



Polk County News

Polk County FSA Office
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Website: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/or/or.htm>

Ron Quiring, Chairman
Scott Faber, Vice Chair
Tom Crawford, COC Member
Sandy Moritz, Minority Advisor

Andrew Schmidt, CED – Ext 105
Laurie Johnson, PT – Ext 102
Beverly Schmidt, PT – Ext 100

Sharilyn Millette, Loan Mgr.
Kathey Naegeli, Loan Officer
Farm Loan employees are in
Marion FSA Office 503-399-5741 ext 2

September, 2006

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 13, 2006 – County Committee meeting

September 29, 2006 – Deadline to complete a late file 2006 DCP contract.

September 29, 2006 – Deadline to provide all supporting documentation for DCP Contracts (banking information, highly erodible and wetland certification and payment limitation paperwork.)

September 30, 2006 – Sales closing date for federal crop insurance for 2007 wheat crop

October 2, 2006 – Sign-up begins for the 2007 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP)

October 2- 27 - The office will be processing 2006 DCP final payments

November 3, 2006 – Election ballots will be mailed

December 4, 2006 – Final date to return election ballots to the county office

OFFICE ITEMS

Just a reminder, that the FSA portion of the Service Center is located in Suite D of the office complex, which is located at the far end of the complex from the vehicle entrance.

In addition, I would like to welcome Beverly Schmidt to the FSA office. Beverly has worked for the agency for about 6 years now and comes to us from Hall County, Nebraska. She will be working with the Direct and Counter-cyclical program. Please take the time when in the office to tell her about yourself and your farming operation. Here are some interesting statistics between Hall County and Polk County. In Polk County the predominant crop is grass seed or grass, which covers about 15% of the land area of Polk County. The predominant crop in Hall County is corn, which covers about 50% of the land area, in addition about 11% of Hall county is in grass for forage.

COPIER FOR SALE: The FSA office has a copier for sale, contact Andy at the office or by phone at 503-623-2396 ext. 105

2007 NON INSURED CROP ASSISTANCE (NAP)

The Non-Insured Assistance Program is designed for all crops that cannot be insured under federal crop insurance. NAP only provides catastrophic insurance coverage (50% yield, 55% price). The cost of an application is \$100 per crop/year and no producer will be required to pay more than \$300 per county/year, no matter how many crops are grown. Here are the deadlines to apply. If you have any questions on when to apply for NAP coverage, please call the office.

Oct 2, 2006 - Alfalfa, asparagus, barley, clover, garlic, grass, herbs (peppermint), hops, meadowfoam, mixed forage, oats, rye, sugarbeet, triticale, vetch, wheat

Nov 21, 2006 – Apples, apricots, blueberries, caneberries, chestnuts, cherries, cranberries, grapes, hazelnuts, honey, nectarine, peaches, pears, plums, prunes, strawberries, walnuts.

Mar 15, 2007 – Beans, broccoli, cantaloupe, cauliflower, corn, cucumber, lentils, mustard, peas, potatoes, pumpkin, safflower, sunflower, squash, tomato, watermelon and all spring planted crops not mentioned under the November 21, 2006 Deadline above.

May 31, 2007 - Buckwheat

To find out more about Federal Crop Insurance you can pick up a fact sheet for your particular crop from our office.

2007 DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM

Beginning October 2, 2006 you can begin completing your contracts for the 2007 program year and elect to receive 22% of your total payment as early as December. We will be busy processing the final payments for 2006 during the first couple of weeks of October, but we will gladly get you started on your 2007 contracts. Some things to remember whenever visiting our office regardless of the program you're enrolled in are as follows:

1. Did you sell land, buy land, lease land or let leases expire? Bring copies of your new leases, proof of new ownership if recently purchased, etc.
2. Did you change your farming operation from one type of entity to another? Example: from a general partnership to a corporation. If so we need federal tax identification number, and official documents from the corporation identifying who has authority to conduct business on behalf of the operation.
3. Did you change banks or accounts since the last time we paid you? If so bring in a voided check so we can update your deposit information. If you have a computer and an internet connection you can do this online. Go to www.fsa.usda.gov and select "Get a login" under FSA eGov. Give us a call if you have questions or need help.

Dallas Service Center
Polk County FSA Office
580 Main Street Suite D
Dallas, OR 97338-1911

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FSA ON THE INTERNET

If you have access to the internet and have not been to the FSA home page we encourage you to take the time to do so. The FSA home address is www.fsa.usda.gov. Once at the site you will find a wealth of current agriculture news, links to different services and programs, important program dates and more. The agency has put tremendous effort into making the site user friendly and easy to navigate. If you have children there is even a FSA Kids site, which can be accessed for the FSA home address.

You can just about find almost all the answers to your questions on the internet, but if you prefer to talk to us in person or by phone we are always here.

FINANCIAL TOOLS FOR BEGINNING FARMERS

We offer some useful financial tools for beginning farmers who cannot obtain credit from commercial lenders. Beginning farmers are defined as not having farmed for more than 10 years. FSA reserves a portion of its direct and guarantee loan funds each year for beginning farmers.

A minimum qualification for farm ownership loans is 3 years involvement in the business operations of a farm. Another is the limitation of size of ownership, i.e. 30% of the average size of a farm in the county.

One tool is the down payment farm ownership loan where the applicant makes at least a 10% down payment, FSA finances up to 40% with a 15-year term and the remainder would be financed elsewhere. The purchase price or appraised value, whichever is lower, may not exceed \$250,000.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters in the area East of Kings Valley Hwy and South of Hwy 22/Ellendale Rd. Flora/Troy area by Nov. 3. Voted and signed ballots must be returned to the county office by **December 4th**. Newly elected county committee members take office Jan.1, 2007. Ron Quiring and Jim Gardner are the individuals who have been nominated for the ballot.

The County committee elections give farmers and ranchers an important opportunity to ensure that their FSA county committees represent them. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help make decisions necessary to administer federal farm programs offered in their communities. County committees make decisions on agricultural issues such as: commodity price support loans and payments, conservation programs, disaster payments and employing county executive directors. For detailed information about FSA county committees visit the county office or go online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections>

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to visit the USDA Polk County Service Center should contact Andy Schmidt, at 623-2396 extension 105, or email andrew.schmidt@or.usda.gov.

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