



MALHEUR COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY



April 2009

Malheur County FSA Office

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Ontario, OR 97914
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County Committee Members

Scott Cruickshank, Chair
Fred Eiguren, Vice-Chair
Roger Findley, Member
Brian Kameshige, Advisor

Office Staff

Wes Jennings, CED
Jon Mills, FLM
Maria Lopez, FLO
Kyle Pottala, FLO
Denise Bishop, PT
Darlene Brandt, PT
Carla Dillon, PT
Maria Lujan, PT
Lori Yokom, PT

Office Hours

Monday through Friday
8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP):

Signup has started for the 2009 Direct and Counter-Cyclical (DCP) Program for farms with base acres. Signup will continue until August 14, 2009. The **August 14, 2009 deadline** is mandatory for all participants. **FSA will not accept any late-filed applications.** For 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm.

There are many new requirements this year to determine eligibility and payment limitation. With all new forms, signup will take longer than in years past. **Please contact your local FSA office to set up an appointment.**

The August 14, 2009 deadline is mandatory for all participants.
USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.

Loans Available to Producers:

Do you know that the Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes loans to farmers?

- FSA has loans for the Purchase of Farm Real Estate
- Farm Operating loans with 1-7 years repayment
- Loans for Beginning Farmers to Purchase Real Estate and Operate
- Loans for Socially Disadvantaged Persons (Minorities and Women)
- Rural Youth Loans
- Emergency Loans
- Beginning Farmer/Socially Disadvantaged Down-payment Loan to purchase Real Estate

Terms and interest rates charged for FSA loans:

- Farm Real Estate loans have a maximum term of 40 years with a present fixed interest rate of 4.125% as of April.
- Farm Operating loans have a 1-7 year term with a present fixed interest rate of 2.25% as of April.

Do you need a loan?

Farmers who intend to apply to FSA for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Filing early will help ensure that your loan is processed and approved and funded as early as possible. Not applying early can result in a delay in processing loans due to limited funds and the volume of applications that must be processed in date order. If you live or farm in Malheur County and need more details please feel free to contact Jon Mills, Maria Lopez or Kyle Pottala at (541) 889-9689 x 2.

In This Issue

- DCP Program
- Loans Available to Producers
- Acreage Reporting Reminder
- Direct Deposit
- Signature Policy
- Temporary Program Technician
- Reasonable Accommodations
- Appeal Process
- Power of Attorney
- Controlled Substance
- Customer Statement
- Dates to Remember
- Special Accommodations

Acreage Reporting Reminder:

All producers participating in any USDA programs (DCP, CRP, CREP, NAP, etc.) are required to report and certify their acres by **June 30, 2009**. Failure to make the June 30th deadline may require an on-site measurement service to be performed on the farm at the producer's expense and the producer will be out of compliance for any USDA program benefits.

Due to the requirements of the various programs that FSA administers, your 2009 crop acreage report is very important to your program eligibility especially when abnormal weather occurs (flood, drought, etc.). You, as the owner and /or operator of a farm or ranch need to protect yourself from becoming ineligible because you failed to file an accurate acreage report. Starting in 2009, producers will also need to report all of the land (farmland, cropland, rangeland, etc.) in which they have an interest. A copy of your maps are available upon request, please contact the office.

Direct Deposit:

As of Jan 1, 1999, all payments issued by the county FSA office will be by direct deposit (electronic funds transfer) to a pre-designated checking or savings account with your financial institution. Forms are available at the FSA office to sign up for direct deposit if you haven't yet. For those already signed up, it is important that you notify the county office anytime there is a change in your account number or financial institution. If we are not notified timely, future payments may be delayed.

