

November 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.

Jackson/Josephine County FSA Office

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Hours

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

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Committee Members:

LAA#1, Suzanne Ginet
LAA#2, Charles Boyer
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Website:
www.fsa.usda.gov/OR

One More Ballot Left to Mail – Josephine County Producers on the County Committee Election Ballot

With one election wrapping up, farmers and ranchers in southern Josephine County are reminded that another important decision remains to be made about who will represent the area on the Jackson-Josephine FSA County Committee (COC) from Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1. The nominees who are on the ballot which was mailed out on November 5 are:

Jeanne Rodgers

Jeanne was raised on a dairy in and around the Sacramento Valley. She and her sister moved to Oregon in 1969 with some cows to milk and began shipping the milk to Rogue Valley Creamery. When the creamery closed they moved to Grants Pass and milked cows until 1996. She then changed to a beef cow-calf operation and began raising Holstein heifers for a local dairyman. She has been a member of the Josephine County Farm Bureau and served as a delegate and as Region 11 Director on their Board of Directors. She also belongs to the Josephine County Sherriff Posse.

Robert (Bob) Crouse

Bob Crouse of Fort Vannoy Farms Inc., located just outside of Grants Pass, has transitioned from a dairy to growing fresh vegetables. Fort Vannoy Farms Inc. is a family-owned farm and sells at several local farmers markets in addition to operating their own farm stand. Bob is currently serving as the County Committee alternate for LAA 1.

The deadline for returning ballots is December 3, 2012.

Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and Crop Insurance Deadlines Approach.

If you want to purchase NAP coverage or crop insurance coverage for your apples, apricots,

blueberries, caneberries, chestnuts, cherries, grapes, hazelnuts, honey, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums/prunes, strawberries or walnuts you have until **November 20th** to contact your local FSA office or private insurance agent as to whether the crop is covered by NAP or crop insurance in your county.

If you wish to purchase coverage for any of the grasses or legumes for seed as well as all forage and grazing crops (except oats) you have until **November 30th** to contact your local FSA office.

There is a Pasture, Range, Forage (PRF) Vegetation Index and Apiculture (Honey) Vegetation Index (API) policy available through crop insurance that has a deadline of November 15th (including acreage reports!) so contact your private insurance agent right away. Get your acreage reported to the FSA office before **November 15th** if you purchase either of these two policies.

Important FSA Dates to Remember

November is here and I'd like to remind producers of program sign up dates, and important deadlines coming up here at the FSA office.

Oct. 22 - 2011 SURE crop disaster sign up began; sign up ends June 7, 2013

Nov. 5 - COC Ballots mailed out to Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1. If you live in the following communities, be on the lookout for your ballot and return it by Dec. 3. (Grants Pass, Murphy, Williams, Cave Junction)

Nov. 10 – Land Connection Conference @ the SOU/RCC Higher Learning Center in Medford. See article below.

Nov. 12 - Office closed for Veteran's Day Holiday

Nov. 20 - Last day in Oregon to purchase a NAP policy for apples, apricots, blueberries, caneberries, chestnuts, cherries, cranberries, grapes, hazelnuts, honey, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, prunes, strawberries & walnuts. **Peaches and Pears are insurable in Jackson & Josephine counties so contact your insurance agent.**

Nov. 22 - Office close for Thanksgiving Holiday

Nov. 30 - Last day in Oregon to purchase a NAP policy for all forage and grazing crops (except oats) and all grasses and legumes for seed.

Dec. 3 - COC Ballots due are in the office

December 15 - Last day to do an acreage report for fall planted crops; ex. winter wheat, perennial forage crops (hay, grass for grazing), mint and other fall seeded crops.

*Items in bolded print are especially pertinent to many Jackson and Josephine County FSA producers

***To make an appointment to sign up for a program, or report your acreage please call the office at 541-776-4270 x 2. Thank you!**

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.

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 than 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

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.

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

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.

Information on FSA farm loans can be found at the ...

[Land Connection Conference](#)

[8:30am-6pm Saturday Nov. 10, 2012](#)

[Rogue Community College Higher Education Center in Medford.](#)

Farmers and farmland are two sides to one very precious coin of local food. Over the next 20 years, it is estimated that 400 million acres of farmland will change hands. This conference will focus on giving land owners and farmers the tools to work together. It will also highlight what is happening at a national and local level in terms of agricultural land preservation policy.

Our confirmed speakers/topics so far are:

- Basic land use law - what you can and cannot do on your land
- Financing agricultural businesses
- Ties to the land -- succession planning with the OSU Austin Family Business program
- Southern Oregon Land Conservancy - using easements to preserve farm land
- The local picture - an update on Regional Problem Solving and state legislation
- The national picture from American Farmland Trust

Whether you own farmland, want to farm, or just care about preserving this valuable resource, join us. This event is presented by [Thrive](#) with funding from the city of Ashland. Co-sponsored by the [OSU Small Farms Program](#) and [Friends of Family Farmers](#). For more information, call [541-488-7272](tel:541-488-7272) or email info@thriveoregon.org.

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.

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