

April 2013



Having trouble viewing this email? Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

## Coos-Curry FSA Updates

DEAR PRODUCERS: Welcome to the new GovDelivery bulletins and updates service from your Name County FSA office. Note that you are welcome to request to receive bulletins from more than one state and/or county and can add or remove individual subscriptions at any time.

---

### Coos/Curry County Farm Service Agency

376 N Central Blvd.

Coquille, OR 97423

541/396-4323 X2

54/396-5106 Fax

[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

**Hours M – F**

8:00 am - 4:30 pm

**County Executive Director:**  
Bret A. Harris, Ext. 100

[bret.harris@or.usda.gov](mailto:bret.harris@or.usda.gov)

**Program Technician:**  
Vacant due to budget

### Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Claims Process Extended

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced the extension of the voluntary claims process for Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades. All claims must now be filed by **May 1, 2013**.

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied his or her application 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. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

Claimants may register for a claims package by calling the telephone number below Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time or by downloading the forms from the website: [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov)

Phone: 1-888-508-4429 Fax: (855) 626-8343 Email: [claims@hwfr.org](mailto:claims@hwfr.org)

Claims Period: September 24, 2012 – May 1, 2013.

Claim packages and other documentation may be mailed to Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Claims Administrator, PO Box 4540, Portland, OR 97208-4540. Claim packages and other documentation may also be emailed to [claims@hwfr.org](mailto:claims@hwfr.org). Claimants may also fax claims packages and other documentation to (855) 626-8343. Completed forms and documentation must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. PDT on May 1, 2013.

---

## DCP/ACRE Sign-up Continues

The sign-up period for DCP and ACRE are still open. Producers must sign up for DCP before the Aug. 2, 2013, deadline. Producers signing up for ACRE, have until June 3, 2013.

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013. Likewise producers who were enrolled in DCP may opt for ACRE enrollment.

[Read more about DCP and ACRE](#) or contact the FSA county office for more information, or an appointment to enroll.

---

## Microloans Are Cultivating Big Dreams on a Small Scale

Microloans are helping small, niche and beginning farmers and ranchers meet their goals. The less burdensome and more simplified loan process allows producers to apply for a maximum of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses, essential tools, irrigation, delivery vehicles and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing and distribution expenses. Producers interested in applying for a microloan should contact the local FSA office to schedule an appointment with a Farm Loan Officer or Farm Loan Manager.

Read the linked articles below showing how microloans are helping producers across the U.S. expand their operations.

- 1) [Thanks, Mr. President: Niche Farmers Send Obama Appreciation Letter for Boosting Their Business](#) and
- 2) [Small Farmer Finds Success With FSA Microloan Program](#)

---

## CRP Sign-Up Starts soon

USDA will conduct a four-week general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), beginning May 20 and ending on June 14. 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, about 27 million acres are enrolled in CRP. Producers that are accepted in the program 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 3.3 million acres of CRP 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).

---

## Acreage Certification

After spring planting, producers should certify their 2013 acreage. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops enrolled in programs other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program), acreage reports for most spring planted crops (exception cabbage) are to be certified by the July 15.

Acreage reports on crops covered by NAP are due in the county office by the earlier of July 15 for most spring planted crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

---

## Adjusted Gross Income

USDA and the Internal Revenue Service have established an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent is required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA.

This ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-931 to their local FSA County Office to avoid interruption of program benefits. This form may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainervlet>

recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA.

This ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-931 to their local FSA County Office to avoid interruption of program benefits. This form may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainervlet>

---

## Farm Storage Facility Loans

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFLP) allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of seven, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the U.S. Treasury Department.

Funding is available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin. For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

---

## Guaranteed Loan Program

The Farm Service Agency loan limit for the Guaranteed Loan Program has increased to \$1,302,000. The limit is adjusted annually based on data compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The lending limit increases every year according to an inflation index. The maximum combined guaranteed and direct farm loan indebtedness has increased to \$1,602,000.

