



NEWSLETTER



May 7, 2012

**Lane County
Farm Service Agency**

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Hours
M-F 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

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Lane Co Committee

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Farm Loan Staff

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County FSA Committee (COC) Election

June 15 through August 1, 2012, is the period for nominating farmers and ranchers as candidates for the local COC election. FSA encourages all eligible producers to nominate themselves or another eligible producer, to run for office. Nomination forms (FSA-669-A's) are available:

-CLICK here:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>

-by picking up FSA-669A at your local FSA office

-by calling your local office and requesting FSA-669A be sent to you.

Nominations are being sought from eligible candidates to represent Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1 which includes **the Junction City, North & West Eugene, and Highway 36 to Deadwood areas of Lane County.** A map of the boundary is posted in our office. Producers in this area will receive a postcard by mail with this same information.

**DCP/ACRE Sign-Up – 6/1/12 Deadline
Call Phil or Jean for an Appointment**

The 2012 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment runs from Jan. 23, 2012 through June 1, 2012. **IMPORTANT REMINDERS:**

- All producers planting on **DCP base** acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.

- Changes on the farm after June 1 enrollment in DCP/ACRE **must** be reported to your local FSA office. Changes may include: a) Ownership changes, b) Producer changes (Individuals and Entities), c) Change in crop shares arrangements

- No changes can be made after Sept. 30, 2012

**Acres Certification June 30 Deadline
CALL FOR AN APPT TODAY**

Time is nearing for producers to certify their 2012 acreage. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of program benefits.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many FSA programs. For crops enrolled in programs other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program), acreage reports are to be certified by the June 30th, even if the ground is fallow and within 15 days of the planting of the crop if after June 30th.

Acreage reports on crops covered by NAP are due in the county office by the earlier of June 30th, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

Farm Record Changes

June 1, 2012 is the deadline to provide changes to your farm records at your local FSA office for the 2012 crop year. If you are changing your operation entity type, adding or dropping cropland or farms, or adding entities to your operation, contact the FSA office by June 1.

**Highly Erodible Lands & Wetland
Conservation Certification – What's it all
about?**

FSA has a new Fact Sheet available on this very subject. So when you are looking at that form AD-1026 and wondering "why am I filling this out?" this fact sheet might help you understand the background and reasoning a little more. Click here

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/hel_wc_2012.pdf

Free GovDelivery – Enroll Now

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving into paperless operation to save tax payer dollars. Producers can now enroll in the new GovDelivery system which provides instant electronic deadline reminders, bulletins and newsletters direct to your email address. Now you don't have to wait for a printed newsletter only occasionally sent through the mail.

County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers. Producers can subscribe to receive free e-mail updates by visiting www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe. You can subscribe to any number of county and state FSA offices. Give it a try now.

Unauthorized Disposition of Grain

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe and a producer's name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period.

Always call the county office before you haul any grain.

Rural Youth Loans

Farm Loan Staff – Tangent – 541.967.5925 X2

FSA 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's advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience.



Maximum loan amount is \$5,000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- United States citizenship (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien status;
- Between 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.

Stop by your FSA office for help preparing and processing the application forms.

Crop Losses or Possible Damaging Weather

If you have had possible damaging weather or have reason to know you have a crop loss and are covered by the Non-insurance Assistance Program (NAP) then be sure to get a CCC-576 Notice of Loss filed with your local FSA office within 15 days. This must be in the office within 15 days, not just called into the office but signed and in the office within the time frame. If you are going to do something else with the crop, then an inspection will need to be scheduled before you destroy the crop.



Direct and Guaranteed Loans

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

If you've had a setback and your current lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan, ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans have a maximum limit of \$1,214,000. This makes the maximum combination of direct and guaranteed loan indebtedness \$1,514,000.

The one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans has increased from 1 percent to 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan. This applies to loans obligated after October 1, 2011. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the Tangent Farm Loan Staff. Or Click here for a fact sheet. http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/farmloanoverview_12.pdf

Adjusted Gross Income

USDA and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) have established an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent is required from each producer or payment recipient to initiate the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA.

This ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-931 to their local FSA County Office by June 15 to avoid interruption of program benefits. This form may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eForms/welcomeAction.do?Home>

**NOTICE
TO HISPANIC
AND/OR
WOMEN
FARMERS OR
RANCHERS
COMPENSATION
FOR CLAIMS OF
DISCRIMINATION**

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

To register your name to receive a claims packet, call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or visit: www.farmerclaims.gov

The claims package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Farm Safety

Flowing grain in a storage bin or gravity-flow wagon is like quicksand; it can kill quickly. When a person is caught in flowing grain it takes less than five seconds to be trapped. The mechanical aspects of grain handling equipment also present a real danger. Augers, power take-offs and other moving parts can grab arms, legs, hair or clothing.

These hazards, along with pinch points and missing shields, are dangerous enough for adults; not to mention children. It is always advisable to keep children a safe distance from operating farm equipment. Always use extra caution when backing or maneuvering farm machinery. Ensure everyone is visibly clear and accounted for before machinery is engaged.

FSA wants all farmers to have a productive crop year; that begins with putting safety first.

Selected Interest Rates for May 2012

90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating – Direct	1.50%
Farm Ownership – Direct	3.5%
Limited Resource	5.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency	3.75%
Commodity Loans	
1996-Present	1.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loan	1.500-2.375%

Dates to Remember

May 28	Office closed - Memorial Day
June 1	2010 SURE Sign up ends
June 1	2012 DCP Enrollment closes
June 1	Farm Record Changes Deadline
June 15	COC Nomination process begins
June 30	Last day for filing acreage reports
July 4	Office closed - Independence Day
August 1	Last day to submit COC election nomination form

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

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 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 and permanent drying and handling equipment. 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.

Funds are made available in two parts: an early partial disbursement and the final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

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.

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov. Get a fact sheet here: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/farm_storage_fac_loan.pdf

CELEBRATE

ASIAN AMERICAN &

PACIFIC ISLANDER

HERITAGE IN MAY

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”.



CREP & Continuous CRP Available Give Patti or Jean a Call for more Info

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) allows farmers and ranchers to voluntarily enroll environmentally sensitive land into a program that decreases erosion, restores wildlife habitat and safeguards ground and surface water. CREP is a partnership with federal and state government and is limited to specific geographic areas.

FSA provides participants with annual rental payments for the life of the contract (10 – 15 years) and cost sharing on practice installation. There are also incentive payments based on the cost of establishing the practice. CREP targets the use of Riparian Buffers, Wetland Restoration, Wildlife Habitat Buffers, and Wetland Buffers to meet the objective of the program.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual’s income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

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). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.