

November 2008 Umatilla County FSA Newsletter

USDA Farm Service Agency
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County Committee

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Bette McLean



Farm Bill Informational Meetings



November 18th, 2008:

Milton-Freewater Community Center-Club Room
109 NE 5th, Milton-Freewater, OR
Time: 1:00 PM-3:00 PM

November 19th, 2008:

Pendleton Convention Center
1601 Westgate, Pendleton, OR
Time: 1:00 PM-3:00 PM

November 20th, 2008:

Hermiston Ag Research & Extension Center
2121 S. First Street, Hermiston, OR
Time: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

***For further information and detail please contact the Umatilla County FSA office at (541) 278-8049 Ext.2 OR the Umatilla County NRCS office at (541) 278-8049 Ext.3**

NRCS ANNOUNCES LOCAL EQIP 2009 APPLICATION CUTOFF EXTENSION

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Umatilla, Morrow, Gilliam, Grant, and Wheeler has **extended the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding for the federal fiscal year 2009 cutoff date.** Due to the delay of the new Farm Bill rule making, the EQIP cutoff was extended to allow Growers, Ranchers and Foresters take advantage of any program updates that may be in the works. The earlier cutoff of October 3, 2008 has been tentatively extended to a new date of **November 15, 2008.**

The NRCS accepts applications for EQIP year-round. Funding decisions, however, are made at cutoff points during the year. Applications received before the new cutoff of November 15, 2008 will be given priority.

Interested parties should contact their local USDA-NRCS to apply. In Pendleton, the USDA/NRCS service center located at 200 SE Hailey Ave. Suite 111. NRCS also has offices in Mission, Heppner, Condon and John Day.

For more information about EQIP, including local ranking information, enrollment requirements and program payments, please visit the Oregon NRCS website at: <http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov> or contact your local NRCS office.

Non-Insured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Reminder



For the 2009 crop year only, the NAP application deadline has been extended to December 1st, 2008 for the following crops: Alfalfa, Apples, Apricots, Asparagus, Barley, Beets, Blueberries, Cabbage, Caneberries, Canola, Carrots, Chestnuts, Cherries, Clover, Cranberries, Flowers, Garlic, Grapes, Grass, Greens, Hazelnuts, Herbs, Honey, Hops, Meadowfoam, Mixed Forage, Nectarines, Oats, Onions, Peaches, Pears, Plums, Prunes, Radish, Rye, Strawberries, Sugarbeet, Triticale, Vetch, Walnuts, and Wheat (non-insurable).

Farm Loans

The limit for farm ownership and farm operating loans has been **increased**. Eligible applicants may obtain direct loans for up to a maximum indebtedness of **\$300,000** per loan type and guaranteed loans for up to a maximum indebtedness of **\$949,000**. In general, **farm ownership loans** may be used to purchase a farm, enlarge an existing farm, construct new farm buildings and/or improve structures, pay closing costs, and promote soil and water conservation and protection. **Farm operating loans** may be used for normal operating expenses, machinery and equipment, real estate repairs, and refinancing debt.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

What is SURE?

- SURE provides assistance for crop production and/or quality losses due to natural disasters.
- SURE will pay for losses beginning with the 2008 crop year through September 30th, 2011.
- For 2008, Umatilla County is adjacent to a disaster declared county. SURE sign-up will be announced at a later date.
- SURE will pay up to \$100,000 annually, including payments from Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Forage Program (LFP) and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm Raised Fish Program (ELAP).

Where will SURE be available?

- SURE is available to persons in a Secretarial declared disaster county.
 - This includes contiguous counties.
- **OR**
- To producers with a 50% production loss.

Eligible producers:

- **Eligible producers must have crop insurance or NAP on all crops and acreage in all counties and have:**
 - A risk in the crop
 - An ownership share in the crop

Total crop acreage reports:

- Total farm acreage reports are needed for disaster assistance programs, including SURE.
- This includes all **cropland and non-cropland acres** in all counties that a producer has interest.
- This includes **native and improved grass that will be hayed or grazed.**

Dates to Remember



November 11th: Veterans Day-Office Closed
November 18th: Farm Bill Meeting-Milton-Freewater
November 19th: Farm Bill Meeting-Pendleton
November 20th: Farm Bill Meeting-Hermiston
November 27th: Thanksgiving-Office Closed
December 1st: NAP Application Deadline

