



# BAKER COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY



November 2008

3990 Midway Dr, Baker City, Oregon 97814  
(541) 523-7121 Ext. 2 FAX: (541) 523-2184

## COUNTY COMMITTEE

Perry Jacobs, Chairperson  
Wells Wyatt, Vice-Chairperson  
Kate Rohner, Member



## COUNTY OFFICE STAFF

Trent Luschen, County Executive Director  
Dyann Brosnan, Program Technician  
Joey Wirth, Program Technician  
Nathan Wilson, Farm Loan Officer

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## 2008 FARM BILL INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Informational meetings have been scheduled for the month of November:

- 13<sup>th</sup>, Durkee Community Center 6:00 PM
- 18<sup>th</sup>, Richland Grange Hall 7:00 PM
- 19<sup>th</sup>, Keating Fire Hall 1:00 PM
- 20<sup>th</sup>, Cattlemen's Meeting Extension office 7:00 PM

FSA, NRCS and the SWCD will all be in attendance to discuss the new 2008 Programs and Eligibility Requirements.

FSA will discuss the new Farm Bill including the Disaster Assistance Program which includes the new Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) and the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP). Also, the Non-insurable Assistance Program (NAP) will be discussed as well as it is a requirement for some farms to become eligible for SURE and/or LFP payments. Also the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), farm loans and RMA insurance options.

**Baker County SWCD** will discuss OWEB's small and large grants and Ag water quality management plans.

**NRCS** will discuss NRCS Conservation Programs including EQIP.

You will learn about program goals, eligibility requirements for sign-up and program standard and specifications in all of these areas.

Please mark the date on your calendars. These will be very informational meetings to attend!!

## Disaster Assistance Program in Farm Bill

The 2008 Act created new supplemental agricultural disaster assistance programs. Funds may be used to make payments to farmers and ranchers under the following 5 new disaster assistance programs:

- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Pmt (SURE)
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)
- Emergency Assistance-Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (EALHF)

## Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payment Program (SURE)

The 2008 Farm Bill created the following new permanent agriculture disaster assistance program:

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payment Program (SURE) covers crop losses due to natural disasters. To receive benefits from SURE, farmers must: 1) *carry crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on ALL crops produced on their farming operation (this includes grazing crops)* and 2) be located in a Secretarially declared disaster county or a contiguous county, or show proof of an individual loss of at least 50 percent. Farmers carrying higher levels of insurance will be eligible for higher payments. SURE covers whole-farm crop losses.

## Future Livestock Feed Programs



Livestock Feed Programs are only activated when a disaster has existed in your county. **If you do not purchase NAP or PRF coverage on your grasses that your cattle are grazing; you will not be eligible for any future livestock feed programs.**

Everyone who has livestock and would like to be eligible for the disaster program must purchase Pasture Rangeland and Forage (PRF) Insurance or NAP for all your grazing acres. This includes your Forest Service and BLM ground. Closing dates for PRF is November 30 and NAP is December 1. If you do not purchase coverage, you will be unable to collect any disaster money for your cattle if a disaster occurs, simple as that.

## Non-insured Crop Assistance Program (NAP) 2009

NAP provides financial assistance to eligible producers affected by crop losses due to natural disasters. Obtaining NAP coverage also ensures eligibility should various disaster programs included in the 2008 Farm Bill be implemented. Eligible crops include commercial crops and other agricultural commodities produced for food (including livestock feed) Crops are grouped by FSA for coverage and loss determination purposes. NAP covers losses greater than 50% of your expected production at 55% of the historical average market price.

**How to apply:** File a CCC-471, Application for Coverage, with the local FSA office and pay the applicable service fee **BY APPLICATION CLOSING DATE.**

**What is the cost?** \$250 per crop per county, up to \$750 per producer per county, not to exceed \$1875 per producer for all counties. Once paid, the fee is not refundable.

**Deadline:** The application must be made and the service fee paid by the application closing date for the crop. Contact your local FSA Office for application closing dates for specific crops you are growing or planning to grow. **December 1, 2008 is the deadline to purchase NAP for the following: Grass (hay and seed), Alfalfa (hay and seed), Clover Seed, Small Grain Forage (fall and spring), Other Forage Crops, Grazing, Other perennials not mentioned.**

**Reporting crop(s):** To remain eligible for NAP, you must annually report crop acreage and production. Failure to report either acreage or production can make you ineligible for NAP benefits, drastically reduce NAP benefits, or potentially make you ineligible for other disaster programs.

