

October 2012



## Jackson-Josephine County FSA Updates

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

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### 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  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### Jackson/Josephine County Staff

**Joe Hess,**  
County Executive  
Director

[joe.hess@or.usda.gov](mailto:joe.hess@or.usda.gov)

**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](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/OR)

## USDA Announces Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period Now Open

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced that Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims between September 24, 2012 and March 25, 2013.

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied their applications 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, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

The Department will continue reaching out to potential Hispanic and female claimants, around the country to get the word out to individuals who may be eligible for this program so they have the opportunity to participate.

Call center representatives can be reached at 1-888-508-4429. Claimants must register for a claims package (by calling the number or visiting the website) and the claims package will be mailed to claimants. All those interested in learning more or receiving information about the claims process and claims packages are encouraged to attend meetings in your communities about the claims process and contact the website or claims telephone number.

**Website:** [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov)

**Phone:** 1-888-508-4429

**Claims Period: September 24, 2012 - March 25, 2013.**

Independent legal services companies will administer the claims process and adjudicate the claims. Although there are no filing fees to participate and a lawyer is not required to participate in the claims process, persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

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## **IRS 1099 Changes**

Calendar year 2012 has brought changes to the way FSA reports farm program payments to the producer and to the IRS.

In past years, IRS Forms 1099-G would be issued to show all program payments received from the Farm Service Agency, regardless of the amount.

Starting with calendar year 2012, producers whose total reportable payments from FSA are less than \$600 will not receive IRS Form 1099-G. Also, producers who receive payments from more than one county will only receive one Form 1099-G if the total of all payments from all counties is \$600 or more.

The same changes will apply to producers and vendors who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA.

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## **Staffing Changes and Office Hours**

Due to recent staffing changes in the office, it is now highly recommended that you schedule an appointment to conduct your FSA business, or at the very least call ahead to make sure the office is open. The office may be closed for field visits and attending training conferences or outreach meetings. This may help reduce your waiting time or prevent multiple trips to the office.

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## **2013 Reporting of Fall Seeded Crops**

All Oregon producers are reminded that the acreage reporting dates for many crops have changed. The first acreage reporting date is **November 15** but it applies to only producers that have a purchase an Apiculture policy (honey) or a Pasture Range and Forage (haying and grazing) policy from RMA or a crop insurance agent. December 15 is the new date to report Alfalfa Seed, Fall Barley, Fall Canola, Established Perennial Forage, Fall Mint, Onions (planted 8/15-9/15), Fall Wheat, and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains. Please contact your office for an acreage report appointment now.

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## **County Committee Elections**

Watch your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters on Nov. 5, 2012. If for some reason you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office.

**Completed and signed ballots must be returned to the county office by close**

**of business on Dec.3, 2012.**

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## **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.

### **Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:**

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Call Chris Kirby in the Klamath Falls office at (541) 883-6924 extension 104 for help preparing and processing the application forms.

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## **Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers**

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more that 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA

Additional program information, loan applications and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

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## **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](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) under "Forms".

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## 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."

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## 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](mailto:chris.kirby@or.usda.gov).

### Selected Interest Rates for October 2012

90-Day Treasury Bill - 0.125%

Farm Operating - Direct - 1.125%

Farm Ownership - Direct - 3.00%

Limited Resource - 5.00%

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

Emergency - 2.125%

Farm Storage Facility – 7 year - 1.125%

Farm Storage Facility – 10 year - 1.750%

Farm Storage Facility – 12 year – 2.000%

Commodity Loans 1996-Present - 1.125%

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### Dates to Remember

November 5 - County Committee Ballots mailed for LAA 1, Southern Josephine County

November 12 - Veteran's Day, Office Closed

November 22 - Thanksgiving, Office Closed

December 15 - 2013 Acreage Reporting Deadline for specified crops, see article above

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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](mailto:joe.hess@or.usda.gov) or 541-776-4270 extension 2.

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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).

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