



February 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>

LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM

With the recent passage of the 2008 Appropriations Act, livestock producers in Baker County are eligible to apply for LCP which provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered 2007 feed losses directly resulting from the drought which occurred during crop year 2007.

To be eligible, the livestock must have been physically located in Baker County on May 1, 2007 and been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation. Producers must have either owned or cash-leased eligible livestock on May 1, 2007 and suffered an eligible loss from produced or purchased forage, or incurred additional feed costs as a result of the 2007 drought and the feed lost or additional feed cost incurred were intended for the use of eligible livestock. A partial list of eligible livestock consists of sheep, horses beef & dairy cattle, and goats that are for commercial use.

Please call for an appointment (541) 523-7121 extension 2. You will need to provide the following information:

- Number of cows, bulls and non-adult animals (500#) that you owned or cash-leased on May 1, 2007, that were located in Baker County
- Non-irrigated acres grazed by type (range, improved pasture etc.)
- Additional feed costs incurred, if any. Receipts and records showing higher feed costs over previous year are required
- Your estimate of your grazing loss for 2007

CROP DISASTER PROGRAM (CDP)

Insured producers can apply for CDP benefits. A deadline has not been set. Any insured crop suffering a loss in 2005, 2006 or 2007 may receive disaster benefits now. Producers will receive a payment for only one year between 2005 and 2007. If you have not applied, you may want to call the office to set up an appointment to file for your disaster payments.

NAP Production Reporting

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable and verifiable. Records need to show crop disposition. **All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.**

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS

Farm Service Agency programs are available to all eligible interested persons. Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please call the FSA office @ 523-7121 x2.

BANK ACCOUNT CHANGES

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA County office staff if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

Farm Loans

Loan applications are being accepted for farm operating and ownership purpose from those having difficulty obtaining credit through private lenders. For those applicants that have at least 1 year's experience in managing or operating a farm or ranch, **operating loans** are available to help with annual operating expenses, farm equipment and livestock purchases, and refinancing related debt. **Ownership loans** include the purchase or enlargement of a farm, or the construction and/or repair of buildings. To qualify for a ownership loan, the applicant must have participated in the business operation of a farm or ranch for at least 3 years. **Loan guarantees** are available to lenders where FSA provides a guarantee against loss on the principal of a farm loan. The loan purposes are similar to direct loans, except refinancing real estate debt is also eligible. FSA reserves a portion of its loan and loan guarantee funds each year to **assist the socially disadvantaged**. FSA offers farm loans to help qualified women and minorities buy and operate family-sized farms and ranches. For the purposes of FSA's loan programs, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. FSA also provides direct and guaranteed loan assistance for **beginning farmers** defined as an applicant who has not operated a farm for more than 10 years. **Youth loans** are available for 4-H and FFA members, ages 10 through 20, who want to start any income producing enterprise recommended by their leader. For further information, please contact the farm loan staff at 523-7121, extension 2.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Agricultural landowners can enroll eligible riparian lands into a 10 to 15-year CREP Contract and receive annual conservation payments, cost-share payments and incentive payments for the riparian restoration practices. CREP is a continuous sign-up program and are not ranked. The most common practices are:

- Riparian Forest Buffer (a mixture of trees and shrubs 35-180 feet)
- Wildlife Habitat Buffer (grasses, shrubs, and forbs 20-180 feet)

"The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."