



November 2010

Jefferson/Clark FSA

Service Center
210 S 5th W
Rigby ID 83442

Phone: (208) 745-6664
FAX: (208) 745-0522

Hours:

Monday – Friday
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

County Committee:

Lee Burtenshaw
George Ellsworth
Gene Place
Andy Wagoner

Advisor:

Susan Stewart

Staff:

Lisa Eaton, PT
Joy Lopez, PT
Elaine Roker, PT

CED:

Ben Evans

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Tod Shenton Resigns from COC to accept Commissioner Job

The Jefferson/Clark FSA Office and County Committee wish to thank Tod Shenton for all his years of service. Tod has served on the Jefferson/Clark County Committee (COC) since 2005. He resigned from the COC to accept an appointment as a Clark County Commissioner. We wish him all the best.

Tod is listed on the Clark County ballot; however, a COC member cannot be an elected official, so the **Jefferson/Clark County Committee is actively seeking write-in votes for this LAA.**

FSA county committee members serve three-year terms and make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues.

Voting for County Committee

Ballots for this year's county committee election were mailed to eligible voters on November 5, 2010. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Jefferson/Clark Farm Service Agency office by the close of business on December 6, 2010. Mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 6th.

The candidates in this year's elections are:

- Patrick Hendren, Robert McCulloch, and Jordan C. Thomas - **This is for LAA #3**, that area north of Hwy 33 in Jefferson.
- Write-in Votes needed – This is for **LAA #1**, that area west of I-15 and north of Hwy 22 in Clark County.

Eligible voters in LAA #1 and #3, who have not received a ballot, should contact the Jefferson/Clark FSA office staff.

Voter Requirements Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus, 3**, below, are eligible to vote:

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either a) or b):

a) an owner, operator, or tenant *or*

b) a partner in a general partnership or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, or tenant;

2. Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; *and*

3. Eligible to participate in any applicable FSA program that is provided by law, regardless of funding status.

Discrimination Prohibited No person shall 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.



LDP Deadline on Wool & Unshorn Lamb Pelts

Eligible producers have until Jan. 30, 2011, to apply for LDPs for wool and unshorn pelts produced during the 2010 crop year. Also, you must sign a *new CCC-633 for the 2011 crop year, before you lose beneficial interest in the pelts or wool.*

For Pelts, eligible producers must have beneficial interest, owned the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter.

Changing Banks

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued and uninterrupted service.

CCC-927 or -928 Disclosure Form Needed by IRS

Producers who participated in 2009 or 2010 programs subject to adjusted gross income limitations (AGI) had to certify compliance with AGI rules. The average AGI verification process for 2009 and 2010 payment eligibility requires all program participants to provide written consent to IRS for the disclosure of certain information to FSA. On October 6, 2010, a letter was mailed to producers who have not submitted either: CCC-927: "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Individual Form", or CCC-928: "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Legal Entity".

Individuals and legal entities, including members of legal entities, that certified to average AGI compliance for 2009 and/or 2010 payment eligibility must submit a completed CCC-927 or CCC-928 also. These forms must be submitted to IRS in order to avoid a demand for refund of program payments and benefits received.

Disaster Assistance Programs

FSA disaster assistance programs include:

- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program insurable_crops
- NAP coverage for non-insurable crops.
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

To be eligible for SURE, TAP, and ELAP, producers **must purchase** catastrophic risk protection insurance protection insurance for all insurable crops, and NAP coverage for non-insurable crops. Farm-Raised Fish means all fish being produced for sale by an eligible producer. In the case of honey, the term "farm" means all bees and beehives in all counties that are intended to be harvested for a honey crop by the eligible producer.

Producers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource Producer, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher, do not have to meet this risk management purchase requirement.

FSA Farm Loan Assistance

Farmers and/or ranchers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Failure to apply early may result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications. Contact your local FSA office for information.

Borrowers that have a farm loan with FSA are reminded they must provide data for their Year-End Analysis to their loan officer each year.

Selling Land

If you're planning to sell farmland, there may be some program consequences you should be aware of. For example, if you're planning to sell land that's enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer doesn't want to continue the CRP contract, you might have to refund all of the payments you've received to date.

Reviewing program implications with your local Farm Service Agency staff before completing a sale of farmland is always a prudent precaution.

Farm Reconstitutions

When changes in farm ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1 for farms enrolled in the ACRE or Direct and Counter-cyclical Program. Methods used for farm reconstitution are:

Estate Method — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

Designation of Landowner Method — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

DCP Cropland Method — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

Default Method — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

If DCP direct payments have already been issued on a particular farm, the reconstitution will be effective for the next year, unless the payments are refunded.

FSA Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.

New Financial Management Web Page

Producers who have Level 2 e-Authentication access can use the new Public Financial Management Information web page. The website allows producers to generate reports that show both current and historical financial information. This resource will allow users to view details on payments, collections, and outstanding debt. The website is a great tool for producers to access financial information at any time. To view the Financial Management Information web page, visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/fmi>. Please contact your county office if you have any questions regarding the web page.

Note: Website use requires Level 2 e-Authentication access. Follow the steps below to obtain level 2 access...

1. Go to www.eauth.egov.usda.gov, complete a customer profile and submit it online
2. After submitting your customer profile, you will receive a confirmation email, and you must respond to it within 7 days to activate your account
3. Then you must complete the "Identity Proofing" process by visiting a local USDA Service Center and presenting a photo ID, such as your driver's license

Unauthorized Disposition of "Loaned Grain"

If grain for which a Marketing Assistance Loan has been authorized is 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 or otherwise use any grain under MAL encumbrances.**

DCP & ACRE Signup

Signup for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) and ACRE Programs runs through June 1, 2011. Late-filed applications will not accept.

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 2011, 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 ACRE Option

The Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. In exchange for participating in ACRE, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20 percent, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30 percent.

The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.

Producers on participating ACRE Program farms must annually report production to FSA. For 2010 crops the deadline is July 15, 2011. Failure to do so will result in ineligibility.



NAP Application Deadline

Noninsured Crop Disaster applications and crop sales closing dates are due at different times according to the crops being insured. The deadline for 2011 Alfalfa and grass NAP Insurance is December 1, 2010.

The \$250 per crop is due when the application is filed. For disaster assistance programs, crop insurance and/or NAP coverage is required for all crops on the farm if they are of economic significance.

Jefferson/Clark Farm Service Agency
210 South 5th West
Rigby, Idaho 83442



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2010 – 2011 Dates to Remember!

- Ongoing*** : Continuous CRP signup
- November 5** : County Committee Ballots Mailed to voters
- November 11** : Veteran's Day – Office Closed
- November 25** : Thanksgiving Day - Office Closed
- December 1** : NAP Sales Closing Date
- December 6** : County Committee ballots due back to County Office or mailed
- December 24** : Office Closed for Christmas Day
- December 31** : Office Closed for New Year's Day
- January 17** : Office Closed for Martin Luther King's Jr's Birthday
- January 31** : Deadline for LDP's on Unshorn Lamb Pelts and Wool

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