



November 2012

Marion-Polk County FSA Office

650 Hawthorne Ave SE, Ste 130
Salem, OR 97301-5894

Phone:
503-399-5741x2

Fax:
503-399-5799

Web:
www.fsa.usda.gov/OR

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

County Executive Director:
Janelle Huserik

Program Technicians:
Debbie Pothetes
Beverly Schmidt

Farm Loans Programs (FLP):
Scott Neiman, FLP Manager

Stuart Butsch, FLP Officer

Lora Surmeyer, FLP Technician

Marion/Polk County FSA Office Consolidation Complete

The recently combined Marion and Polk County FSA Offices are now located at the Salem USDA Service Center (650 Hawthorne Ave SE, Ste 130, Salem, OR). We are in the same office building as the Marion County FSA Office was in, but are now in the old conference room to the front of the building, take an immediate left as you come through the main entrance. As a result of the consolidation, you may be seeing some new faces! Here is an overview of our current staff:

Program Staff:

- Janelle Huserik, County Executive Director (Previously the C.E.D. of Polk County FSA. Martin Nguyen, previous C.E.D. of Marion FSA, has transferred to the Oregon FSA Office)
- Debbie Pothetes, Program Technician (Previously the P.T. of Marion County FSA)
- Bev Schmidt, Program Technician (Previously the P.T. of Polk County FSA)

Loan Staff:

- Scott Nieman, Farm Loan Manager
- Stuart Butsch, Farm Loan Officer
- Lora Surmeyer, Farm Loan Technician

State Staff:

- Rick Block, District Director (Previously stationed in Polk County FSA)
- Debby Carter, County Office Reviewer (Previously stationed in Central Oregon FSA)

With the large change in workload and staffing for the consolidated office, we appreciate if you could call ahead of an office visit or schedule an appointment so we can best serve you timely and efficiently. You can reach us at 503.399.5741 extension 2.

Changing Banks

Almost all FSA payments are made electronically using direct deposit. To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

Dates to Remember

- November: National Native American Heritage Month
- Nov 21: Early Dismissal, Office closes at 1:30 pm
- Nov 22: Thanksgiving Day Federal Holiday, Office Closed
- Nov 30: NAP Application Closing Date
- Dec 12: FSA Contact Available at Dallas USDA Service Center
- Dec 15: Final Acreage report deadline
- Dec 25: Christmas Day Federal Holiday, Office Closed
- Jan 1: New Year's Day Federal Holiday, Office Closed
- Jan 15: Final Acreage report deadline



Would an Appointment at the Dallas USDA Service Center be more convenient for you?

Schedule now for the Dallas, OR Acreage Reporting Sign-up Day on Wednesday, December 12th!

Bev Schmidt will be stationed at the Dallas, Oregon USDA Service Center on 12/12/12 to provide service to those who would find it more convenient than the Salem USDA Service Center location, and to help you meet the December 15th Deadline for Acreage Reporting (see below). Drop-ins are welcome, but your files will not be available and therefore sign-up completion may be limited if you do not call ahead. To schedule your appointment, please contact Bev Schmidt before December 12th at 503.399.5741 ext. 100.

The Salem FSA Office will be open for sign-up as well. Give us a call at 503.399.5741 ext. 2 to schedule an appointment!

Non-Insured crop disaster Assistance Program (NAP) & Federal Crop Insurance Deadlines

If you wish to purchase coverage for any of the grasses or legumes for seed as well as all forage and grazing crops (except oats) you have until November 30 to contact your local FSA office.

The fee for NAP coverage is \$250 per crop, with no more than \$750 per county and no more than \$1,875 for multi-county producers.

Selected Interest Rates for November 2012

90-Day Treasury Bill: **0.125%**
Farm Operating – Direct: **1.125%**
Farm Ownership – Limited Resource: **5.00%**
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher: **1.50%**
Emergency: **2.125%**
Commodity Loans 1996-Present: **1.125%**
Farm Storage Facility Loan: **1.125-2.000%**

Changes in 2013 Acreage Reporting Dates: Deadlines Approach

FSA has changed the acreage reporting deadlines to more closely match crop insurance reporting deadlines beginning with the 2013 crop year. The new deadlines were a cooperative effort between FSA and Risk Management Agency (RMA). The county offices are encouraging producers to schedule appointments to report before the deadlines. If plantings occur after the deadline, producers have 2 weeks to report their acreage.

December 15 is the next deadline to report Alfalfa Seed, Fall Barley, Fall Canola, established Perennial Forage (hay, pasture, rangeland, etc), Fall Mint, Onions (planted 8/15-9/15), **Fall Wheat**, and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains.

January 15, 2013 is the deadline to report Apples, Blueberries, Cherries, Cranberries, Apricots, Peaches, Nectarines, Grapes, Pears and Plums

Some producers will have more than one reporting deadline. Please *contact us now* for an appointment to report these acres. See below for a complete list of acreage reporting deadlines.

