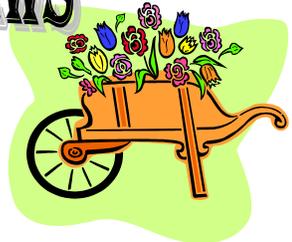




# AUGUST 2008 YAMHILL COUNTY AG NEWS

YAMHILL COUNTY FSA OFFICE  
2200 SW 2<sup>ND</sup> STREET—MCMINNVILLE  
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FACSIMILE: 503-472-2459  
WEBSITE: [HTTP://WWW.FSA.USDA.GOV/OR/OR.HTM](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/or/or.htm)



## County Committee

Lester Sitton, Vice Chairman  
Zach Christensen, Chairman  
Arne Goddik, Member

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## Farm Loan

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## NOTICE: 2008 Disaster Programs Requires Crop Insurance or NAP

### Eligibility “Buy-In” Deadline is September 16, 2008

The recently-enacted Farm Bill legislates 2008 disaster programs covering losses to crops, trees/vines/bushes, forage, and other losses due to adverse weather. These programs require the crops you planted, grew, produced or were prevented from planting to have been covered by federal crop insurance or FSA’s Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). *All* of your crops on *all* of your acreage must be covered, not only those acres that suffered losses.

Due to the late passage of the Farm Bill in May, you will be given an opportunity to “buy-in” to the disaster program by paying a \$100/crop catastrophic crop insurance or NAP service fee for any 2008 crops that are not already covered by crop insurance or NAP.

This eligibility “buy-in” must be completed by September 16, 2008 at your FSA Office to satisfy the requirement for total Crop Insurance / NAP coverage. Note that it does not provide you with crop insurance indemnities or NAP benefits. Once this requirement is met, you may be eligible for one or more of the following programs:

- **Supplemental Revenue Program (SURE):** Covers crop revenue losses from quantity or quality deficiencies in disaster declared counties, contiguous counties, or in cases where the overall production loss exceeds 50%
- **Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP):** Compensates livestock owners for forage losses due to drought. Additionally, losses due to wildfire will be covered on public lands.
- **Tree Assistance Program (TAP):** Provides for partial reimbursement for replanting, salvage, pruning, debris removal and land preparation for orchardists and nursery tree growers if losses exceed 15%.
- **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (EALHF):** Emergency relief to producers of livestock (including horses), honey bees, and farm-raised fish. Covers losses from disasters such as adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires not adequately covered by any other disaster program. This program is authorized at the discretion of the Secretary.

Another disaster program authorized by the Farm Bill is the **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality. This is the only disaster program that does not require crop insurance or NAP coverage.

Further details of all of these disaster programs, including signup information, will be provided at a later date. Note that additional requirements exist for disaster programs eligibility.



**Bottom Line: To be eligible for Disaster Programs in 2008, you must pay the fees for the eligibility buy-in at your FSA Office by September 16, 2008.** Contact your FSA Office for more information.

## Prevented Planting and/or Failed Acreage

For 2008, County Committee may accept requests for prevented planting and/or failed acreage, if timely filed by August 15. Farm visits will not be required if claims can be verified, and all other requirement are met.



## **SIGN UP UNDERWAY FOR 2008 DCP**

Producers have until September 30, 2008 to sign up for the 2008 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP). Producers can fill out their 2008 DCP contract at any USDA Service Center or Farm Service Agency County Office. Sign-up can also be completed online by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/edcp> and clicking on "Access eDCP Service." You can choose payment options, assign crop shares and sign and submit contracts from any computer with Internet access. You can also view and print submitted contract options.

FSA computes DCP payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2008, eligible producers may request to receive an advance payment of 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. FSA will issue advance direct payments as soon as practical after enrollment. Final direct payments will be issued after Oct. 1, 2008. Counter-cyclical payments vary depending on market prices, and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price (which takes into account the direct payment rate, market price and loan rate).

For all eligibility requirements or addition information, contact your local office.

### **FSA 2008 YAMHILL COUNTY COMMITTEE NOMINATION DEADLINE**

County committees play a crucial role in helping county office staff implement the 2008 Farm Bill. Due to the importance of county committee members and their roles, producers are encouraged to participate in the 2008 FSA county committee election process by nominating an eligible candidate by the August 1 deadline.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The form and other valuable information about FSA county committee elections are available online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>; click on News & Events, then County Committee Elections. Nomination forms for the 2008 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on August 1, 2008.

FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms. Nationwide, there are more than 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees. Committees consist of three to five members who are elected by eligible local producers.

FSA will mail ballots to producers beginning Nov. 3. The voted ballots are due back at the local county office either via mail or in person by December 1, 2008.

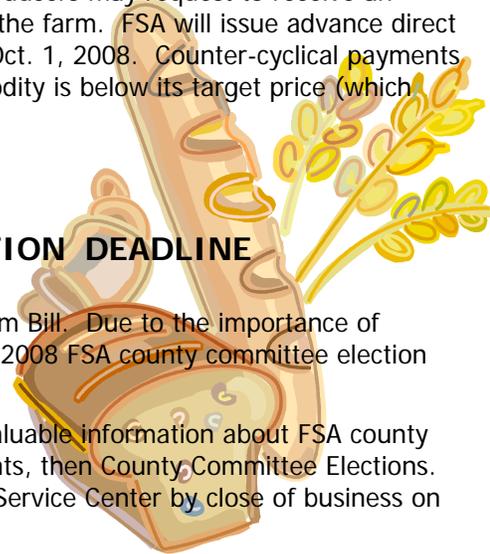
Newly elected committee members and alternates take office January 1, 2009.

