



November 2008



Newsletter



Is your Turkey COOL?

Find articles regarding the Country Of Origin Labels at the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service web site: [www.ams.usda.gov](http://www.ams.usda.gov)

**COUNTY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**LAA 1- Suzanne Ginet - Chair**  
LAA 2 - Mel Morris  
LAA 3 - Lori Mefford

**OFFICE STAFF**

**Joe Hess, County Executive Director**  
Diane Rabbe, Program Technician  
Donna Finch, Program Technician

**JACKSON/JOSEPHINE COUNTY FSA**

**573 Parsons Drive, Suite 101**  
Medford, OR 97501-3769  
Phone: (541) 776-4270 ext.2  
FAX: (541) 776-4295

**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday through Friday  
8:00 AM to 4:30 PM (Open during lunch hour)  
Web site: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/or/jackson.html>



**Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program**



The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (**NAP**) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

The application deadline date for the 2009 coverage on fall seeded crops has been extended to **December 1, 2008**. In order to be eligible for disaster assistance programs, like SURE, producers are required to timely purchase, at a minimum, CAT coverage for all insurable crops and/or NAP coverage for all non-insurable crops on their entire farm. NAP coverage for 2009 costs \$250 per crop, but not more than \$750 per producer per county, or not more than \$1,875 total per producer for all counties.

Producers who already have coverage on 2008 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2009, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

Producers with 2008 NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- § Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- § File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.



**Don't be left alone standing in your field!  
Sign up for crop disaster benefits, TODAY!!**



## **NEW \*\*\*\*\* Apiculture (Honey) Pilot Risk Management Program**

The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) Board of Directors approved the implementation of a pilot insurance plan for apiculture for the 2009 crop year. The new insurance products are index programs intended to offset the loss in value of apiculture including honey production, collection of pollen, wax, and breeding using either a Rainfall Index (**RI**) or Vegetation Index (**VI**).

Both these products, developed by private submitters and approved under Section 508(h) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act, use new technology to measure apiculture production across the diverse environments on US farms and ranches. To test each index in various climate, soil, and weather conditions, the programs are available in six regions across the country: the warm and humid Southeast, the cool and humid Northeast, the Northern Great Plains, the Southern Great Plains, the semi-arid Southwest, and the intermountain region of the Northwest.

**RI** is based on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Climate Prediction Center data and uses a 12-mile square grid. Insurance payments to the producer are calculated based on the deviation from normal rainfall within that grid.

**VI** uses remote sensing data with Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) data from the US Geological Survey Earth Resources Observation and Science data center. The NDVI is an alternative measure of vegetation amount and condition, and can indicate production capacity. In general, the healthier the plants being examined, the higher the NDVI value. As with RI, losses calculated using VI are indemnified based on the deviation from normal.

In the Spokane Region the RI pilot program will be available in all counties in Idaho and the VI pilot program will be available in all counties in Oregon. The final sales closing date is Monday, **December 1, 2008**.

### **MORE DISASTER ASSISTANCE NEWS from the Farm Loan Program division.....**

Secretarial Designation Number S2776:

WASHINGTON, Oct. 15, 2008 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture designated Del Norte County, Calif., as a primary natural disaster area because of losses caused by drought and cold weather that occurred from April 1, 2008, through Aug. 31, 2008. Farm operators in Humboldt and Siskiyou counties in California also qualify for natural disaster benefits because their counties are contiguous. Farm operators in **Curry and Josephine counties** in the adjacent state of Oregon also qualify for natural disaster benefits because their counties are contiguous.

All counties listed above were designated natural disaster areas on Oct. 15, 2008, making all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for low interest emergency (EM) loans from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of programs, in addition to the EM loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity.

Interested farmers may contact their local USDA Service Centers for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs. Additional information is also available online at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.



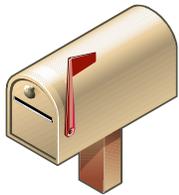
from cows, will include production beginning October 2007 through September 30, 2012.

Changes to the program are the Class I payment rate, production limitations, feed cost adjustment, and adjusted gross income limits. There will be 2 sign up phases. **The initial phase which was to begin November 3, 2008 through December 12, 2008, has been delayed.** During this period, the operation can select as their production start month any month October 2007 through September 2008. And for fiscal year 2009, the production start month could either be October, November or December 2008 or any following month through September 2009.

**The extended phase, which is to begin December 15, 2008 through September 30, 2012,** could be delayed also. The production start month will vary depending on contract approval. Local dairy operations have been contacted. If you did not receive information regarding the MILC program, please contact Donna at extension 104.

The **Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District** has a wonderful website located at [www.jswcd.org](http://www.jswcd.org). You will find newsletters, program information, calendar of events and other links to resource agencies. Check out their **Special Section: The Rural Living Handbook**.

The **Forage Resource Management Course** is scheduled for every Thursday, beginning Feb. 19 through April 24, 2009. Classes will assist landowners to develop the knowledge and skills to improve vegetative health and vigor to pastures; reducing soil movement in fields; improve water quality, wildlife habitat, livestock production and the bottom line, PROFITS! Registration ends **December 31, 2008**. The fee for this program is \$175. Contact the JSWCD at 541-734-3143 for more info.



The mailing of newsletters is costly. Mailings will be restricted to possibly four times a year. To stay in the "know", current newsletters are posted to the office website located at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/or/jackson.html>

If you are a producer and wish to receive the newsletter by e-mail, contact Donna at: [donna.finch@or.usda.gov](mailto:donna.finch@or.usda.gov)

## FARM BILL UPDATE MEETING

A producer meeting is scheduled for Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at the USDA Service Center Conference Room. Come hear all the latest Farm Bill Updates and program options. There are several programs with Dec. 1 closing dates.

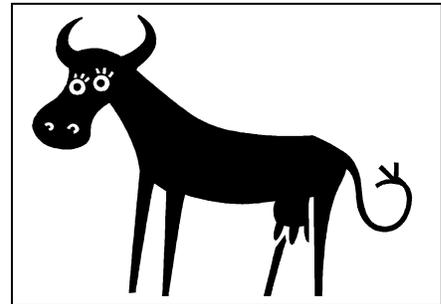
USDA-FARM SERVICE AGENCY  
Jackson/Josephine County  
573 Parsons Dr., Suite 101  
Medford, OR 97501-3769

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
TUALATIN OR  
PERMIT NO. 71

### Livestock Forage Disaster Program

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) compensates producers for feed losses caused by drought on non-irrigated pastures including native rangeland and improved pastures.

**The program also covers feed losses due to wildfire on federally managed lands.** To qualify, producers must purchase NAP coverage for eligible grazing types by **December 1, 2008**. One NAP fee of \$250 covers all grazing types in the county. If you graze livestock on a federal permit please call the office about this new farm bill program.



#### **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER.....**

- Nov. 3, 2008 – MILC initial signup through December 12<sup>th</sup>. Postponed...Stay Tuned
- Nov. 20, 2008 - Catastrophic Crop Ins. closing dates for Grapes, Pears & Stone Fruits
- Nov. 26, 2008 – Producer Farm Bill Meeting, USDA Service Center Conference Room
- Dec. 1, 2008 – Last day to apply for 2009 Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP)
- Dec. 1, 2008 – Last day to apply for 2009 Apiculture (Honey) Pilot Risk Management Program
- Dec. 1, 2008 – Election ballots due for LAA-2 Committee Member Election
- Dec. 15, 2008 – MILC extended signup
- Jan. 31, 2009 – Last day to apply for 2008 Wool LDP payment requests

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication and Compliance, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.