

Wallowa County Harvester USDA Ag Service Center

USDA SERVICE CENTER

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Hours:

Monday – Friday
7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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Pulse Crop Base Acres

The Farm Bill provides that eligible pulse-crop acres **may** be added as base acres and will be effective for 2009-2012. These base acres will be a 4-year average of the planted and considered planted acres of lentils, dry peas, large chickpeas (Kubuli Garbanzos) and small chickpeas (Desi Garbanzos) for 1998-2001. These base acres are not eligible for Direct payments under DCP. However, they are eligible for DCP counter-cyclical payments or ACRE payments. We will compute these base acres for all affected operators and owners and notify them of their options. The deadline to add these base acres is August 14, 2009.

Crop Acreage Reports

Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland, whether idle or planted, on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program, Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program, Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), any Disaster Assistance Program, and if you request a Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) and/or a Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP).

Prevented planting and failed acreage should also be reported. Prevented planting occurs when a crop cannot be planted during the established planting period because of a natural disaster. To be timely filed, prevented planted reports must be submitted no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date for the applicable crop.

Failed acreage comprises tracts of properly-planted and managed crops that did not grow or were destroyed due to a natural disaster. Reports for failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish, to the satisfaction of the county committee, that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

Crop reports must account for all cropland on a farm. Producers are required to file crop reports, form FSA-578, by August 17, 2009. Please call Susie at extension 5103 to make an appointment.

CRP Maintenance and Activities

As a CRP participant, cover maintenance is your responsibility and must be done according to your conservation plan. All CRP maintenance activity must be conducted outside the primary nesting season for wildlife and in accordance with the conservation plan. For Wallowa County, the primary nesting season is March 1st through July 15th. Spot treatment of the acreage may be allowed during the primary nesting season if certain criteria are met.

For producers who have approved CRP contracts starting with signup 26, approved management activities are required such as light disking, mowing, inter-seeding non-native and/or native grasses and prescribed burning. These management activities are cost-shared with the producer and need to be completed before the end of year 6 for a 10-year contract and before the end of year 9 for a 15-year contract.

If you have CRP acres and are interested in haying or grazing them, you must file a request prior to the following beginning dates for either activity:

- **Haying – July 16 through October 13**
- **Grazing – August 1 through November 28**

Before you can start, a revised Conservation Plan must be approved. There will be a 25% payment reduction based on the number of acres hayed or grazed. Spot-checks will be conducted and maintenance defaults will be assessed for non-compliance. Please contact Lela (extension 5102) for more details.

FARM LOANS AVAILABLE

Loan applications are being accepted for farm operating and ownership purposes. Operating loans include annual operating expenses, farm equipment and livestock purchases, and refinancing related debt. Ownership loans include the purchase or enlargement of a farm, or the construction and/or repair of buildings. Loan guarantees are available to lenders where FSA provides up to a 90% guarantee of loss on the principal of a farm loan. The loan purposes are similar to FSA's Direct Loans, except refinancing real estate debt is also eligible under the Guarantee Program.

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DCP Signup Extended

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been extended to August 14, 2009. Again, since we must complete new Payment Limitation forms for 2009, we can only accept appointments for DCP. Please call Lela (ext. 5102) or Susie (ext. 5103) to schedule an appointment.

An electronic application is also available for DCP (or eDCP) for those who wish to register and explore this option. Contact your local FSA office for more information and to establish the required *eAuthentication Level 2* account.



2009 Dates to Remember

- May 15 – Grassland Reserve Program Signup Deadline
- May 25 – Memorial Day (Office Closed)
- July 3 – Independence Day Observation (Office Closed)
- August 14 – 2009 DCP Signup Deadline
- August 14 – ACRE Signup Deadline
- August 14 – Pulse Crop Base Acre Deadline
- August 17 – 2009 Acreage Reporting Deadline

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ACRE PROGRAM

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program provides producers on an eligible DCP farm with the option to receive revenue based payments instead of DCP Counter-Cyclical (CC) payments. An eligible farm may only enroll in either DCP or ACRE. For Wallowa County, eligible farms are those with established base acreage of wheat, barley, oats, canola, rapeseed, mustard, lentils, and/or dry peas. Farms with 10 or less acres of base acres are not eligible except where the owners are socially disadvantaged or are limited resource producers.

The deadline to elect and enroll in ACRE for 2009 is August 14, 2009. If you choose not to enroll in 2009, then you will also have the opportunity in 2010, 2011 and 2012 but the deadline will be June 1 for each of those years.

Once you elect ACRE participation and do not cancel by the deadline, your election is irrevocable and cannot be changed from the time of election through the 2012 crop year. In addition, all owner(s) must agree to participate and they must understand that even an operator change or farm sale will not negate the ACRE election.

What's the tradeoff? If you enroll in ACRE, you agree to:

- forgo DCP counter-cyclical payments
- a 20% reduction in your DCP direct payments, and
- a 30% reduction in the marketing assistance loan rates for all commodities on your farm

The ACRE program provides producers an option to protect against declines in market revenue. ACRE payments are issued when two conditions are met for a commodity. The first condition is met when the Actual State Revenue falls below the State ACRE Guarantee. The second condition is met when the Actual Farm Revenue falls below the Farm ACRE guarantee.

Since this is a revenue based program, a key item is that you must be producing a covered commodity. If you aren't then this program is not for you. The covered commodity does not necessarily have to have a base. A producer meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20th at the Forest Service Conference Room, 88401 Hwy 82, Enterprise, at 6:30 p.m. Please plan to attend if you are interested in this program.

Grassland Reserve Program Signup

For the first time since 2005, the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) is open for enrollment in Oregon beginning April 20th until May 15th. GRP is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect and preserve working grasslands. Grazing lands included in the signup are: grassland, rangeland, pastureland, shrub land and certain other lands.

Through the program the landowner or land manager enters into an easement or rental agreement that prevents conversion of the land to uses other than grazing in exchange for program payments. GRP participants retain ownership and the right to use the land for grazing and other compatible uses. The program aims to conserve grassland resources, promote agricultural stability, prevent conversion to other land uses, improve biodiversity, and protect Oregon's scenic landscapes.

FARM LOANS AVAILABLE cont.

FSA's ability to partner with commercial lenders provides for useful tools in meeting your credit needs. FSA can provide for just a portion of your credit needs i.e. a tractor purchase, etc. when we work in consultation with your commercial lender.

FSA provides Direct and Guarantee loan assistance for Beginning Farmers and Socially Disadvantaged producers as well. An applicant is considered a Beginning Farmer if they have not operated a farm for more than 10 years. Youth loans are available for 4-H and FFA members' ages 10 through 20 who want to start any income producing enterprise recommended by their leader.

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