


MALHEUR COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY

County Committee Members Christie Amick , Chairperson Roger Findley , Vice Chairperson Scott Cruickshank , Member Brian Kameshige , Advisor	 E-Mail wes.jennings@or.usda.gov	Malheur County FSA Office 2925 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 3 Ontario, OR 97914
Phone: (541) 889-9689 Ext. 2	January 2008	FAX: (541) 889-4304

OFFICE STAFF: Wes Jennings CED, Jon Mills FLM, Maria Lopez FLO, Kyle Pottola FLO,
Denise Bishop PT, Darlene Brandt PT, Carla Dillon PT, Maria Lujan PT, Lori Yokom PT
OFFICE HOURS: Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

MALHEUR COUNTY FSA HAS A NEW CED

The Malheur County Farm Service Agency office has a new County Executive Director. Wes Jennings has taken over for Ray Dunten, who just recently retired with over 30 years of service. Wes was born and raised in Joseph, Oregon. He graduated from Oregon State University with an Agriculture Business Management degree. He Started with FSA as a County Operations Trainee (COT), where he trained in Union, Umatilla, Wallowa, and Douglas Counties.

FSA would also like to say thank you to Ray for all of his years of service to Malheur County and the FSA. We wish you a happy retirement Ray!

2007 COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Congratulations to Roger Findley and Pam Cindell. Roger has been elected to represent producers from the Nyssa and Adrian areas (LAA #3) on the County Committee. Pam has been elected 1st Alternate.

Other Committee members are: Christie Amick (Vale, Harper and Jordan Valley areas) and Scott Cruickshank (Ontario area). Committee members are elected for a 3 year term and can serve a maximum of 3 terms. Brian Kameshige has been re-appointed to the County Committee as the Minority Advisor. Brian serves a one year appointment which begins in March.

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

The Malheur County Committee is scheduled to hold their regular meetings on the first Tuesday of each Month.

Our thanks to Vikki Price for serving on the county committee for the last three terms. Vikki represented LAA #3 (Nyssa and Adrian areas). Prior to that Vikki served on the committee as an Advisor.

DISASTER PROGRAMS

With the recent passage of the 2008 Appropriations Act, livestock producers in Malheur County are now eligible for both Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP).

LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM

LCP provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered feed losses directly resulting from a natural disaster.

LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM

LIP provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths which resulted directly from a natural disaster.

To be eligible for both LCP and LIP, the livestock must have been physically located in Malheur County on January 1, 2007 and been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation. Producers must have either owned or cash-leased eligible livestock on January 1, 2007 and suffered an eligible loss from produced or purchased forage, or incurred additional feed costs as a result of the 2007 drought and the feed lost or additional feed cost incurred were intended for the use of eligible livestock.

If you have any questions or would like to set up an appointment please call the office at (541) 889-9689 extension 2.

CROP DISASTER PROGRAM SIGN UP

The Farm Service Agency is currently accepting applications for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP). Producers may be eligible for benefits if they suffered quantity losses to their crops from natural disasters and related conditions that occurred in 2005, 2006 or 2007. **Crops planted after February 28, 2007 are now eligible for disaster assistance.** Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to receive benefits.

Producers must have had multi peril crop insurance or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of the loss to be eligible for CDP benefits.

Producers must have suffered a 35% or greater loss in quantity to be eligible for CDP. Payment will be made at 42% of the established price for the crop.

FSA will accept applications for quality losses during a future sign up.

FARM LOANS AVAILABLE

Loan applications are being accepted for farm operating and ownership purposes from those having difficulty obtaining credit through private lenders. 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. A minimum qualification for **Farm Ownership** loans is 3 years involvement in the business operations of a farm. **Loan guarantees** are available to lenders where FSA provides up to a 95% guarantee of loss on the principal of a farm loan. The loan purposes are similar to direct loans, except refinancing real estate debt is also eligible.

