

July 2012



Jackson-Josephine County FSA Updates

Jackson/Josephine County FSA Office

573 Parsons Dr. Ste.101
Medford, OR 97501

541-776-4270 x 2 phone
541-776-4295 fax

Hours

Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Jackson/Josephine County Staff

Joe Hess,
County Executive
Director
joe.hess@or.usda.gov

Diane Rabbe,
Program Technician

Donna Finch,
Program Technician

Chris Kirby,
Farm Loan Officer
Klamath Falls Office
541-883-6924 x 104

Committee Members:
LAA#1, Suzanne Ginet
LAA#2, Charles Boyer
LAA#3, Lori Mefford
Website:
www.fsa.usda.gov/OR

FSA COC Nomination Deadline

County committees (COC) play a crucial role in helping county office staff implement Farm Bill programs. Producers can participate in the FSA county committee election process by nominating an eligible candidate by the Aug. 1, 2012, deadline. This year FSA is seeking nominations from producers in southern Josephine County.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The form and more information about FSA county committee elections is available at:

<http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFileServices/eForms/FSA669-A.PDF>

During their three-year terms, FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support programs and more. Nationwide, more than 7,800 farmers and ranchers serve on FSA county committees. Committees consist of three to five members who are elected by eligible local producer voters.

Banking Changes? – Let FSA Know to Prevent Payment Delays

If you changed banks and did not notified FSA, your payment could be delayed. Because payments are electronically transferred into your bank account, changes to your account and routing numbers need to be shared with FSA immediately. Also on FSA loans, to continue to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important to remember that changes in a producer's account be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible delays. Changes can include the type of account, bank mergers, new routing number or account numbers. Your county FSA office can help you avoid these problems if you will contact them in advance of any banking changes.

Disaster Assistance

The Farm Service Agency would like to remind crop and livestock producers that have recently experienced severe damage from natural disasters that FSA programs are available to assist with recovery.

We encourage all who have suffered a disaster due to the recent severe weather conditions to read the fact sheets and visit their local FSA county office to get a quick start in the recovery process.

Fact sheets for all of these programs can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov; click on *Newsroom*, then *Fact Sheets*.

Filing for NAP Losses

Form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

MILC Program

FSA's Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC) compensates dairy producers when domestic milk prices fall below a specified level. MILC payments are made when the Boston Class I milk price falls below \$16.94 per hundredweight (cwt) as adjusted by the dairy feed ration adjustment. The monthly Boston price is posted online at:

http://www.fmmone.com/Northeast_Order_Prices/NE_Prices_main_new.htm.

Eligible producers should submit the current MILC (Milk Income Loss Contract) statements for payment. Eligibility for 2012 must be completed before payments can be disbursed. Contact the office to check the status of your eligibility. Producers new to the program are encouraged to apply before Sept. 30, 2012.

State and county offices shall view and print their producer spot check lists as posted on the designated website. If an entity is selected from the national database that is no longer farming or participating in the 2012 crop year, a notation shall be made on the spot check list. For more information about the new spot check selection procedure, contact the local office.

Farm Reconstitutions

At FSA, farms are "constituted" to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. If an owner or operator cannot agree about program participation, like

in the case of the new ACRE program, then producers should inquire about a reconstitution of the farm at the local FSA office.

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 Aug. 1, 2012, for farms enrolled in specific programs.

Minority Farm Register – Now Open for Minority Farmers and Ranchers

Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages minority farmers and ranchers in Oregon to voluntarily join the USDA Minority Farm Register to receive information and opportunities from USDA agencies. The new Minority Farm Register is an outreach tool designed to reach underserved farmers and ranchers who are not currently enrolled in USDA loan, farm or conservation programs.”

By joining the Register, minority producers may receive outreach materials, newsletters, and program announcements from USDA agencies. They may also receive information and assistance from other USDA-approved outreach partners, such as community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, and minority-serving educational institutions. USDA will carefully control access to and use of the Register.

Registration forms are available in Spanish (AD-2035SP) and English (AD-2035) on the FSA web site www.fsa.usda.gov under “Forms”.

Sign Up for FSA Fence Post for Daily Updates

The Farm Service Agency Fence Post is an online newsletter that is updated on an almost daily basis. It contains articles of interest on the agency’s programs and departments, as well as success stories from the field.

To access Fence Post visit <http://fsa.blogs.govdelivery.com/>. Producers can sign up for weekly Fence Post updates by putting an email address in box that says “Get Email Updates.”

Highly Erodible Lands and Wetland Compliance

Producers participating in most programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are required to abide by certain stipulations on any land owned or farmed that is highly erodible or that is considered a wetland.

To be in compliance with the highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions, producers must agree, that they **will not**:

- Produce an agricultural commodity on highly erodible land without a conservation system;
- Plant an agricultural commodity on a converted wetland;
- Convert a wetland to make possible the production of an agricultural commodity.

Producers must notify the FSA and update Form AD-1026 if they plan to remove fence rows, convert woodlots to cropland, combine crop fields, divide a crop field into two or more fields, install new drainage, or improve or modify existing drainage. FSA will notify NRCS who will then provide highly erodible land or wetland technical determinations.

To get additional information on highly erodible land and wetland conservation compliance contact

the FSA office or the NRCS office at a local USDA Service Center. Additional information about conservation programs offered by FSA can be found online at www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation, and information on NRCS programs can be found at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>.

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans to purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, FSA has provided priority funding for socially disadvantaged applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is a member of a group that has been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as a group member without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact their local FSA office for details. FSA loans are available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact Chris Kirby at (541) 883-6924 extension 104 or email him at chris.kirby@or.usda.gov.

Selected Interest Rates for July 2012

90-Day Treasury Bill - 0.125%

Farm Operating - Direct - 1.25%

Farm Ownership - Direct - 3.375%

Limited Resource - 5.00%

Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher - 1.50%

Emergency - 3.75%

Farm Storage Facility – 7 year - 1.125%

Farm Storage Facility – 10 year - 1.625%

Farm Storage Facility – 12 year – 1.875%

Commodity Loans 1996-Present - 1.250%

Dates to Remember

Aug. 1 -Last Day to file COC nomination form

For more information on bulletin subjects or details regarding your GovDelivery subscription with the Jackson-Josephine County FSA Office, contact Joe Hess, County Executive Director at joe.hess@or.usda.gov or 541-776-4270 extension 2.

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 20250-9410, 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).