



June Edition

BAKER COUNTY NEWS UPDATES

<p>Baker County FSA 3990 Midway Dr. Baker City, OR 97814-1453</p>	<p>OFFICE STAFF Trent Luschen, CED Nathan Wilson, FLO Dyann Brosnan, PT Joey Wirth, PT</p>
<p>FSA COMMITTEE Perry Jacobs – Chairman Wells Wyatt – Vice Chairman Kate Rohner – Member</p>	<p>OFFICE HOURS 8:00 am-4:30 pm Monday-Friday PHONE: 523-7121 x 2 FAX: 523-2184 E-MAIL Trent.Luschen@or.usda.gov</p>

Deadline for LCP and LIP Approaching

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has announced that livestock producers have until provide aid to livestock producers who suffered eligible livestock losses or livestock feed losses between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 30, 2007, because of a natural disaster. For more information please contact Trent or Dyann for program sign-up details.

County Committee Election

This year's election will be held in Local Administrative Area (LAA) 3, covering the south half of Baker County. The COC is actively seeking nominees to run for this year's election. Women and minorities are strongly encouraged to submit nominating petitions. If you or your neighbor is interested in running for the COC, a nomination petition is enclosed and can be obtained at our office. Nominating petitions must be returned by August 1, 2008. Prospective candidates must be of legal age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper and be eligible to participate in any FSA Program that is provided by law, regardless of funding. COC's are responsible for making decisions regarding Farm Bill programs. Ballots for the election will be mailed out by November 3, 2008. Make your vote count by voting for the farmer/rancher of your choice. More information about the COC election process can be found at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections>

Loss of Crops

If you suffer crop losses due to prevented planting or low yields due to damaging weather, report those losses to the office within 15 days of the date the disaster event occurred or the loss is noticeable. This is a requirement under certain FSA programs. Any questions please contact Dyann or Trent.

Acres Reporting 2008 Deadline

The deadline for reporting your 2008 crop acreage is August 15, 2008. Acreage reports are required for most programs that FSA administers for Farm Bill programs. Please call the office to set up an appointment if you have not reported your crops yet. **Remember to have your planting dates available for the report.**

EQIP Application Cutoff

Local farmers and ranchers interested in financial and technical assistance for conservation measures on their working lands have until August 15, 2008 to apply for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding for federal fiscal year 2009.

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) accepts applications for EQIP year-round. Funding decisions, however, are made at cutoff points during the year, with the current ranking period closing on **August 15, 2008**

Applications that address local conservation priorities are evaluated and ranked for funding. The number of applications accepted will be based on ranking and available funding.

This year's local resource priorities are Improving Irrigation Efficiency, Improving Flood Irrigation Efficiency, Upland Water Quality, and Forest Stand Improvement. **The Burnt River Watershed has been designated as the Priority Area for Improving Irrigation Efficiency/Improving Flood Irrigation Efficiency.** Juniper control and water quality are emphasized for the Upland Water Quality priority.

Interested parties should contact NRCS at 541-523-7121 ext.112 to apply.

Sodbuster Regs – Read Before Tilling

The term “sodbusting” is used to identify the plowing up of erosion-prone grasslands for use as cropland. Sodbuster violations are unauthorized tillage practices on highly erodible lands that converted native vegetation such as rangeland or woodland, to crop production after Dec. 23, 1985.

Farmers and ranchers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in Farm Service Agency programs.

Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an AD-1026, indicating the area to be brought into production.

If Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates on a CPA-026 that the area will be highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage, before bringing land into production.

In addition, producers and the producer's affiliates have to file an AD-1026 with the staff in the administrative or control county office before any farm program payments can be made. The AD-1026 is the producer's signed certification that HELC, as well as wetland conservation, provisions will not be violated.

SOME IMPORTANT DATES

June 2, 2008: Haying & grazing for critical feed use on CRP sign up period begins

June 15, 2008: Nomination period begins for County Committee Election in LLA 3

June 20ish, 2008: Sign up begins for Crop Disaster Quality Loss. (Starting date depends on software release)

July 4, 2008: Office closed in celebration of Independence Day.

July 15, 2008: End of the Primary Nesting Season

July 18, 2008: Deadline to enroll in 2005, 2006, 2007 Livestock Compensation Program and Livestock Indemnity Program

August 1, 2008: Last day to file nomination forms

August 15, 2008: Acreage Reporting Deadline

Within 15 days: NAP Notice of Loss (FSA-576) must be filed within 15 days of damage or when damage is apparent

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