

IDAHO POTATO PULSE



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NRCS ANNOUNCES SPECIAL INITIATIVES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

BOISE, ID – December 1, 2011 – The Natural Resources Conservation Service is offering conservation assistance to Idaho agricultural producers and landowners through three special initiatives: the On-Farm Energy Initiative, Organic Initiative and Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative. NRCS accepts applications for assistance on a continuous basis throughout the year. There will be three ranking periods for these special initiatives ending on February 3, March 30 and June 1, 2012.

"These initiatives provide a different approach to conserving resources on Idaho's agricultural lands," said Jeff Burwell, NRCS State Conservationist. "By offering initiatives that respond to changing conditions in agricultural production NRCS can be more effective in helping producers maintain sustainable operations."

Brief overviews of the initiatives are listed below:

On-Farm Energy Initiative: NRCS and producers develop Agricultural Energy Management Plans (AgEMP) or farm energy audits that assess energy consumption. NRCS then uses audit data to develop energy conservation recommendations. The audits assess power usage for equipment, farming processes, and farm headquarters including efficiencies in livestock buildings, grain handling operations, and similar facilities that support the farm operation.

Organic Initiative: NRCS helps certified organic growers and producers working to achieve organic certification install conservation practices for organic production. New for fiscal year 2012, the application evaluation process has been changed to support implementation of conservation practices in a timelier manner.

Seasonal High Tunnel Pilot Initiative: NRCS helps producers plan and implement high tunnels, steel-framed, polyethylene-covered structures that extend growing seasons in an environmentally safe manner. High tunnel benefit plant and soil quality and reduce nutrient and pesticide use. This initiative is available statewide and is not restricted to organic producers as it was last year.

For more specific information on these initiatives or to learn more about eligibility requirements, stop by your local USDA service center or visit NRCS online at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>.

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FARMERS AND RANCHERS ARE REMINDED OF ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE AND MULTI-PERIL CROP INSURANCE PROGRAM DATES

SPOKANE, Wash. December 5, 2011—The Risk Management Agency reminds producers of winter and spring sales closing dates for the Multiple Peril Crop Insurance (MPCI) programs, the Adjusted Gross Revenue Pilot (AGR) available in select Northwest counties, and the Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite (AGR-Lite) programs available throughout the Pacific Northwest. AGR and AGR-Lite cover most farm-raised crops, animals, and animal products.

Upcoming regional sales closing dates:

January 31, 2012	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 2012 AGR-Lite insurance for EXISTING POLICY HOLDERS in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington
February 1, 2012	Final date to obtain or change crop insurance coverage for 2011 Spring Planted Onions in Idaho, Oregon and Washington and Cabbage in Oregon and Washington.
March 15, 2012	Final date to obtain or change ALL OTHER Spring Seeded MPCl (excluding wheat in counties with Fall and Spring planted types). Final date to obtain 2011 AGR-Lite insurance for NEW APPLICATION/ENROLLMENT POLICIES in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington.

Current policyholders and uninsured growers must make all of their decisions on crop insurance coverage, especially which crops to insure and which level and type of coverage to obtain, prior to the sales closing date. Note: Billing dates for Federal crop insurance policies were changed effective for 2012. Most billing dates were moved up to August 15th.

RMA reminds producers of the important link between Federal crop insurance and Farm Service Agency (FSA) disaster programs. For non-insurable crops, a producer may buy coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program by the closing date. For further information about timetables, please contact the local FSA County Office.

Producers are encouraged to visit their crop insurance agent soon to learn specific details for the 2012 crop year. Federal crop insurance program policies are sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance companies and agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers throughout the United States or on the RMA Website at <http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents>.

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