



# NEWSLETTER



October 2012

## New Employee in the Office

### Yamhill County FSA Office

**Darca Glasgow,**  
County Executive  
Director  
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[www.fsa.usda.gov/or](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/or)

**Office Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### Yamhill County Staff

Lorie Atkinson,  
Program Technician  
[Lorie.atkinson@or.usda.gov](mailto:Lorie.atkinson@or.usda.gov)

Phil Morton,  
Program Technician  
[Phillip.morton@or.usda.gov](mailto:Phillip.morton@or.usda.gov)

Suzanne Hayes, Farm  
Loan Officer  
[Suzanne.hayes@or.usda.gov](mailto:Suzanne.hayes@or.usda.gov)  
Our farm loan staff can  
be contacted at 503-  
648-3174

**County Committee:**  
Drenda Bayliss, Arne  
Goddik & David  
Cruickshank

We have a new employee in the office by the name of Phil Morton. Phil comes to us with nine years of experience in the Lane County FSA office down in Eugene.

With the shifting of office staff recently, including the office consolidation of Marion and Polk Counties, we are now staffed with two permanent program technicians. The office has been using temporary employees since Linda Miller retired to help support the permanent staff. Or even sharing with Washington County! With Phil's arrival you should see a more stable work force in the office. Our temporary staff did a great job for us and would have liked to have been in a position to hire them on in permanent positions but there are other offices within a couple of hours that would love to have their experience.

As for Phil, you will be happy to know there is an OSU Beaver banner over his desk! When you stop by the office let Phil know what crops you farm and a little background. He has a whole lot of catching up to do with our vast variety of crops. Welcome aboard Phil!

## How I Got Here by Phil Morton

My name is Phillip Morton and I have recently begun working in the Yamhill County FSA Office as a Program Technician. Prior to coming here, I spent nine years working in the Lane County FSA Office.

I grew up in Springfield, Illinois where I spent my summers cutting corn out of bean fields, de-tasseling corn, bucking bales, cleaning stalls and a whole bunch of other stuff you can't get kids to do today. While I did not live on a farm, I spent a lot of time around agriculturally related activities. Growing up in central Illinois, agriculture was, and still is, huge business.

I went to Southeastern Illinois College where I studied Forestry followed by a two year stint with the Soil Conservation Service in the southern Illinois area. But having spent my youth in the flat country

of Illinois, I longed to go west and work among the tall trees and mountains. So I managed to get a job with the Forest Service working out of Paisley, Oregon. I spent nearly five years living in eastern Oregon working on the Fremont N.F. and another five on the Wenatchee N.F. in central Washington.

As life is known to do, changes happened and years later I was in school for Architectural Design when an opportunity to complete my internship arose with the FSA. I had the pleasure of assisting Lane County correct their CLU layer for certification when a position opened for a Program Technician. I applied and was fortunate enough to get the position. I enjoyed the pleasure of serving the producers of Lane County for just over nine years before more of those changes I mentioned earlier showed up again.

Now it is my pleasure to be here in Yamhill County, where I look forward to meeting you and becoming part of the community.

## Marketing Assistance Loans

A [Marketing Assistance Loan](#) (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop (wheat, barley, oat, corn and honey to name a few). To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity, whichever is earlier. Beneficial interest means a) retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity, b) being responsible for loss or damage to the commodity and c) possessing 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.

Commodity loan eligibility also stipulates compliance with the following requirements: conservation and wetland protection; beneficial interest; acreage reporting and minimum grade and quality standards set by the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, exist 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 in the loan and denial of future commodity and 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

## Claims Filing Period for Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Who Claim Past Discrimination at USDA Open September 24, 2012 Through March 25, 2013.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced on September 24, 2012 that Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims between September 24, 2012 and March 25, 2013.

"Hispanic and women farmers who believe they have faced discriminatory practices from the USDA must file a claim by March 25, 2013 in order to have a chance to receive a cash payment or loan forgiveness," said Secretary Vilsack. "The opening of this claims process is part of USDA's ongoing efforts to correct the wrongs of the past and ensure fair treatment to all current and future customers."

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](http://www.farmerclaims.gov)

**Phone:** 1-888-508-4429

**Claims Period:** September 24, 2012 - March 25, 2013.

## Revised Acreage Reporting Deadlines for 2013 Crops

The deadline to report 2013 crop acreage is being revised to the dates shown below for Oregon. Previously, the deadline for reporting most crops has been June 30th. **Please be aware that you may need to meet multiple reporting deadlines if you raise multiple crops.** Due to these changes, our office will not be able to contact individual producers about their deadlines as it will be dependent upon what you plant. You are responsible for reporting by your crop's deadline. Strongly suggest you hang this on your fridge or computer!