### ***2005-2007 Quality Loss Crop Disaster Signup***

Signup for quality losses under the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) began on June 23, 2008. Producers can apply for crop quality losses at their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office.

The CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered losses to their 2005-2007 crops from natural disasters and related conditions. Producers who incurred qualifying quantity or quality losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 may receive benefits for only one of these years. However, producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple crops as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers must have suffered quality losses of at least 25 percent to be eligible for CDP Quality Loss. Producers may receive assistance for both quantity and quality losses. However, the total quantity and quality assistance, together with any crop insurance or NAP payment received for the same crop and the value of the crop production not lost, must not exceed 95 percent of the total value of the crop absent the disaster.





## FSA Farm Loans

The new Farm Bill provides increased limits on loans through FSA's Farm Loan Program. The maximum loan amount authorized for direct Farm Ownership (FO) loans and direct Operating Loans (OL) has been increased from \$200,000 to \$300,000.

In the FO program, the maximum loan term for the revised down payment program has been extended from 15 years to 20 years. Changes in the Down Payment Program mean the required down payment amount has been reduced from 10 percent to 5 percent and interest rates have been reduced to as low as 1.5% depending on the present FO interest rate. This program allows the agency to loan up to 45% of the purchase price with another lender providing 50% of the financing and the applicant contributing 5%.

FSA makes both direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank, Farm Credit System institution or other lender. FSA loans can be used to purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed and supplies. The loans can also be used to construct buildings or make farm improvements.

If you're having trouble getting commercial credit, check with your county office staff about a FSA loan.



## Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) Closing Dates coming up for 2009 crops



NAP is a federally funded program that provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occurs because of natural disasters.

Producers must apply for coverage before disaster strikes. Like regular crop insurance, once an application period closes, the opportunity to obtain coverage is gone.

### Application Closing Dates:

**August 31 - Beets, cabbage, canola, carrots, Christmas trees, flowers, greens herbs (except peppermint), onions, radish.**

**October 1 – Alfalfa, asparagus, barley, clover, garlic grass, peppermint, hops meadow foam, mixed forage, oats, rye sugarbeets, triticale, betch wheat.**

**November 20 – Apples, apricots, blueberries, caneberries, chestnuts, cherries, cranberries, grapes, hazelnuts, honey, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, prunes, strawberries, walnuts.**

**March 15 – Beans broccoli, cantaloupe, cauliflower, corn, cucumber, lentils, mustard, peas, potatoes, pumpkin, safflower, sunflowers, squash, tomato, watermelon.**

**May 31 – Buckwheat**

Any crop not covered by Federal Crop Insurance sold by a private insurance company can be covered under the Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP).

**IMPORTANT ! - CHANGE IN AMOUNT OF FEE CHARGE !** Effective May 22, 2008 administrative service fees have increased. NAP coverage requires a service fee of \$250 per crop, per producer with a \$450 cap per county. Out-of-pocket expenses will not exceed \$1,875 for any producer, even if production occurs in multiple counties. Service fees may be waived for eligible limited resource producers.

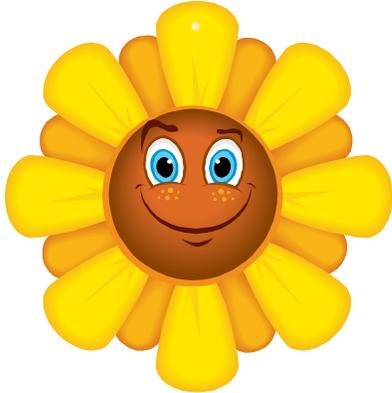
More information on NAP and other disaster assistance programs is available online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

**YOU MUST HAVE NAP AND /OR CROP INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR 2009 TO QUALIFY FOR OTHER DISASTER PROGRAMS, SEE PAGE 1 FOR A LIST OF PROGRAMS.**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
YAMHILL COUNTY FSA  
2200 SW 2<sup>ND</sup> STREET  
McMINNVILLE, OR 97128-5444

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## AUGUST & SEPTEMBER OBSERVANCES

AUGUST 26 – WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

SEPTEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup> – OCTOBER 15  
NATIONAL HISPANIC MONTH

AUGUST 15<sup>TH</sup> – LAST DAY TO REPORT CROP  
ACREAGE FOR 2009

SEPTEMBER 30 – LAST DAY TO SIGN UP FOR  
DCP

NATIONAL LITERACY MONTH



WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT MONTH



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### **COMPLAINT PROCESS**

**AFTER AN FSA OFFICIAL MAKES A DECISION ON YOUR REQUEST FOR USDA SERVICES OR APPLICATION, YOU WILL BE SENT A LETTER INFORMING YOU OF THE DECISION AND OPTIONS YOU CAN PURSUE IF YOU DISAGREE. GENERALLY, PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS HAVE FOUR CHOICES – 1) AN INFORMAL REVIEW WITH THE ORIGINAL AGENCY DECISION-MAKER, 2) AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MEDIATION, 3) APPEAL TO STATE COMMITTEE AND/OR 4) APPEAL TO THE USDA NATIONAL APPEAL DIVISION (NAD).**

### **CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANT PROCESS**

**ANY PERSON, CLASS OR GROUP OF PERSONS MAY FILE A DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINT WITHIN 180 DAYS OF AN ALLEGED DISCRIMINATORY ACTION. COMPLAINTS MAY BE FILED IN WRITING OR ORALLY WITH THE AGENCY HEAD, ANY DESIGNATED AGENCY OFFICIAL OR THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON D.C. 20250. ASSISTANCE IN FILING A COMPLAINT CAN BE OBTAINED BY CALLING OR VISITING THE FSA OFFICE.**