**What if the crop fails?** When a covered crop is affected by a disaster, you must notify your local FSA office by completing a written notice of loss (CCC-576) **within 15 calendar days** after the natural disaster occurrence or the damage to the crop becomes apparent.

## Important Dates to Remember:

**November 11, 2008** – Office closed for Veterans' Day

**November 30, 2008** – Closing date for 2009 Pasture Rangeland and Forage Insurance (PRF).

**November 27, 2008** – Office closed for Thanksgiving Day

**December 1, 2008** – Closing date for 2009 Non-Insured Crop Assistance Program (NAP)

**December 1, 2008** – Last day FSA can accept ballots for County Committee Election in LAA # 3

## Attention Livestock Owners, Grain, Potato, Hay, Mint & Grass Seed Producers!!!!

This is the most important newsletter you could ever read!!! Please read carefully or you'll be left out of the money!!! You must act NOW to be eligible for any future disaster programs LATER.

### New 2009 Payment Eligibility

The Average Adjusted Income (AGI) provisions for 2009 and subsequent years' payment eligibility have changed for both individuals & entities.

Nonfarm AGI cannot exceed \$500,000—DCP & price support  
Farm AGI greater than \$750,000 is not eligible for DCP  
Total AGI more than \$1 million is not eligible for any  
Conservation Programs unless 66.66% is derived from  
farming/ranching  
Nonfarm AGI greater than \$1 million is not eligible for  
Conservation



### County Committee Elections

Election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters on the south half of Baker County-Local Administrative Area 3 (LAA 3) by November 3, 2008. December 1, 2008 is the final date to return completed ballots to the County Office. Make a difference. Take time to complete your ballot and return it by the deadline.

### Biographies of Candidate(s)-

**Wells Wyatt:** Lives in Durkee where he raises cattle and produces alfalfa and grass hay.

### NEWS FLASH

FSA has been notified that because of privacy issues, your County Committee ballot has been redesigned! Please follow the instructions on the ballot carefully to ensure your vote counts.

### Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Baker County Farm Service Agency is reminding producers that the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is still available. If you have a stream, river or wetland on your place that you would like to see improved for wildlife or you would like to control erosion or you have a large number of noxious weeds, CREP may be for you.

CREP was designed to help landowners improve their riparian areas by making an area of 35'-180' along the riparian area idle for 10-15 years. During that time you will be paid a rental rate for each acre left idle. To improve those acres there are several options available to make the riparian area functioning again. We work with you to address the needs of the site and what you would like to see happen with the area. You will be able to plant trees, grasses and shrubs to create diversity along the stream to create wildlife habitat and shade for the water and a buffer to catch sedimentation before it enters the stream. If your water source for livestock water is

where you want to enroll, off-site watering facilities can be developed to replace the water your livestock used. Some of the financial benefits of the program are that you will receive up to 75% reimbursement for each restoration practice. You will receive two one-time bonuses, a signing incentive payment that you receive once your contact is approved and a practice incentive payment that you will receive when your project is complete. There is also another bonus if you or your neighbor(s) are able to enroll at least 26,400 feet of riparian area. For more information contact Trent or Joey.

### 2009 Direct/Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) and ACRE Option

The Act of 2008 continued the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) for 2009 thru 2012 crop years and authorized a new Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program for 2009 thru 2012.

The major difference in the 2009 thru 2012 DCP signup is the option to choose ACRE in lieu of Counter-Cyclical payments. The ACRE election protects against crop revenue shortfalls resulting from price and/or production declines at the state and farm level. ACRE provides protection on crops a producer plants, not on the farm's historical plantings. Counter-cyclical payments are driven by a national average price and are indirectly related to production at the national level.

BUT, if you elect ACRE on a farm, there will be **no counter-cyclical payments** and your yearly **DCP payments will be reduced by 20%**. Furthermore, marketing assistance loan rates will be reduced by 30%.

You can elect ACRE in any of 2009 thru 2012 years for the first time. **But once you select ACRE, you can never go back to the Counter-Cyclical payment and the 20% reduction on your DCP payments will remain in effect.** ACRE will stay with the farm even if there is a change in operator, owner, or successor-in-interest. Payment is based on more recent production rather than a historical yield. Five years of production evidence will be required and you must annually provide production evidence. All Elections must be made by June 1 and ACRE must be selected by all producers associated with the farm. ACRE is a "all or nothing" election. Late-filed fees are \$100 per farm between June 1 and September 30th on both DCP and ACRE farms. Contact Trent or Dyann for more information.

### **Anytime deadlines are not met, you jeopardize your chances of assistance.**

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