As a reminder, the one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans is 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan.

Producers should contact their local FSA County Offices with questions about farm loans.

---

## Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H Clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.

For more information you can stop by your FSA county office. Our staff can help with preparing and processing the application forms

---

## Land Contract (LC) Guarantees

The Land Contract (LC) Guarantee Program is a valuable tool to transfer farm real estate to the next generation of farmers and ranchers. Guarantees will be offered to the owner of a farm who wishes to sell real estate through a land contract to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher. The guarantee reduces the financial risk to the seller.

FSA offers two types of guarantees:

- **Prompt Payment Guarantee** - A guarantee up to the amount of three amortized annual installments plus the cost of any related real estate taxes and insurance.
- **Standard Guarantee** - A guarantee of 90 percent of the outstanding principal balance under the land contract.

The guarantee period is 10 years and the contract payments must be amortized for a minimum of 20 years. The purchase price of the farm cannot exceed the lesser of \$500,000 or the market value of the property.

For additional information you can read the [Land Contract Guarantee Program Fact Sheet](#)

---

## Farm Record Changes

June 1, 2013 is the deadline to provide changes to your farm records at the local FSA office for the current crop year. If you are changing your operation entity type, adding or dropping cropland or farms, or adding entities to your operation, contact the FSA county office by June 1.

---

## Dates to Remember

- May 1 Hispanic and Women Claims Deadline
- May 20 45th CRP Sign-up opens
- May 27 Memorial Day, Office Closed
- June 3 ACRE Sign-up ends
- June 14 CRP Sign-up ends
- July 4 Independence Day, Office Closed
- July 15 Acreage Reporting Deadline
- Aug. 2 DCP Sign-up ends

---

## NRCS Corner

Our Sister Agency, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) would like you to be aware of the following:

Ten successful applicants are moving forward in Coos and Curry counties to implement conservation projects through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). Four of these projects are for cranberry (and blueberry) irrigation automation, 5 are for agricultural water quality enhancement, and one seasonal high tunnel for vegetable production.

**Irrigation automation for berries.** The four applicants for irrigation automation are blazing a new trail for cranberry and blueberry growers on the south coast. They will be implementing different systems to automate their frost protection and irrigation systems in order to optimize the application of water for plant growth and productivity. They anticipate many benefits among them, saving labor, energy and conserving water. All four growers have expressed willingness to share their experiences with others and discuss the different systems they are employing.

**Agriculture Water Quality & Quantity.** This strategy is focused on solutions for irrigation & livestock. This funding pool addresses water efficiency and management along 303(d) listed streams, providing financial assistance for irrigation system upgrades and livestock management.

**Seasonal High Tunnels.** The program is a national initiative intending to provide financial assistance for the installation of seasonal high tunnels to extend the growing season and promote local marketing and food supplies.

**Conservation technical assistance, farm plans and future projects.** Farmers and ranchers who are interested in any of these initiatives or would like assistance dealing with natural resource issues on their property should call us or come in to discuss available programs and assistance. Phone: (541) 396-2841 extension 105 or 107 or visit us at 382 North Central Blvd, next door to FSA.

---

## Important:

**Please remember:** Due to federally mandated budget cuts, the Coos/Curry County FSA Office is operating with a staff of one. Please call ahead for an appointment if possible and be aware that field work and other activities may close the FSA Office periodically. If the FSA office is closed, information may be obtained and inquiries made at the NRCS Office in the Coquille Service Center – 541/396-2841, ext. 3.

If the FSA Office is closed and you need to speak to someone from FSA, please call District Director, Pam Davis at 971/409-2551 (cell), or contact Program Technician, Tyree Mahlberg, in the Douglas County FSA Office at (541) 673-6071, ext. 117.

For information regarding your GovDelivery subscription with the Coos/Curry County FSA Office, contact Bret A Harris, County Executive Director [bret.harris@or.usda.gov](mailto:bret.harris@or.usda.gov) or 541/396-4323 Ext 100.

---

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9450, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).