



Polk County News

Polk County FSA Office
580 Main Street Suite D – Dallas, OR 97338
Telephone: 503-623-2396 Extension 2
Fax: 503-623-6335
Website: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/or/>
Email: janelle.vandyke@or.usda.gov



Ron Quiring, Chairman
Adam Loop, Vice Chair
Tom Crawford, COC Member
Sandy Moritz, Minority Advisor

Janelle VanDyke, CED – Ext 105
Laurie Johnson, PT – Ext 102
Beverly Schmidt, PT – Ext 100

Sharilyn Millette, Loan Mgr.
vacant, Loan Officer
Farm Loan employees are in
Marion FSA Office 503-399-5741 ext 2

July 2009

Dates to Remember

July 3, 2009	Office Closed , Observing Independence Day
July 22, 2008	County Committee Nomination & Election Process Informational Meeting
August 3, 2009	Last day to submit nomination form for FSA County Committee Election
August 14, 2009	Deadline to add DCP pulse crop base acres DCP & ACRE Sign Up Deadline —No late filing provisions (see article)
August 15, 2009	COC Nomination Period Ends (See article below)
TBA	SURE & Other Disaster Program Sign-Ups
Ongoing – March 1 thru July 15	Primary Nesting Season

County Committee Nominations & Elections

Since COC elections happen only once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into local administrative areas, or LAAs. Each LAA selects one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency County Committee.



Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. This year LAA 12 is up for election. LAA 12 is the southeast part of Polk County, south of Highway 22/Ellendale Rd. and East of Kings Valley Highway 223. Producers who are residents in this LAA and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates.

**Nominations
-Due Aug. 3rd-**

The nomination form, FSA-699A, is available at the Polk County FSA Office or may be downloaded from <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>. To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected. The completed nomination form must be returned to the Polk County FSA Office by the close of business on August 3rd, or postmarked by midnight Aug. 3, 2009.

See the inside of this newsletter for nomination guidelines and a form for nominations. If you would like to learn more, we are hosting an informational meeting for your convenience. The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 22nd at 10:00am, just come to the Polk County FSA Office. Please return your nominations to the Polk FSA office by August 3rd.

Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Reminders



Producers who suffer a loss of any crop covered by NAP must file a notice of loss within 15 days of when the loss is discovered or apparent. Failure to meet this deadline may result in a loss of program benefits. If the crop will be destroyed or will be grazed instead of harvested as hay, an appraisal is required of the crop acreage prior to grazing or destroying the crop. The appraisal will be done after the notice of loss is filed around the normal harvest date

2009 Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program

2009 ACRE signup is underway, and will end August 14, 2009. ACRE is an alternate to DCP participation. ACRE participants earn direct payments, but with a 20% reduction. Grain loan rates on ACRE-enrolled farms are reduced by 30%. The benefit of ACRE is potential revenue protection payments on eligible planted crops when market prices, state yields, and/or farm yields are below established guarantees.

Producers must “elect” to place a FSA farm in ACRE for 2009-2012, then “enroll” annually in an ACRE contract. The opportunity to elect ACRE will be offered each year 2009-2012, but once elected the decision is irrevocable through 2012. All operators and owners on a farm must agree to the election. There are helpful, user-friendly resources available on the web:

- The USDA FSA calculator spreadsheet along with instructions in PowerPoint format: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp> (on first bullet click blue-colored “XLS” link, mid-way down the page. Then click “enable macros” button).
- The University of Illinois free ACRE presentation with slides and recorded voice lecture. <http://www.farmdoc.uiuc.edu/presentations/2009%20items/ACRE-farmdoc/player.html>
- The Texas A&M ACRE estimated payment calculator: <http://www.afpc.tamu.edu/models/acre/index.php> (scroll down and hit the “I agree” button first)

Please don't hesitate to call the office in order to gain more information on this program. Please contact Bev at 503-623-2396 x2 if you have questions or concerns.

New Program: Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP)

In the next few weeks a new program will be introduced that will compensate producers who deliver dry biomass to conversion facilities for the creation of biofuels. It is currently referred to as the Collection, Harvest, Storage and Transportation (CHST) and is the first phase of the BCAP (Biomass Crop Assistance Program). The purpose of the program is to:



- Support the establishment and production of eligible crops for the conversion to bioenergy
- Assist agricultural and forest land owner and operators and persons with the right to collect eligible material with the collection, harvest, storage, and transportation of eligible material for use in biomass conversion facilities.

The program is still in the comment period, so keep an eye out for further information.

LIVESTOCK RISK PROTECTION (LRP) PROGRAM AVAILABLE

LRP coverage protects the policyholder **from downward price risk** during the insurance period. It does not cover any other peril (e.g., mortality, condemnation, physical damage, disease, individual marketing decisions, local price deviations or any other cause of loss).

There are two steps to buy LRP coverage: 1) producers must submit an application. Once the application is approved, the livestock crop insurance provider will assign a policy number; and 2) the producer activates coverage at any time by applying for a Specific Coverage Endorsement (SCE). No insurance coverage is provided until the producer submits an SCE. Insurance will attach immediately when RMA confirms the SCE has been accepted.

Sales for the 2010 crop year will begin July 1, 2009 and continue through June 30, 2010 (or until the maximum underwriting capacity (as established by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation) is reached). Cattle and swine producers are encouraged to contact a local livestock insurance agent to learn additional details. Federal crop insurance program policies are sold and delivered solely through private crop and livestock insurance companies. A list of livestock crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers throughout the U.S. or at the RMA Web site address: <http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents>

2009 DCP/ACRE Signup Ends August 14

Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) participants must enroll and submit the signature of all parties with a share of the crop, by **August 14, 2009**. Plan on sign-up taking significantly longer this year. 2008 Farm Bill provisions require all participants, including landowners with a share, to submit new eligibility forms. **FSA will not accept any late-filed applications.** Please contact the office for an appointment, or stop by.



**Aug. 14th Deadline!
No Extensions.**

Dallas Service Center
Polk County FSA Office
580 Main Street Suite D
Dallas, OR 97338-1911

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Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

SURE Program will be available to eligible producers on farms in disaster & contiguous counties that have incurred crop production losses & or crop quality losses during the crop year & on any farm in which during the calendar year the total loss of production of the farm because of weather is greater than 50% of normal. In general a farm is the sum of all crop acreage in all counties that is planted or intended to be planted for harvest by the eligible producer. To be eligible, mechanically harvested insurable crops must be insured under Federal Crop Insurance & mechanically harvested. Non-insured crops must be covered by the Noninsured Crop Assistance Program (NAP), unless the crop meets the de minimis exceptions (NAP fee exceeds 10% of the value of the NAP coverage or crop is expected to contribute less than 5% of that value of all crops for the farming operation). SURE payments will be issued to an eligible producer in an amount equal to 60% of the difference between the disaster assistance program guarantee & total farm revenue.

Banking Changes?

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. It has been calculated that having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit. Another benefit is that Direct Deposit to your account can be made within 48 hours.

To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions. If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

Do you wish to receive the newsletter by email? Please contact Janelle at 503-623-2396 extension 105 or by email at janelle.vandyke@or.usda.gov and you will be emailed the newsletter.

Do you no longer wish to receive this newsletter? Please call 503-623-2396 extension 2. If you leave a message please provide us with the full name on the mailing label and your phone number. Or email janelle.vandyke@or.usda.gov.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to visit the USDA Polk County Service Center should contact Janelle VanDyke at (503) 623-2396 extension 2, or email janelle.vandyke@or.usda.gov.

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