



## Lane County Farm Service Agency

**January 2011**

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

### Office Staff

Brenda Moomaw,  
County Executive Director  
Rita Johnson,  
Program Technician  
Sue Mann,  
Program Technician  
Stacey Foos,  
Program Technician

### County Committee

Joann Riemann, Chairman  
Lex Bush, Vice-Chairman  
John David James, Member

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### Change in Farming Operation

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have picked up or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

### Direct & Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP)

Signup for the Direct and Countercyclical Payment (DCP) Program occurs annually with a June 1 deadline. Signup in the ACRE option is also available through June 1 each year. If you elect the ACRE option, you are committed to this option through 2012, but you are still required to enroll annually by June 1. FSA computes DCP Program 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. Each year you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price. The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service will save you time, reduce paperwork and speed up contract processing at FSA offices. It is available to anyone eligible to participate in the DCP Program. To access this online service, you must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at [www.eauth.egov.usda.gov](http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov) followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

### Changing Bank Accounts

All FSA payments should be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if your bank is purchased by another financial institution. Payments can be delayed if we are not aware of changes to account and routing numbers.

### Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is a revenue-based commodity program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill as an alternative to DCP. Signup for ACRE occurs between October 1 and June 1 each crop year. The ACRE alternative provides eligible producers a state level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price.

Producers who elect the ACRE program for a farm agree to:

- forgo counter-cyclical payments;
- accept a 20-percent reduction of the direct payments;
- accept a 30-percent reduction in loan rates for all commodities produced on the farm.

Producers who elect ACRE commit to this option through crop year 2012. Commodities eligible for ACRE payments are wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, peanuts, soybeans, sunflower seed, canola, flaxseed, safflower, mustard seed, rapeseed, sesame seed, crambe, dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas and large chickpeas.

The ACRE program was created to give producers an option in lieu of traditional counter-cyclical payments. To elect ACRE for a farm the first year, producers must complete an election form CCC-509 ACRE as well as an enrollment form. The producer must again enroll each year the producer intends to participate and receive benefits.

### Acres Reporting

Filing an accurate acreage report at your local FSA office can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. Failed acreage is acreage that was timely planted with the intent to harvest, but because of disaster related conditions, the crop failed before it could be brought to harvest. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date. Annual acreage reports are required for most Farm Service Agency programs. Annual crop report deadlines vary based on region, crop, permanent vs. annual crop type, NAP or non-NAP crop and fall or winter seeding. Consult the Lane County FSA office for deadlines in your area.

### CRP - Annual Certification

Before an annual rental payment can be issued, participants must certify to contract compliance using the FSA-578, Report of Acreage, or CCC-817U, Certification of Compliance for CRP.

**Payment Eligibility and Payment Limitation Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)**

For commodity and disaster programs under the new farm bill, the AGI limitation was reduced from \$2.5 million from all sources to a three-year average non-farm AGI of \$500,000 such that a person or entity shall not be eligible for such programs if the non-farm AGI exceeds \$500,000. Also, under the new regulations, an individual or entity must have a 3-year average AGI less than or equal to \$750,000 per year from farm income in order to qualify for direct payments issued under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program. For conservation programs, the average nonfarm AGI limitation is \$1 million or less for eligibility. However, an individual or entity who has non-farm AGI in excess of \$1 million remains eligible for conservation programs only if 66.66 percent or more of the total AGI is derived from farming, ranching and forestry operations. In addition, the AGI limitation for conservation programs may be waived on a case-by case basis if it is determined that environmentally sensitive land of special significance would be protected.

**Payment Eligibility**

Program payments are limited by direct attribution to individuals or entities. A legal entity is defined as an entity created under Federal or State law that owns land or an agricultural commodity, product or livestock. Through direct attribution, payment limitation is based on the total payments received by the individual, both directly and indirectly. Qualifying spouses are eligible to be considered separate persons for payment limitation purposes, rather than being automatically combined under one limitation. Individuals and entities must be "actively engaged in farming" with respect to a farming operation in order to be eligible for specified payments and benefits. To be "actively engaged in farming," the individual or entity must make significant contributions to the farming operation of: (1) capital, equipment, land, or a combination; and (2) personal labor or active personal management, or a combination.

Payments and benefits under certain FSA programs are subject to some or all of the following:

- payment limitation by direct attribution
- payment limitation amounts for the applicable programs
- actively engaged in farming requirements
- cash-rent tenant rule
- foreign person rule average AGI limitations
- no program benefits subject to limitation will be provided until:
- all required forms for the specific situation are provided
- necessary payment eligibility and Payment limitation determinations are made
- after 2009, a farm operating plan is not required to be filed annually, if the

- farming operation continues to be conducted as reflected on the farm operating plan and supporting documents are on file in the County Office
- if any changes occur that could affect an actively engaged in farming, cash-rent tenant, foreign person, or average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) determination, producers must timely notify the County Office by filing revised farm operating plans and/or supporting documentation, as applicable. Failure to timely notify the County Office may adversely affect payment eligibility.

**Power of Attorney**

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

**Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Risk Management Agency (RMA)**

To prevent fraud, waste, and abuse FSA supports the RMA in the prevention of fraud, waste and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will continue to refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse directly to RMA. Producers can report suspected cases to the county office staff, the RMA office, or the Office of the Inspector General.

**2010 COC Election results for Local Administrative Area (LAA) #3**

Lex Bush.....Member  
 Aaron Paris..... First Alternate

Lex Bush will replace Dan Moomaw who reached his term limit of 9 years. We would like to thank Dan for 9 years of dedicated service!

Dates to Remember	
February 21 <sup>st</sup>	Office Closed Presidents Day
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	Nap Deadline to purchase coverage for feed crops other than silage
June 1 <sup>st</sup>	Signature Deadline on DCP/ACRE
June 1 <sup>st</sup>	Deadline to report planted acreage of small grains
August 1 <sup>st</sup>	Deadline to report all crop uses (feed grains, oilseeds, CRP, fallow, etc...)