



January 2011

Teton County FSA

275 Old Railroad Way
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Driggs, Idaho 83422
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Hours:

Monday – Friday
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

County Committee:

Amy Robinson
Bonnie Reece
Nathan Penfold
Ryan Kunz

Advisor:

MaeDene Jardine

Staff:

Jenny Field, PT
Debra Schofield, PT
Farm Loan Manager:
Curtis Warner

CED:

Bart Linderman

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County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Nathan Penfold who was elected to represent producers in LAA#2. Eddie Hill was elected first Alternate. FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works because of your participation.

The organizational meeting was held on January 20th. Amy Robinson was elected to serve as Chairman, Bonnie Reece as Vice Chairman, with Ryan Kunz and Nathan Penfold as Members.

The regular meeting date for the Teton County FSA Committee is Tuesday after the first Wednesday of each month at 1 pm.

DCP and ACRE Signup Advance Payments

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and also the 2011 ACRE Program has begun and will continue through **June 1, 2011**.

Advance payments of 22% on the 2011 DCP/ACRE program are available. The remaining 78% of your payment will be issued after October 1, 2011. ACRE is a revenue based payment alternative to the price-based DCP counter-cyclical (CC) payments.

In DCP, eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. DCP or ACRE contract signatures for enrollment are due by the signup deadline of June 1, 2011.

Office Closure

For your planning purposes, our office will be closed on the following Holidays:

February 21: George Washington's Birthday Observed

2009 SURE Signup

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) began Jan. 10th and ends July 29th, 2011. SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. For SURE, all crops must be covered by crop insurance, NAP, or eligible for waivers.

A farm enrolled in SURE is eligible when either:

- a portion of the farm is located in a county covered by a qualifying natural disaster declaration (USDA Secretarial Declarations only) or a contiguous county and suffers a 10% loss in actual revenue; or,
- the actual crop revenue is less than 50% of the normal revenue.

Farming operations with land located in Teton County Idaho needed to suffer a loss greater than 50 percent of actual production on the farm compared to normal production for the farm to qualify for 2009 SURE. Farm Operations located in Teton County Wyoming needed to suffer a 10 percent production loss in at least 1 crop of economic significance. Contact this office for more information.

Teton County received a Secretarial Disaster Declaration for 2010, farm operations located in Teton County Idaho and Wyoming with a 10 percent loss in 2010 may qualify for SURE when signup for 2010 begins (possibly late 2011 or early 2012).

Farming Operation Changes

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have added or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. This is especially important if you have CRP contracts.

You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties.

Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

Commodity Loans & LDP's

There is no LDP at this time, however you may want to check on Commodity loans. The interest rate for a loan taken in January is 1.25%. Some of the loan rates for 2010 crops are: Barley \$2.01; Soft White Wheat \$2.99; Hard Red Winter Wheat \$2.67; Hard Red Spring \$3.87 and Durum Wheat \$6.27 per bushel.

Loans are for nine months and you must maintain beneficial interest in the commodity through the term of the loan or until paid. When you sell to a warehouse, you contact the office **for a release, before any grain is moved**. The warehouse will repay FSA for each bushel moved at principal plus interest or the posted county price, whichever is lowest.

The last day to request a loan on wheat, barley, and oats is March 31st for the 2010 crops. If you are interested, please contact our office or any FSA office near you for more information.

IRS Form 1099-G

Each year producers receive 1099-G forms from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) detailing payments producers have received from the CCC. CCC's annual report of program payments on the 1099-G helps our customers report taxable income. It is **NOT** intended to replace the producer's own responsibility to report income to the IRS.

FSA staff cannot interpret IRS regulations or advise producers about which payments to report on their income tax returns. However, we can review payments for accuracy.

Customer Statement

January signals the beginning of a new year, and a time to starting thinking about filing taxes. Producers who have signed up for a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account will be able to access their farm data via their Customer Statement.

This Statement puts a range of USDA services and programs into a single report that's at your fingertips and available online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

FSA NEWSLETTERS

Due to budgetary constraints these newsletters are posted to websites each month but only mailed 2-3 times per year. Visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/id> and click "newsletters" to view the online issues.

Appeal Process

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree.

Generally, program participants have three choices — an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. FSA administers this program for USDA.

All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Highly Erodible & Wetland Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan.

Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies, and other drug producing plants.

Wool/Unshorn Pelts LDP's or Loans

Eligible producers have until Jan. 31, 2011, to apply for LDPs for wool, mohair, 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.

Conservation Loan Program

The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with the funds to implement conservation measures on their land. The available limit for a direct CL is \$300,000, and the limit for a guaranteed CL is \$1,119,000.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will work with applicants to develop a conservation plan containing approved conservation practices. Examples of some conservation practices are: water conservation structures, forest cover, permanent pastures, manure digesters, and other installations.

For more information on a potential Conservation Loan, call the local FSA office and make an appointment with a loan officer.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

FSA Signature Policy

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office. There are some exceptions, for more information contact your local FSA Office.

FSA has Power of Attorney forms available to enable you to designate another person to conduct your business in this office.

Continuous CRP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program allows participants to enroll acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality, and provide wildlife habitat and food sources.

Continuous CRP program participation is voluntary. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment.

Risk Management Agency (RMA)

USDA's Spokane Risk Management Agency (RMA) Office reminds producers of the important link between Federal Crop Insurance and FSA's Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance programs including the new SURE program.

To maintain eligibility for most Supplemental Disaster Programs producers must obtain a policy or plan of insurance of at least the catastrophic level (CAT) of insurance for the crop year 2011.

The next round of sales closing dates for Federal crop insurance are:

January 31, 2011

Final date to obtain or change AGR insurance in select counties in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Final date to submit required documents to continue or change 2011 AGR-Lite insurance for EXISTING POLICY HOLDERS in AK, ID, OR and WA.

March 15, 2011

Final date to obtain 2011 Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite (AGR-Lite) insurance for NEW APPLICATION/ ENROLLMENT POLICIES.

March 15, 2011

Final date to obtain or change ALL OTHER Spring Seeded Crop insurance coverage (excluding wheat in counties with Fall and Spring planted types).

September 30, 2011

Final date to obtain or change All Wheat Crop insurance for the 2012 crop year.

Note: The Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite program meets the linkage requirements for SURE. Also, if there is no crop insurance coverage in a county for a specific crop, and that crop is insurable in another county under the traditional Federal crop insurance program, a producer may be eligible for crop insurance coverage under a written agreement. Interested producers should contact their local crop insurance agent for details.

Agents Need Signed Statement

Private crop insurance company representatives will now be required to provide a signed statement from you, when requesting map photocopies and acreage reports (FSA-578) from the Farm Service Agency. The statement must specify the crop year and the related documents that you want reproduced for the insurance agent.

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2011 Dates to Remember!

- Ongoing** : Continuous CRP signup
- Ongoing** : Sign-up for the 2011 DCP program
- January 31, 2011** : Deadline for LDP's on Unshorn Lamb Pelts and Wool
- February 21, 2011** : Office Closed for Presidents' Day
- March 31, 2011** : Final date to request loan/LDP on 2010 crop barley, canola, honey, oats, rapeseed, wheat, flaxseed, and sesame seed
- May 31, 2011** : Final date to request loan/LDP on 2010 crop corn, dry peas, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, safflower seed, small chickpeas, soybeans, sunflower seed
- June 1, 2011** : Deadline to sign into DCP/ACRE
- June 30, 2011** : Deadline to report all planted crops

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