



August 2009

Farm Service Agency

Lake County News

Lake County
Farm Service Agency
17612 Hwy 395
Lakeview, OR 97630
Ph: (541) 947-2367 Ext. 2
FAX: (541) 947-2070

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

County Committee
Martin Murphy
Alice Dinsdale
Jim McNeley

Office Staff
Marti Hamilton
Maryanne Webster

DCP Signup Underway

Signup has started for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program for farms with base acres. Signup will continue until June 1, 2010. The June 1, 2010 deadline is mandatory for all participants. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications.

Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is designed to provide catastrophic coverage for all crops not covered by Federal Crop Insurance. These include alfalfa, grass hay, rye crops, grain hay and pasture.

Producers interested in participating in the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) must have insurance coverage for their pasture. Producers interested in purchasing coverage for the 2010 crop year must do so by the following deadlines:

- Pasture, alfalfa, grass, mixed forage, barley, rye, triticale and wheat hay—11-30-2009
- Oat hay—03-15-2010

The application fee is \$ 250 per crop, \$ 750 per county and \$ 2,250 for multi-county.

County Committee Elections

Be watching your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters starting on November 6, 2009. If you don't receive a ballot, notify the county office. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on December 7, 2009.

Rural Youth Loans

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.

Loans for 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 capital and/or to purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged groups. Socially disadvantaged applicants are members of groups who have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice without regard to their individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

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

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program Changes

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program 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. New loan terms of 7, 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 Treasury Department.

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. The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Oats, wheat, barley harvested as grain or hay
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

Biomass Crop Assistance Program

The new Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) is of interest to biomass conversion facilities and those who own, chip and transport biomass material to these facilities. Chippers and producers with conversion facilities contracts to prepare and deliver materials can apply for matching payments under the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) component of BCAP. Once an agreement is signed between FSA and a biomass conversion facility and funding is provided, the facilities can begin accepting materials under this program.

The matching CHST payments are paid at a rate of \$1 for \$1 per dry-ton equivalent received by a qualified biomass conversion facility, not to exceed \$45 per dry-ton equivalent. A biomass owner is eligible to receive payments for two years. The purpose of the matching payments is to assist biomass handlers with the CHST cost of delivering biomass to a qualified biomass conversion facility. Once a facility becomes qualified, eligible material owners or producers who deliver biomass to that facility may be eligible to receive CHST payments.

Eligible material owners or producers, who market eligible material to a qualified biomass conversion facility, may apply for the matching CHST payment at their FSA county office. An application must be submitted and approved before the eligible material is sold or delivered to a qualified biomass conversion facility. After the product is delivered, a material handler must provide FSA with documentation of product quantity, quality and payment rate. County offices will validate payment requests with information in the county office and information provided under the terms of MOUs with the qualified biomass conversion facilities. CHST payments will not be authorized until appropriate environmental analysis is completed.

Important Dates

November 11, 2009—Office closed in observance of Veteran's Day.

November 26, 2009—Office closed for Thanksgiving holiday.

November 30, 2009—Deadline to purchase 2010 NAP for majority of crops in Lake County.

December 25, 2009—Office closed for Christmas holiday.

January 1, 2010—Office closed for New Year's holiday.

Special Accommodations

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 FSA office.

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