



NEWSLETTER



April 2013

Baker-Grant County FSA Office

3990 Midway Drive
Baker City, OR 97814

Phone: 541-523-7121
Fax: 541-523-2184

www.fsa.usda.gov/OR

Hours
Monday - Friday
7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Farm Program Staff:

Trent Luschen, CED
Dyann Brosnan, PT
Penny Devlin, PT

Farm Loan Staff:

Patty Modey, FLM
Erin Baremore, FLO

Baker County Committee (COC):

Kate Rohner
Perry Jacob
Will Vaughan

Grant County Committee (COC):

Ted Clausen
Jason Kehrberg
Archie Osburn

Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Claims Process Extended

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced the extension of the voluntary claims process for Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades. All claims must now be filed by **May 1, 2013**.

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied his or her application for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000. As announced in February 2011, the voluntary claims process will make available at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

Claimants may register for a claims package by calling the telephone number below Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time or by downloading the forms from the website.

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov

Phone: 1-888-508-4429

Fax: (855) 626-8343

Email: claims@hwfr.org

Claims Period: September 24, 2012 – May 1, 2013.

Claim packages and other documentation may be mailed to Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Claims Administrator, PO Box 4540, Portland, OR 97208-4540. Claim packages and other documentation may also be emailed to claims@hwfr.org. Claimants may also fax claims packages and other documentation to (855) 626-8343. Completed forms and documentation must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. PDT on May 1, 2013.

DCP/ACRE Sign-up Continues

The sign-up period for DCP and ACRE are still open. Producers must sign up for DCP before the Aug. 2, 2013, deadline. Producers signing up for ACRE, have until June 3, 2013.

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013. Likewise producers who were enrolled in DCP may opt for ACRE enrollment.

[Read more about DCP and ACRE](#) or contact the FSA county office for more information, or an appointment to enroll.

CRP Sign-Up Starts soon

USDA will conduct a four-week general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), beginning May 20 and ending on June 14. CRP protects the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities across the United States.

Currently, about 27 million acres are enrolled in CRP. Producers that are accepted in the program can receive cost-share assistance to plant long-term, resource-conserving covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the contract (10-15 years.)

Contracts on 3.3 million acres of CRP are set to expire on Sept. 30, 2013. Producers with expiring contracts or producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP.

For more information on CRP and other FSA programs, visit a local FSA service center or www.fsa.usda.gov.

Acreage Certification

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 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 Farm Service Agency programs. For crops enrolled in programs other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program), acreage reports for most spring planted crops (exception cabbage) are to be certified by the July 15.

Acreage reports on crops covered by NAP are due in the county office by the earlier of July 15 for most spring planted crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFLP) allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of seven, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the U.S. Treasury Department.

Funding is available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any

site preparation or construction can begin. For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

Farm Record Changes

June 1, 2013 is the deadline to provide changes to your farm records at the local FSA office for the current crop year. If you are changing your operation entity type, adding or dropping cropland or farms, or adding entities to your operation, contact the FSA county office by June 1.

Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL)

Short-term financing is available by obtaining low interest commodity loans for eligible harvested production. A nine-month Marketing Assistance Loan provides financing that allows producers to store production for later marketing. The crop may be stored on the farm or in the warehouse.

Loans are available for producers who share in the risk of producing the eligible commodity and maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the duration of the loan. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity, responsibility interest in a commodity is lost, it is ineligible for a loan, even if you regain beneficial interest. for loss because of damage to the commodity and title to the commodity. Once beneficial

"Ranching for Profit" Workshop

Dave Pratt "Ranching for Profit" Workshop

Thursday, June 27 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

Port of Morrow 2 Marine Drive, Boardman, OR

Sponsored by: NRCS, Morrow County Soil and Water Conservation District, Morrow County Livestock Growers, & OSU Extension

Putting Profit Back into Ranching...One Business at a Time!

Knowing how to raise livestock is not the same thing as knowing how to run a business that raises livestock. This workshop will show you how to apply proven and powerful business, economic and financial principles to your ranch. You will learn the three "secrets" for increasing profit and how to use

production, economic and financial benchmarks to improve your operation. You'll see why most livestock operations are structured to lose money and find out what you can do about it. The morning session will cover ranch economics and the afternoon session will focus on production/grazing. <http://ranchmanagement.com/> REGISTRATION: 25 Advance; \$30 At the Door Registration includes materials and lunch. Advance registration cut-off June 21, 2013. To register: call 541-676-5021 x110, email john.fast@or.usda.gov .

Selected Interest Rates for April 2013	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	1.375%
Farm Ownership - Direct	3.500%
Limited Resource	5.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency	2.375%
Farm Storage Facility – 7 year	1.375%
Farm Storage Facility – 10 year	2.000%
Farm Storage Facility – 12 year	2.250%
Sugar Storage Facility	2.500%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%

Dates to Remember
5/1/13 - Hispanic & Women Farmers and Ranchers claims deadline
5/20/13 - CRP sign up starts
6/1/13 - Farm record change deadline
6/3/13 - 2013 ACRE Enrollment deadline
6/14/13 - CRP Sign up ends
6/27/13 - "Ranching for Profit" Workshop
7/15/13 - Spring Crop Acreage Reporting deadline
8/2/13 - 2013 DCP Enrollment deadline
Continues - Continues Conservation Reserve Program (CREP)