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:

- For a minor, FSA requires the minor's signature and one from an eligible parent. Note, by signing the applicable document, the parent is liable for actions of the minor and may be liable for refunds, liquidated damages, etc
- When signing on one's behalf the signature must agree with the name typed or printed on the form, or be a variation that does not cause the name and signature to be in disagreement. Example - John W. Smith is on the form. The signature may be John W. Smith or J.W. Smith or J. Smith. Or Mary J. Smith may be signed as Mrs. Mary Joe Smith, M.J. Smith, Mary Smith, etc
- FAXED signatures will be accepted for certain forms and other documents provided the acceptable program forms are approved for FAXED signatures. Producers are responsible for the successful transmission and receipt of FAXED information.
- 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
- Spouses may sign on behalf of each other's individual interest in a partnership, unless notification denying a spouse that authority is provided to the county office
- Acceptable signatures for general partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, estates, and trusts shall consist of an indicator "by" or "for" the individual's name, individual's name and capacity, or individual's name, capacity, and name of entity

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

Reservoir Levels as of April 6, 2009:

Owyhee: 52%
368469/715000

Warm Springs: 23%
38597/169639

Beulah: 48%
28677/59900

Bully Creek: 69%
16369/23676

Unity: 84%
21075/25200

Phillips: 62%
44974/73000

Thief Valley: 103%
13679/13307

*According to BOR web-site:
www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/owytea.html

Non-insurable Assistance Program (NAP) Reminders:

All NAP producers are reminded to submit a notice of loss (FSA-576) after any natural weather event which may effect the production for their crops. Failure to file a **notice of loss within 15 days of when the loss was apparent** will result in you not being eligible for any assistance.

Production evidence for the 2008 crop year must be submitted for all NAP coverage crops. The deadline to submit the production evidence is the same deadline as the 2009 Acreage Reporting Deadline, which currently is **June 30, 2009**.

Reasonable Accommodations:

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the FSA County Office staff, and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are necessary.

Appeal Process:

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request or application for USDA services, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree. Generally, appellants have three choices — (1) an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, (2) an opportunity for mediation and (3) finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency.

Power of Attorney:

We have a power of attorney form available for those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the FSA office. This can be done by completing an FSA-211, Power of Attorney. The form is available at your local USDA Service Center or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov>. Forms obtained and completed outside the USDA Service Center office must be notarized. Starting in 2009, NRCS and FSA utilize the same power of attorney form. For more information, contact the office.

Controlled Substance:

Any person who is convicted under federal law of planting, producing, cultivating, harvesting, growing, or storing a controlled substance will be ineligible to participate and receive payments under USDA programs. Marijuana, opium poppies, and other drug producing plants are controlled substances.

Customer Statement:

Producers with an USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account will be able to access their farm data via their Customer Statement. The Customer Statement puts a range of USDA services and programs into a single report that's available online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

It allows USDA customers to view their participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation programs; information on farm loans, conservation plan and land unit information.

Malheur County FSA Office
2925 SW 6th Ave. Suite 3
Ontario, OR 97914

Return Service Requested

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Dates to Remember:

April 14, 2009: Next County Committee (COC) Meeting

May 25, 2009: Office Closed (Memorial Day)

June 30, 2009: **Acreage Reporting Deadline & 2008 Production Evidence for NAP Crops Deadline**

August 14, 2009: **DCP Deadline – No Late File Provisions**

Within 15 days: NAP Notice of Loss (FSA-576) must be filed within 15 days of loss or when the loss became apparent.

Attention Agricultural group members and leaders: Would you like FSA to come to your meeting and talk about what FSA has to offer to you? If so contact Wes Jennings or Jon Mills at 541-889-9689 extension 2 or by email at wes.jennings@or.usda.gov or jon.mills@or.usda.gov.

Special Accommodations:

"The Federal Equal Credit Opportunity Act prohibits creditors from discriminating against credit applicants on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, age (provided the applicant has the capacity to enter a binding contract); because all or part of the applicant's income derives from any public assistance program; or because the applicant has in good faith exercised any right under the Consumer Credit Protection Act. The Federal agency that administers compliance with this law is the Federal Trade Commission, Equal Credit Opportunity, Washington, D.C. 20580.

USDA regulations prohibit discrimination in USDA programs because of your race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, disability; or because all or part of your income is derived from any public assistance program; or because you have filed a program complaint, participated in any program complaint proceeding, or opposed a prohibited practice.

If you believe that you have been discriminated against for any of the reasons stated above, you may file a complaint with the Director, Office of Adjudication and Compliance, United States Department of Agriculture, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20250-9410."