

June 2013



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Coos-Carroll County FSA Updates

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Wayne Cheney, Member
Sarah Cordwell, Member

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FSA County Committee Nominations: LAA 2 and LAA 5

County Committee (COC) nominations will be taking place for two Local Administrative Areas: LAA 2 and LAA 5.

LAA 2 includes Pittsburg, Clarksville, Stewartstown, Colebrook, Columbia, Dixville, Odell, Dix's Grant, Atkinson & Gilmanton Academy Grant, Second College Grant, Wentworth's Location, Millsfield, Stratford, Erroll, Stark, Dummer, Erving's Location and Cambridge.

LAA 5 includes Tuftonboro, Ossipee, Freedom, Effingham, Wolfeboro, Brookfield and Wakefield.

The COC nomination period runs from June 17, 2013 through Aug. 1, 2013. Nomination forms for the 2013 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 1, 2013. LAA Maps and County Committee Nomination forms are available at the Coos-Carroll FSA Office or nomination forms can be accessed in Spanish or English versions on the internet through the following web links:

o For English:
http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_english_form.pdf

o For Spanish:
http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_es_130405v01.pdf

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers. FSA county

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committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the local administrative area (LAA) in which the person is a candidate

Not have been:

- Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. Nomination forms are filed for the county committee at the office that administers a producer's farm records.

For more information on county committee elections, visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections> on the web or contact your local FSA office.

DCP Deadline

The deadline to sign-up for the Direct & Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) is August 2, 2013.

Acreage/Crop Reporting

After spring planting, producers should certify their 2013 acreage. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before the disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many FSA programs. Perennial Forage reports for the 2013 crop year were due Nov 15, 2012. However, late reports are accepted for the 2013 crop year. Late-filed fees may be waived if reported before September 15, 2013. Corn, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Spring Forage Seeding, and all other crops must be **certified by July 15, 2013**.

Farm Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **Aug. 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

Estate Method — The division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate

Designation of Landowner Method — May be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding

DCP Cropland Method — The division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract

Default Method — The division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

Payment Limitations

All payment eligibility and payment limitation provisions, including AGI limitations, are extended for the 2013 crop year, program year, and fiscal year.

All rules and requirements effective for 2012 program payments and benefits are applicable to eligible recipients of 2013 program payment and benefits. This includes the requirements of actively engaged in farming, cash-rent tenant, substantive change, minor child, and spousal provisions. Payments will continue to be limited by direct attribution to person and legal entity.

Contributions*

All partners, stockholders or members with an ownership interest in the legal entity must make a contribution, whether compensated or **not** compensated, for:

- Active personal labor,
- Active personal management,
- A combination of active personal labor and active personal management to the farming operation

*Note: There are exceptions for spouses. Additional information on payment limitations is available at FSA county offices or online at: www.fsa.usda.gov

Beginning and Limited Resource Loans

FSA has a program to assist beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more that 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm

- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed. Additional program information, loan applications and other materials are available at the local USDA Service Center or visit www.fsa.usda.gov

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has farm operating loans as well as loans to purchase or improve farms or ranches to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, FSA has priority funding for socially disadvantaged applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is a person who is a member of a group that has been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice without regard to the members' individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African-Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders. FSA loans are available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Interest Rates

Selected Interest Rates for June 2013:

Farm Operating Loans (including microloans) - Direct 1.25%

Farm Ownership Loans - Direct 3.375%

Farm Ownership Loans - Direct Joint Financing - 5.00%

Emergency Loans - 2.25%

Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years) - 1.25%

Dates to Remember

June 17 to August 1 - County Committee Election nomination period

July 4th - Holiday - Office Closed

July 15 - Acreage Reporting Deadline

August 2 - DCP Sign-up deadline

Ongoing - Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

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).