<b>November 15</b>	Apiculture, PRF (perennial rangeland forage)
<b>December 15</b>	<b>Fall Wheat</b> , and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains, <b>Perennial Forage (pastures and hay)</b> , Fall Barley, Fall Alfalfa Seed, Fall Canola, Fall Mint, Onions (Planted 8/15-9/15)
<b>January 15</b>	Apples, Blueberries, Cherries, Cranberries, Fresh Apricots, Fresh Freestone Peaches, Fresh Nectarines, Grapes, Pears, Prunes/Plums
<b>May 15</b>	Cabbage (Fresh or processed) (Planted 3/12-4/20)
<b>July 15</b>	Spring Alfalfa Seed, Spring Barley, Cabbage (Fresh or processed) (Planted 2/15-5/15), Spring Canola, Corn, Dry Beans, Dry Peas, Spring Mint, Mustard, Oats, Onions (Planted 2/15-5/15), Potatoes, Processing Beans, Sugar Beets, Sweet Corn, Spring Wheat, Cabbage for seed, Grass for sod or seed <u>and all other crops</u>
<b>August 15</b>	Cabbage (fresh or processed) (Planted 6/11-8/10)

*\*If your crop planting is past the deadline, you must report within 15 calendar days of your planting date.*

If you want your maps now get a hold of the office as soon as possible so we can get record changes made and have them ready for you to start recording dates. The December 15<sup>th</sup> date will be here before we know it.

## Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) Deadlines

[NAP](#) provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to disastrous weather conditions.

The following crops for Yamhill County have a NAP application closing date of:

<b>November 20</b>	Caneberries, chestnuts, tart cherries (sweet cherries if not getting federal crop insurance of any kind), hazelnuts, honey, strawberries, walnuts
<b>November 30</b>	All forage and grazing crops except oats. All grasses and legumes for seed.
<b>March 15</b>	Beans other than processed green, broccoli, camelina, cantaloupe, cauliflower, sweet corn fresh, cucumber, lentils, mustard, oats, peas, potatoes, pumpkin, safflower, sunflower, squash, tomato, watermelon
<b>May 15</b>	Buckwheat

*\*Some of the above crops may be insurable through Federal Crop Insurance. If so, then they are not eligible for a NAP policy.*

In order to meet eligibility requirements for NAP, crops must be noninsurable, commercially-produced agricultural commodity crops for which the catastrophic risk protection level of crop insurance is not available. If the Risk Management Agency (RMA) offers coverage for a crop in the county, then NAP coverage is not available for that crop.

In the event of a natural disaster, NAP covers the amount of loss greater than 50 percent of the expected production based on the approved yield and reported acreage.

Eligible producers can apply for coverage using form CCC-471, Application for Coverage. Producers must file the application and service fee by the deadlines listed above. The service fee is the lesser of \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,875 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

## Winter Federal Crop Insurance Sales Closing Dates Near

<b>November 20</b>	Apples, Blueberries, Sweet Cherries, Grapes, Prunes, Freestone Peaches (fresh), Apricots (fresh), and Nectarines (fresh)
<b>January 31</b>	Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) and Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) – Lite (continuation policy)
<b>March 15</b>	Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) – Lite – new policy

Current policyholders and uninsured growers must make all of their decisions on crop insurance coverage, especially which crops to insure and what level and type of coverage to buy before the sales closing date. If there is no coverage filed in a county for a specific crop under the traditional MPC I program, producers can ask a crop insurance agent whether they are eligible for coverage under a written agreement

**Producers are encouraged to visit their crop insurance agent soon** to learn specific details for the 2013 crop year. Federal crop insurance program policies are sold and delivered solely through private insurance companies and agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers in the United States or on the RMA Web site at <http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents/>.

## Changes to Form 1099-G and 1099-MISC for FSA Producers and Vendors

Calendar year 2012 brings several changes to the way FSA reports a producer's farm program payments to the producer and to IRS. In past years, IRS Forms 1099-G would be issued to show all program payments received from the Farm Service Agency, regardless of the amount.

Starting with calendar year 2012, producers whose total reportable payments from FSA are **less than \$600 will not** receive IRS Form 1099-G (Report of Payments to Producers). Additionally, producers who receive payments from more than one county will only receive one Form 1099-G if the total of all payments from all counties is \$600 or more.

