

January 2014



Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page](#).

Table of Contents

- [Wallowa County FSA Updates](#)
- [Wallowa County is Eligible for Emergency Loans](#)
- [Power of Attorney](#)
- [Rural Youth Loans](#)
- [Breaking New Ground](#)
- [Controlled Substance](#)
- [Dates to Remember](#)

Wallowa County FSA Updates

New County Committee Election ballots were mailed to producers in the Lostine & Wallowa areas on December 20, 2013. These ballots will indicate that they are the corrected ballot in several places, including on the outside of the mailing, on the ballot and on the outside of the return envelope.

The corrected ballot must be returned to the our office or postmarked by January 17, 2014. All newly elected county committee members will take office February 18, 2014. All county committee members whose term expired on Dec. 31, 2013, will have their term extended to January 31, 2014.

The candidates are: Bobbie Lou Baker, Bruce Lathrop and Melvin Stonebrink.

Wallowa County FSA Office

401 NE 1st Suite E
Enterprise, OR 97828-1185

Phone: 541-426-4521 ext. 2
Fax: 541-426-4789

County Executive Director:
Bill Williams, ext. 104

Program Technicians:

Wallowa County is Eligible for Emergency Loans

Wallowa County was declared a contiguous disaster due to drought and heat using the streamlined Secretarial Disaster Designation process. Under this designation, producers with operations in any primary or contiguous county are eligible to apply for low interest emergency loans.

The streamlined disaster designation process issues a drought disaster declaration when a county has experienced a drought intensity value of at least a D2 (severe drought) level for eight consecutive weeks based on the U.S. Drought Monitor during the crop year.

Lela Kunkle, ext. 102

Emergency loans help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding and other natural disasters or quarantine.

Susie Madigan, ext. 103

Farm Loan Manager:
Kevin Jordan

Wallowa County producers have until **April 7, 2014** to apply for emergency loan assistance. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. Producers can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses, to a maximum amount of \$500,000.

541-278-8049, ext. 111

County Committee:

For more information about emergency loans, please contact the Umatilla County FSA office at 541-278-8049, ext. 111 or visit www.fsa.usda.gov .

Melvin Stonebrink

Donna Smith

Power of Attorney

Wes Wilsey

For those who find it difficult to visit our county office because of work schedules, distance, health, etc..., FSA has a power of attorney form available that allows producers to designate another person to conduct business at the office. If interested, contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office for more information.

Next County Committee Meeting:

January 23, 2014 @ 10:30 a.m.

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 \$5000.

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.

Please call the Umatilla County Office at 541-278-8049, ext 111 for help preparing and processing the application forms.

Breaking New Ground

Agricultural producers are reminded to consult with FSA and NRCS before breaking out new ground for production as doing so without prior authorization may put a producer's federal farm program benefits in jeopardy. This is especially true for land that must meet Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions.

Producers with HEL determined soils must apply tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements as specified in their conservation plan.

Producers should notify FSA prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to ensure compliance. If you intend to clear any trees to create new cropland, these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure any work will not risk your eligibility for benefits.

Landowners and operators can complete form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is necessary.

Controlled Substance

Any person convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

Dates to Remember

January 17, 2014 - County Committee Election Ballots **MUST** be returned or postmarked by this date

January 20, 2014 - Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday – Office Closed

January 23, 2014 - Wallowa County FSA Committee Meeting @ 10:30 a.m.

February 17, 2014 - Presidents' Day - Office Closed

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).