



NEWSLETTER



November 13, 2012

**Lane County
Farm Service
Agency**

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Hours M – F
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Staff

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County Committee

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Andy Petersen
Harry McIntire
Maryrae Thomson

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**County Committee Elections
Delayed Until January 2013 for
Lane County**

Lane County Committee Elections for LAA 1 (Junction City, North & West Eugene, and Highway 36 to NW of Deadwood area) will not occur until January 2013.

Ballots will be mailed January 7, 2013 to all known eligible voters in LAA 1. If you don't receive a ballot and believe you should have, please notify our office mid-January. Signed ballots must be returned to the county office by close of business on February 4, 2013.

Information on the candidates will be sent in a December 2012 newsletter.

Changing Banks

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using direct deposit.

To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

Reminder Of Changes In 2013 Acreage Reporting Dates

FSA changed their acreage reporting deadlines to more closely match crop insurance reporting deadlines beginning with the 2013 crop year.

November 15 is the first reporting date but it applies to only producers that have purchased an Apiculture (honey) policy or a Pasture Range and Forage (haying and grazing) policy from Risk Management Agency (RMA) or a crop insurance agent.

December 15 is the next deadline to report Alfalfa Seed, Fall Barley, Fall Canola, established Perennial Forage (hay, pasture, rangeland, etc), Fall Mint, Onions (planted 8/15-9/15), Fall Wheat, and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains.

January 15, 2013 is the deadline to report Apples, Blueberries, Cherries, Cranberries, Apricots, Peaches, Nectarines, Grapes, Pears and Plums

Some producers will have more than one reporting deadline. Please contact us now for an appointment to report these acres.

Selling Land

If you plan on selling farmland, you should be aware of several consequences associated with FSA programs. For example, if you're planning to sell land that's enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer doesn't continue the CRP contract, you may be required to refund all of the payments you've received to date. Reviewing program implications with your local FSA staff before completing a sale of farmland is always a prudent precaution.

Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) & Federal Crop Insurance Deadlines Approach

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 20250-9450,

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).

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 20 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 30 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 15 (including acreage reports!) so contact your private insurance agent right away. Get your acreage reported to the FSA office before November 15 if you purchase either of these two policies.

For **Lane County** the following crops are covered by federal crop insurance: apples, grapes, pears, PRF & API.

The fee for NAP coverage is \$250 per crop, with no more than \$750 per county and no more than \$1,875 for multi-county producers.

Unauthorized Disposition of Grain Held as Collateral

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 before you haul any grain under loan.

Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period

USDA has announced that Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims between Sept. 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

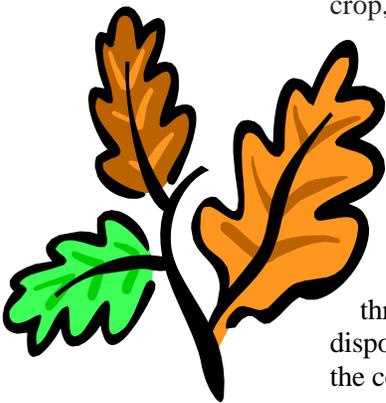
Phone: 1-888-508-4429

Claims Period: 9/24/2012 – 3/25/2013

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.

To read Secretary Tom Vilsack's entire news release click on the following link:

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/09/0309.xml&contentidonly=true>



**Special
Accommodations**

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency.

If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call our office or e-mail and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

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NOVEMBER 2012

NATIONAL
NATIVE
AMERICAN
HERITAGE
MONTH

2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program Applications

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will continue to accept SURE applications for 2011 crop losses through June 7, 2013. The SURE Program provides payments to producers when crop revenues are less than the crop guarantee. The SURE Program payment is equal to 60 percent of the difference between the crop guarantee and revenue.

To determine the guarantee and revenue for the SURE Program, all crops on all farms for a producer are included in the calculation. Payments under the SURE Program are limited to \$100,000.

To be eligible for the 2011 SURE Program, producers must have crop insurance on all insurable crops. For crops that are not covered by crop insurance such as pumpkins and cucumbers, producers must have purchased Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage at FSA. The crop insurance and NAP purchase requirement is waived for crops that are not economically significant to the farming operation. In addition, for SURE Payment the producer must have at least one crop with a 10 percent production loss.

For more information concerning the 2011 SURE program or other Farm Service Agency programs, contact your local FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov

FSA Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.

Receive News Electronically via GovDelivery

Many producers have already enrolled in the new GovDelivery system that provides notices, newsletters and reminders via email. It's free and it's instant and can be sent to your home or office.

FSA, like many other organizations, is working smarter and more efficiently. Conversion to electronic notifications via email helps conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars. County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers.

If you haven't signed up yet, do so now. And encourage your neighbors to subscribe to receive free e-mail updates instantly: www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe

CREP & Continuous CRP Available

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.

Please call our office for more information.

Selected Interest Rates for November 2012	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	1.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct	3.125%
Limited Resource	5.000%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency	2.125%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%
Farm Storage Facility – 7 year	1.125%
Farm Storage Facility – 10 year	1.750%
Farm Storage Facility – 12 year	2.000%

Dates to Remember	
Nov 12	Veteran's Day , Office Closed
Nov 15	Final Acreage Report Date, see pg 1
Nov 22	Thanksgiving Day, Office Closed
Dec 6	COC Meeting
Dec 15	Final Acreage Report Date, see pg 1
Dec 25	Christmas Day, Office Closed
Jan 1, 2013	New Year's Day, Office Closed
Jan 7, 2013	Committee Election Ballots mailed
Jan 15, 2013	Final Acreage Report Date, see pg 1
Feb 4, 2013	Deadline to return Election Ballots
March 25, 2013	Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period ends.
June 7, 2013	SURE applications due