



JUNE 2009

Crook County FSA News

USDA
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Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Office Staff:

Mike Idler, CED
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County Committee:

Mervin Peterson, Chairman
Larry Fowlkes, Vice-
Chairman
Ross Garman, Member
Roxie Dacar, Advisor

County Committee Elections “FSA Counts on You”

Nominations

Candidate nominations for the FSA county committee election will be accepted **June 15 through Aug. 3, 2009.**

LAA3 (the southern third of Crook County – see map from May newsletter) is up for re-election this year.

Producers who are residents in the LAA holding the election and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates.

The nomination form, FSA-669A, is available at the county office or may be downloaded from

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>.

To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected. The completed nomination form must be returned to the county office by the close of business on **Aug. 3**, or postmarked by midnight **Aug. 3, 2009.**

Candidate Eligibility

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate
- Not have been:
 - Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or

employee

- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

For additional clarification about county committee elections, contact your local county office staff.

2009 Compliance

Compliance and spot checks will once again be utilized during the 2009 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for spot check and review, a nationwide selection of producers is used to achieve an adequate statistical sampling of participating producers. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer’s participation in Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program, etc.

State and county offices shall view and print their producer spot check lists as posted on the designated web site. If an entity is selected from the national database that is no longer farming or participating in the 2009 crop year, a notation shall be made on the spot check list. For more information about the new spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact your local office.

Special Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.



DCP & ACRE Signup Deadline

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been extended until **August 14, 2009**. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications. Signup in the ACRE option is also available through **August 14, 2009**.

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 2009, 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 prices fall below a threshold level.

The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service will save you time, reduce paperwork and speed up contract processing at FSA offices. It is available to anyone eligible to participate in the DCP Program. To access this on-line service, you must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at [/www.eauth.egov.usda.gov](http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov) followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

Crop Reporting

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland, CRP acreages, and pasture on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments, CRP, and the NAP Program.

The certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted, CRP acreages and pasture. The producer certification deadline is **July 1st**. Failure to file a crop report will result in loss of payments from the above listed FSA programs. Reports filed after July 1st will be considered "late-filed" and will carry, at a minimum, a \$46.00 fee - which is for field inspection purposes.

CRP & NAP Certification

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage, including pasture, for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Prevented Planting:

Prevented planting is to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

Failed Acreage:

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

Farm Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped under one farm serial number. When changes in 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 **August 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

Contact your FSA office to discuss the various methods of Reconstitution including: the Estate Method, the Designation of Landowner Method, the DCP Cropland Method and the Default Method.

Banking Changes?

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. It has been calculated that having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit. Another benefit is that Direct Deposit to your account can be made within 48 hours.

To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

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 uninterrupted service.

Changes in Payment Limitations

The applicability of payment limitation provisions have expanded over the last 39 years to include more pro-

grams. See below for key changes.

New forms for 2009 and subsequent years

Anyone that plans to participate in 2009 programs is required to submit a completed CCC-902, CCC-926, and CCC-901, if applicable, for payment eligibility and payment limitation purposes. The form used prior to 2009 was named CCC-502.

Additionally,

All partners, stockholders, or members with an ownership interest in the legal entity must make an active contribution, whether compensated or **not** compensated. That active contribution must include:

- personal labor, or
- active personal management,
- or a combination of active personal labor and active personal management to the farming operation;

Note: there are exceptions for spouses.

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office.

If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information. If you want a crop loan, a power of attorney form will need to be completed for husband and wife, if both do not come into the office to sign the forms on the day the loan is disbursed.

Reporting Crop Losses for NAP

For those of you with a NAP crop policy – you are reminded that if you suffer a crop loss, you must complete a notice of loss form with this office no later than 15 calendar days after the disaster occurrence or no later than 15 days from the date that damage to the specific crop acreage is apparent. Notice of loss must be provided for each weather-related event or adverse natural occurrence that causes damage to or loss of the specific crop or commodity. Failure to report crop damage or loss in a timely manner will result in ineligibility for NAP payment.

When a loss is sustained an appraisal should be com-

pleted by FSA personnel. This appraisal should be done before grazing occurs or before the land is put to another use.

Reporting Production for NAP

July 1st is the deadline to submit your 2008 crop production yields for all crops that are covered by a NAP crop policy. Failure to do so will result in a decreased yield guarantee which will decrease program benefits in the event of crop loss.

For example, your 2008 mixed grass hay yielded 1.0 ton per acre. If you miss the July 1st deadline to file this production the yield we will have to give you is .48 ton per acre (65% of the county yield).

This “reduced” yield can have significant impact on the crops payment yield and substantially reduce any benefits due you - and in some cases it can reduce your payment yield to the point that the loss thresholds are not met and thus - no payment is issued to you.

IMPORTANT DATES:

June 15...COC Election Nomination period begins
July 1...Crop Report Deadline
July 1...NAP – 2008 crop production Deadline
August 3...Deadline to file COC Election Nomination form
August 14...DCP/ACRE signup Deadline

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