

- Farm Operating - Direct 1.25%
  - Farm Ownership - Direct 3.25%
  - Limited Resource 5.00%
  - Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher 1.50%
  - Emergency (Operating) 1.25%
  - Farm Storage Facility – 7 year 1.250%
  - Farm Storage Facility – 10 year 2.00%
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## Dates to Remember

- Mar 15 NAP Spring planted coverage deadline
- Mar 31 Deadline to request Market Assistance Loans for certain crops
- May 20 General CRP sign-up begins
- June 3 ACRE sign-up deadline
- June 7 SURE application deadline for 2011 losses
- June 14 General CRP sign-up ends
- Aug 2 DCP sign-up deadline

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer