



# GRANT COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY



## Committee:

Bryan Vogt  
 Jason Kehrberg  
 Ted Clausen  
 Joanne Keerins

## Office Staff:

Tom Falvey, County Executive Director  
 e-mail: [Tom.Falvey@or.usda.gov](mailto:Tom.Falvey@or.usda.gov)  
 Ilene Berry, Program Technician  
 e-mail: [Ilene.Berry@or.usda.gov](mailto:Ilene.Berry@or.usda.gov)

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721 S. Canyon Blvd.,  
 John Day, OR 97845

(541) 575-1274 Ext. 2  
 FAX (541) 575-0646

Oregon State FSA Website:  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/or/or.htm](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/or/or.htm)

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 made changes to payment eligibility and payment limitation provisions to be implemented for the 2009 and subsequent program years.

### **Payment Limitation**

Payments are limited by direct attribution to persons and legal entities. Payment limitation by direct attribution includes the pro-ration of payments to the members, stockholders, and shareholders according to the ownership interest held.

Payment limits are:

Commodity Programs - \$40,000  
 Conservation - CRP/CREP annual rental payment and incentives - \$50,000  
 Disaster Assistance Programs - NAP, LFP, SURE - \$100,000

Individuals or entities must be actively engaged in a farming/ranching operation in order to be eligible for program payments. Actively engaged in farming requirements:

- Significant contribution of capital, land, equipment, or combination of.
- Significant contribution of active personal labor and/or active personal management. Members of entities must provide active personal labor and/or active personal management that can be documented and performed on a regular basis & critical to the operation.
- A person or legal entity who is a landowner may be considered “actively engaged in farming” under the landowner exemption.

After 2009, a farm operating plan CCC-902 is not required to be filed annually, if no changes occur from the previous year.

### **Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)**

All persons and legal entities requesting program payments, either directly or indirectly, are subject to average AGI provisions.

Changes made with the 2009 program year include:

- Different AGI limitations for different programs.
  - \* Commodity, Disaster programs, and Price Support – Nonfarm AGI shall not exceed \$500,000.
  - \* DCP Direct Payments – AGI Nonfarm AGI shall not exceed \$500,000 and the three-year average Farm AGI shall not exceed \$750,000.
  - \* Conservation Programs – Nonfarm AGI shall not exceed \$1 million, unless at least 66.66% of the total AGI is adjusted gross farm income.
- Base period for determining average AGI. 2009 AGI is determined based on 2005, 2006, 2007 3-year average.
- Annual certification is required from each individual and legal entity requesting CCC payments either directly or indirectly. Annual certifications are made on form CCC-926.
- Tracking of AGI through entity ownership. If the participant is an entity, AGI certifications are required from the participating entity and from each interest holder who is an individual or entity and from each embedded interest holder.
- Definition of farm income – General farm income includes income derived from the production of crops and livestock, from ranching and forestry, and other income reported on Schedule F of the IRS tax forms.

Contact the FSA Office for more information

# REMINDERS

## Crop Acreage Reporting

To be eligible for FSA program benefits, FSA-578, Report of Acreage is required to be filed. Some of the programs requiring accurate and timely filed acreage reports are:

- CRP/CREP – Conservation Reserve Program/Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program on annual rental payment to determine that the producer has maintained CRP acreage.
- DCP - Direct and Counter-cyclical Program on all cropland on the farm.
- LDP - Loan Deficiency Payment on all cropland on the farm.
- NAP - Non-insurable Assistance Program on crop acreage for which benefits may be requested.  
SURE on all crops in all counties.  
LFP on pastureland or rangeland acreage for which benefits may be requested.

Grant County reports are **due before August 15<sup>th</sup>**.  
If an acreage report is filed late for a program, a late-filed fee must be charged.

## Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP)

- File a Notice of Loss (Form CCC-576) within 15 days of a disaster event or when the loss becomes apparent. Report your loss before you destroy, replant, or graze affected crop, because an appraisal may be required.
- Provide 2008 production records to the county office before August 15<sup>th</sup> or before 2009 harvest, so we can update your Approved Production History (APH).
- File 2009 acreage report before August 15<sup>th</sup> on crop acreage for which NAP benefits may be requested.

## Banking Changes?

Payments are electronically transferred into your bank account. Please notify the office of any changes in your bank account or bank changes to avoid possible payment delays.

## New Payment Method

Producers will now receive all payment statements from the National Finance Center (NFC). The County FSA Office provides the direct deposit and program payment information to NFC. NFC then processes the payment to your bank account.

**The USDA Customer Statement** is part of the USDA's eGovernment Initiative and brings to the farmer and rancher unprecedented online access to their business activities with USDA 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The Customer Statement, "will put a whole range of USDA services and programs into a single report at the fingertips of agricultural producers." The Customer Statement allows USDA customers to view:

- their participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation programs,
- information on farm loans, and
- conservation plan and land unit information.

Access to the Customer Statement is available to all USDA customers. In order to insure personal identity, you must first register for a [USDA eAuthentication Level 2 Account](#). Go to <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov.#L2> This process starts online by creating a user ID and password and confirming your email. The final step requires visiting a local USDA Service Center to complete the e-Authentication Level 2 process.



## **GRASSLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (GRP) SIGNUP OPEN IN OREGON FOR A LIMITED TIME**

For the first time since 2005, the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) is open for enrollment in Oregon. GRP is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect and preserve working grasslands.

The GRP signup will be open in Oregon from April 20 until May 15, 2009 for working grazing lands and lands under expiring Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts. Grazing lands included in the signup are: grassland, rangeland, pastureland, shrubland and certain other lands.

Through the program, the landowner or land manager enters into an easement or rental agreement that prevents conversion of the land to uses other than grazing in exchange for program payments. GRP participants retain ownership and the right to use the land for grazing and other compatible uses.

The program aims to conserve grassland resources, promote agricultural stability, prevent conversion to other land uses, improve biodiversity, and protect Oregon's scenic landscapes.

Administration of GRP is a coordinated effort between the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Eligible Landowners or operators who manage their grasslands, have an active grazing operation, and who want to maintain and prevent their land from future conversion from uses other than grazing can apply for GRP at their local USDA Service Center:

<http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=OR>.

For Fiscal Year 2009, approximately \$725,000 in GRP funding is available in Oregon.

For application materials and more information, visit the NRCS Web site at:

[www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/grp](http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/grp).



## **Grant SWCD Weed District**

### **Grant County Cooperative Weed Management Area (GCCWMA)**

The GCCWMA is a cooperative group of land managers and landowners with the common goal of protecting and preserving all lands and resources in Grant County from the degrading impact of noxious weeds. The idea behind the GCCWMA is to encourage cooperation and coordination between agencies, land managers, and landowners by implementing education and awareness programs and events as well as on the ground weed control projects funded by cooperator contributions and competitive grants.

The GCCWMA has three community events scheduled in May.

1<sup>st</sup> Event is a "Community Weed Pull" at the John Day Fossil beds in cooperation with SOLV (Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism) Saturday May 9, 09. The "Weed Pull" will be from 9:00am-11:45am Lunch 12:00pm-1:00pm (barbeque lunch will be provided) 1:15pm-3:00pm will be a power point presentation given by Grant SWCD Weed Control on plant identification and the importance of application timing.

2<sup>nd</sup> Event "Purge Your Spurge" will be held Friday May 15th 4:00pm-8:00pm and Saturday May 16th 9:00am-4:00pm at the Grant County Home and Garden Show. This event is geared toward eradicating Myrtle Spurge from John Day, Canyon City, and Mount Vernon while raising the awareness of the detrimental harm this plant can cause. Myrtle Spurge was introduced to the US as a garden ornamental and has escaped infesting thousands of acres in the northwest. Landowners can dig up, and bring their bagged Myrtle Spurge to the Home and Garden Show and the GCCWMA will trade them for hearty desirable native plants. **Citizens planning on bringing plants should always wear gloves; Myrtle Spurge contains a milky latex that can blister and burn the skin if direct contact is made.**

3<sup>rd</sup> Event is a "Community Weed Pull" at the Dunstan Preserve located at 71068 Middle Fork Lane Bates, OR. (near mile post 16 on County Road 20) this event will run from 9am-3pm, with lunch at 12pm (please bring sack lunch).

For more information please contact Grant Weed Control at 541-575-1554.

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FARM SERVICE AGENCY  
Grant County FSA Committee  
721 S. Canyon Blvd.  
John Day, OR 97845**

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### **Foreign Investors**

Foreign investors with an interest in agricultural lands in the U.S. totaling 10 acres or more are required to report their holdings and any transactions to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land are required by law to report the transactions within 90 days. Failure to file a timely or accurate Disclosure report can result in a penalty with fines up to 25% of the fair market value of the agricultural land.

File the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) reports with the Farm Service Agency County Office where the land is located.

**FSA programs are available to all eligible interested persons. Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please contact the office.**

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