FSA provides direct and guarantee loan assistance for beginning farmers 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' age 10 through 20 who want to start any income producing enterprise recommended by their leader. For further information, please contact the farm loan staff at the office (541) 889-9689 ext. 2.

SPOUSAL SIGNATURES

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

2008 FARM RECORD CHANGES

If you have changes to your farming operation such as new owners, new operator or if you have increased or decreased acres, please update your records with the FSA Office as soon as possible. If you have changed your operation to an entity or have changed entity type, entity members, or member percentages, please notify the FSA office of these changes. If you are doing business with a new tax ID number please prove the new number to the FSA office.

For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or land sale contract. All landowners must furnish their tax ID numbers. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land that you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and/or fines if you participate in farm programs.

AUTHORITY TO SIGN REQUIREMENTS

If you sign program documents for a business entity, use a DBA (doing business as) or you sign in a representative capacity for someone else, FSA is required to verify your signature authorization.

Please remember that FSA has a power of attorney form that is required if you are designating authority for someone to sign on your behalf. This form must either be notarized or the signature witnessed by an FSA employee.

FOREIGN INVESTORS MUST REPORT LAND HOLDINGS

“Any foreign person who acquires or transfers any interest, other than a security interest, in agricultural land in the United States is required by law to report the transaction no later than 90 days after the date of the transaction.”

Foreign investors must file AFIDA (Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act) reports with the Farm Service Agency County Office that maintains reports for the county where the land is located.

For AFIDA purposes, agricultural land is defined as any land used for farming, ranching or timber production, if the tracts total 10 acres or more. Disclosure reports are also required when there are changes in land use.

“Failure to file a report, filing a late report or filing an inaccurate report can result in a penalty with fines up to 25% of the fair market value of the agricultural land.”

Producers now have the option of conducting some business with the government online.

To register for a level 2 account you will need to access the following website: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/>

After registering on this website, you will need to visit the FSA office for identity verification. In addition, producers can inquire on any farm program financial transaction that has taken place in a county office that affects that producer, including payments, collections, debts and CCC-1099-G. That website can be accessed at: <http://customerstatement.usda.gov/>

NOTICES OF LOSS

Notices of loss for Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) crops **must be filed in this office within 15 days of the disaster event or whenever the loss becomes apparent to the producer.**

If you abandon, destroy, or change your harvest intentions without requesting a crop appraisal, the acreage will be considered to have produced ½ of the APH (Actual Production History) yield guarantee. Please call the office and talk to Darlene if you believe you have a disaster event.

THIS NEWSLETTER...

...is the primary method we have of contacting you, our customer, directly. Our goal in producing the newsletter is to make you aware of the availability of farm programs and to periodically remind you of certain program requirements. Please let us know how we are doing and if and how we can improve it.

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be made by electronic transfer. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

2007 FSA PAYMENTS

During the last week of January, producers who received payments from FSA should receive a CCC-1099 in the mail from our Kansas City office. These are the dollar amounts that are reported to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). This form is not intended to replace your responsibility to report your income to the IRS.

If you receive a CCC-1099, please compare the amount shown with your records. If you believe the amount is incorrect, or if you have questions concerning the CCC-1099 please contact us. If there is an error, FSA will furnish a corrected CCC-1099 to you.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

USDA-Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs are available to all eligible interested persons, including those with disabilities. Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for those individuals with disabilities, vision or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please contact Wes Jennings at (541) 889-9689 ext. 2.

IMPORTANT DATES

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Feb. 5, 2008	Regular County Committee Meeting
Feb. 12, 2008	Malheur SWCD meeting and lunch
Feb. 18, 2008	Office Closed Presidents' Day
March 15, 2008	NAP Application Deadline for Spring Planted Crops: Barley, Beans, Corn, Herbs, Oats, Peas, Potatoes, Rye, Sugar Beets, and Wheat.
Within 15 days	NAP notice of loss. Must report damage within 15 days of damage or when damage is apparent.

Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday

BANK ACCOUNT CHANGES

Malheur County FSA Office
2925 SW 6th Ave. Suite 3
Ontario, OR 97914

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