2013 Crop Year Acreage Reporting Deadlines

Deadline Date : Crops

November 15 : Apiculture (RMA policy), Pasture Range and Forage (PRF RMA policy)

December 15 : Fall Alfalfa Seed (mature), Fall Barley, Fall Canola, Perennial Forage and Grazing, Fall Mint, Onions (planted 8/15-9/15), Fall Wheat, all other fall seeded small grains

January 15 : Apples, Blueberries, Cherries, Cranberries, Fresh Apricots, Fresh Freestone Peaches, Fresh Nectarines, Grapes, Pears, Plums

May 15 : Cabbage fresh (planted 3/12-4/20)

July 15 : Spring Alfalfa Seed, Spring Barley, Cabbage (planted 4/21-6/10), Spring Canola, Corn, Dry Beans, Dry Peas, Green Peas, Spring Mint, Mustard, Oats, Onions (planted 2/15-5/15), Potatoes, Processing Beans, Sugar Beets, Sweet Corn, Spring Wheat, Annual Grass SD, Perennial Grass Seed or Sod, and ALL OTHER CROPS

August 15 : Cabbage (planted 6/11-8/10)

County Committee Elections

Marion and Polk County Committee Elections for each LAA #2 (Marion: South of Hwy 213 and North of Hwy 22. Polk: South of Hwy 22/Ellendale Rd. and East of Hwy 223.) will not occur until January 2013.

Ballots will be mailed January 7, 2013 to all known eligible voters in LAA #2. If you don't receive a ballot and believe you should have, please notify our office mid-January. Signed ballots must be returned to the county office by close of business on February 4, 2013.

The candidates in this year's election are as follows:

Marion County: John J. Beitel of Stayton, Oregon is nominated in LAA #2, Marion County, to serve as a committee member. Beitel is currently serving as a member of the FSA County Committee and raises grass seed in Marion County.

Polk County: Leonard L. Gilson of Monmouth, Oregon is nominated in LAA #2, Polk County, to serve as a committee member. Gilson currently participates in the Conservation Reserve Program with the Farm Service Agency.

Voter Requirements - Persons meeting requirements in **1** or **2**, plus **3**, below, is eligible to vote:

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as any of the following:

- An individual
- The authorized representative of an entity
- Both spouses when property is owned jointly
- Spouses in community property states.

2. Is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm.

3. Participates or cooperates in any FSA program that is provided by law.

Discrimination Prohibited - No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.



Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period

USDA has announced that Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims between Sept. 24, 2012 and March 25, 2013.

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied their applications for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000.

As announced in February 2011, the voluntary claims process will make available at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

The Department will continue reaching out to potential Hispanic and female claimants, around the country to get the word out to individuals who may be eligible for this program so they have the opportunity to participate.

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

Phone: 1-888-508-4429

Claims Period: 9/24/2012 – 3/25/2013

Independent legal services companies will administer the claims process and adjudicate the claims. Although there are no filing fees to participate and a lawyer is not required to participate in the claims process, persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

To read Secretary Tom Vilsack's entire news release click on the following link:
<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/09/0309.xml&contentidonly=true>

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of socially disadvantaged groups.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms.

Increased Guaranteed Loan Limit

The Farm Service Agency has announced that the loan limit for the Guaranteed Loan Program will increase to \$1,302,000 on Oct. 1, 2012. The limit is adjusted annually based on data compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The lending limit increases every year according to an inflation index. The maximum combined guaranteed and direct farm loan indebtedness will also increase to \$1,602,000.

As a reminder, 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.

Producers should contact their local FSA County Offices with questions about farm loans.

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 through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes 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 requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. 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 result in liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans.

IRS 1099 Changes

Calendar year 2012 has brought changes to the way FSA reports farm program payments to the producer and to the 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. Also, 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.

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

Selling Land

If you plan on selling farmland, you should be aware of several consequences associated with FSA programs. For example, if you're planning to sell land that's enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer doesn't continue the CRP contract, you may be required to refund all of the payments you've received to date. [Reviewing program implications with your local FSA staff before completing a sale of farmland is always a prudent precaution.](#)

Farm Safety

Flowing grain in a storage bin or gravity-flow wagon is like quicksand — it can kill quickly. It takes less than five seconds for a person caught in flowing grain to be trapped.

The mechanical aspects of grain handling equipment also present a real danger. Augers, power take offs, and other moving parts can grab people or clothing.

These hazards, along with pinch points and missing shields, are dangerous enough for adults; not to mention children. It is always advisable to keep children a safe distance from operating farm equipment. Always use extra caution when backing or maneuvering farm machinery. Ensure everyone is visibly clear and accounted for before machinery is engaged.

FSA wants all farmers to have a productive crop year and that begins with putting safety first.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment.

New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the U.S. Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities.

For more information about FSFL visit the FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

Unauthorized Disposition of Grain Held as Collateral

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe and a producer's name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call before you haul any grain under loan.

Special Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency.

If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call our office or e-mail and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements. Janelle Huserik, Ext. 114, 503.399.5741, Janelle.Huserik@or.usda.gov

Electronic Services Available

If a producer has Internet access, program participants can access many services from home 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and receive approval and payment by direct deposit within 48 hours.

To participate in these 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.egov.usda.gov/ followed by a visit to the county office for identity verification.

If you would like assistance establishing your account, just contact your local USDA Service Center.

FSA Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.

2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program Applications

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will continue to accept SURE applications for 2011 crop losses through June 7, 2013. The SURE Program provides payments to producers when crop revenues are less than the crop guarantee. The SURE Program payment is equal to 60 percent of the difference between the crop guarantee and revenue.

To determine the guarantee and revenue for the SURE Program, all crops on all farms for a producer are included in the calculation. Payments under the SURE Program are limited to \$100,000.

To be eligible for the 2011 SURE Program, producers must have crop insurance on all insurable crops. For crops that are not covered by crop insurance such as pumpkins and cucumbers, producers must have purchased Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage at FSA. The crop insurance and NAP purchase requirement is waived for crops that are not economically significant to the farming operation. In addition, for SURE Payment the producer must have at least one crop with a 10 percent production loss.

For more information concerning the 2011 SURE program or other Farm Service Agency programs, contact your local FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.