

Sexson, Darcy - FSA, Pendleton, OR

From: USDA Farm Service Agency <usdafsa@service.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2013 10:09 AM
To: Sexson, Darcy - FSA, Pendleton, OR
Subject: Courtesy Copy: Umatilla FSA September Newsletter



This is a courtesy copy of an email bulletin sent by Darcy Sexson.

This bulletin was sent to the following groups of people:

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September 2013



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Umatilla County FSA Update

What interesting weather we've had over the past 10 days. While the extra moisture has been great for fall seeding conditions and pastures, we know that many of you suffered losses due to the windstorm on Sunday, Sept. 15. **If you suffered crop damage due to the storm**, and haven't already notified the office - please call 541-278-8049 or email Darcy at darcy.sexson@or.usda.gov so that we can compile a storm report.

Also, we're getting closer to making 2013 CRP and DCP payments (starting in October) and that means that 2014 work is right around the corner. While we don't have a new Farm Bill or extension yet, producers are still encouraged to report their fall planted acreage and forage. See details below. We hope everyone had a great Round Up week, and good luck with seeding! ~ Darcy

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Next County Committee Meeting:
Thursday, Oct. 17 at 9:00 am

2013 County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to all farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the diversity of producers and represent all constituents. This means that minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for underrepresented groups.

County Committee election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters on Nov. 4, 2013. The last day to return completed ballots to the USDA Service Center is Dec. 2, 2013.

Succession in Interest

If you have made any changes that affect your interest in base acres since you signed your last Direct and Counter-cyclical Program contract, you must report these **successions-in-interest** to the county committee by **Sept. 30**, so that a final determination can be made on who is eligible for the program on the farm.

Changes that qualify as a succession-in-interest include:

- A sale of land
- A change of operator or producer, including a an increase or decrease in the number of partners
- A foreclosure, bankruptcy or involuntary loss of the farm.
- A change in producer shares to reflect changes in the producer's share of the crop(s) that were originally approved on the contract.

Not reporting a succession-in-interest can result in contract termination and a loss of program benefits for all producers involved.

NAP Loss Filing

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 (Notice of Loss) in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final crop planting date.

Fall Acreage Reporting for 2014 Crops

Producers in Umatilla County are reminded of the following 2014 Acreage Reporting Dates:

December 15 - Deadline to report Fall Wheat, Alfalfa Seed, Fall Barley, Fall Canola, All Forages (alfalfa,

grass hay, mixed forage, etc.), Fall Mint, Onions planted 8/15-9/15, and all other Fall Seeded Grains.

*Producers who do not timely file their acreage report for the crops listed above will have to follow late file provisions and pay fees associated with a late filed acreage report.

Marketing Assistance Loans

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest until the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and maintaining title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

To maintain eligibility for commodity loans producers must comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest and acreage reporting requirements and ensure that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE programs to be eligible for commodity loans.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans. The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

Preventing Fraud

The Farm Service Agency supports the Risk Management Agency in the prevention of fraud, waste and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will continue to refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse directly to RMA.

Producers can report suspected cases to the FSA office, RMA, or the Office of the Inspector General.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).

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