Producers who receive less than \$600 in combined payments should consult a tax advisor to determine if these payments must be reported on their tax return.

If the payments were subject to voluntary withholdings or subject to backup (involuntary) withholdings a Form 1099-G will be issued regardless of the total amount of the payments.

The same changes will apply to producers and vendors who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA.

## FSA Farm Loans

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, contact your nearest FSA office for details about direct and guaranteed loans.

Ask your current lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your current lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans have a maximum limit of \$1,214,000.

The one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans is 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan.

To find out more about [FSA loan programs](#), contact Peggy or Suzanne at (503) 648-3174 x2 in our Hillsboro office.

## 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.

## Highly Erodible Land Initiative

The Highly Erodible Land Initiative sign-up under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) began on July 23, 2012. The purpose of this initiative is to protect up to 750,000 acres of the nation's most highly erodible croplands. Producers may enroll at their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office. Enrollment will continue until the 750,000 acre limit has been met.

CRP is a voluntary program designed to help farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers protect their environmentally sensitive land. Through this Highly Erodible Land Initiative, eligible landowners receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible cropland and maintain it for a period of 10 years. Croplands with an erodibility index of 20 or greater are eligible for enrollment.

For more information producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office or visit FSA's website at: [www.fsa.usda.gov/crp](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp)

## Electronic Services Available

With Internet access, program participants can access many services from home 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and receive both approvals and direct deposit payments within 48 hours.

To participate in these electronic services, you must meet all program eligibility requirements. Online services have stringent security measures to protect your private information.

To utilize electronic services a producer needs an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires an e-mail address and filling out an online registration form at [www.eauth.usda.gov/](http://www.eauth.usda.gov/) followed by a visit to the county office for identity verification.

If you have more questions, or would like assistance establishing your account, just contact your local USDA Service Center and talk with our trained FSA personnel.

## Sign Up for FSA 'Fence Post' for Daily Updates

The Farm Service Agency Fence Post is an online newsletter that is updated on an almost daily basis. It contains articles of interest on the agency's programs and departments, as well as success stories from the field. To access Fence Post visit <http://fsa.blogs.govdelivery.com/>. On this website, producers can sign up for Fence Post updates by putting an email address in box that says "Get Email Updates" and then navigating to the publication's sign up check box.

## USDA Announces Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Sign-Up Period for 2011 Crop Losses

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28, 2012—Farm Service Agency Administrator Juan Garcia announced today the sign-up period for the 2011 crop year Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program will open Oct. 22, 2012. The SURE program is part of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill). Under the 2008 Farm Bill, SURE authorizes assistance to farmers and ranchers who suffered crop losses caused by natural disasters occurring through Sept. 30, 2011.

"Any eligible producer who suffered losses during the 2011 crop year is encouraged to visit a local FSA office to learn more about the SURE program and how to apply," said Garcia.

As of Sept. 30, 2011, the Department's authority to operate the SURE program expired along with four other, important disaster assistance programs: the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP); the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP); the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP); and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP). Production losses due to disasters occurring after Sept. 30, 2011, are not eligible for disaster program coverage.

To be eligible for SURE, a farm or ranch must have:

At least a 10-percent production loss on a crop of economic significance; A policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for all economically significant crops; Been physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Secretary of Agriculture under a Secretarial Disaster Designation. Without a Secretarial Disaster Designation, individual producers may be eligible if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster. A "farm" for SURE purposes means the entirety of all crop acreage in all counties that a producer planted or intended to be planted for harvest for normal commercial sale or on-farm livestock feeding, including native and improved grassland intended for haying.

Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage.

Farmers and ranchers interested in signing up must do so before the June 7, 2013 deadline.

For more information on the 2011 SURE program, visit any FSA county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov/sure](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sure)

Dates to Remember	
Oct 8	Office closed – Columbus Day
Oct 22	2011 SURE signup begins – see article
Nov 12	Office closed – Veteran's Day
Nov 15	Acreage Reports – see article
Nov 20	NAP & Crop Insurance – perennial fruits
Nov 22	Office closed – Thanksgiving Day
Nov 30	NAP –grasses & legume seed, forage & grazing crops – see article
Dec 17	Acreage Reports – Wheat, pastures, hay – see article
Dec 25	Office closed – Christmas Day

Selected Interest Rates for October	
Farm Operating - Direct	1.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct	3.00%
Limited Resource	5.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency	2.125%
Farm Storage Facility – 7 year	1.125%
Farm Storage Facility – 10 year	1.750%
Farm Storage Facility – 12 year	2.000%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%

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