

Coos/Curry FSA News

May 2007

Reporting Crop Acreage

Remember to file your annual acreage report with FSA. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can help prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

Conservation Reserve Program (CREP) acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. Crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and DCP must also be reported.

Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, **must account for all “cropland” on a farm, whether idle or planted.** Reports on all “cropland” must be filed by **June 30, 2007** in order to be “timely” and avoid late-filing penalties.

Failed Acreage:

Reports of failed acreage must be filed **before disposition of the crop**, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

Measurement Service

Farmers who would like a guarantee on their crop plantings and land use acreages can make it official by using the FSA measurement service. Producers must file a request with the county office staff and pay the cost of a field visit to have services completed on the farm.

Measurement service guarantees compliance with a program, if the planting is limited to the measured area. Incorrect acreage self-certification can result in reduced program payments, penalty, or loss of eligibility.

Remember to file your CCC-633EZ to stay eligible for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) on wool, pelts (*unshorn lambs*), and commodity crops for 2007 crop year

2007 COC Election Information

One of FSA’s responsibilities is to hold County Committee elections in an open manner that ensures accountability. County FSA Offices will provide local organizations representing socially disadvantaged groups with detailed information about the COC election process. FSA is reaching out to agricultural communities to get equitable representation on their county committees.

Groups representing socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, will be actively solicited for COC election candidates, and encouraged to fill out a nomination form (FSA-669A). Under represented farmers and ranchers are encouraged to step up and participate in their county’s COC election process. Producers will notice posters and announcements displayed in businesses, churches, and other public places. COC election fact sheets can be found online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under the News & Events tab on the FSA homepage.

CREP for 2007

Farmers and landowners in the Coos & Curry Counties are encouraged to take advantage of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). CREP will reimburse farmers for enrolling cropland or pastureland adjacent to streams, ponds and rivers from agricultural production. Program participants will receive annual rental payments, cost-share assistance, and other financial incentives for a period of 10-15 years for **installing and maintaining** riparian buffer strips, grassed waterways and shallow water areas for wildlife.

The Farm Loan Program

The Farm Service Agency offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained up to \$200,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$899,000.

Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration.

Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available from FSA. For loan eligibility information, contact Jim Jutson, FLM at (541) 672-6071, x2

Toll Free Number for FSA Borrows

Direct loan borrowers with FSA (FmHA) Ag loans can now check the status of their accounts using a new toll-free telephone number. The number, 1-888-518-4983, is available in both English and Spanish. The SECURE system has information on active FSA Ag loan borrowers and is available 24/7.

Dates to Remember	
May 15, 2007	Regular Coos/Curry FSA Committee Meeting
May 28, 2007	Memorial Day – Office Closed
June 12, 2007	Regular Coos/Curry FSA Committee Meeting
June 30, 2007	Final Date to file Acreage Reports “Timely”
June 30, 2007	Final Date to file 2006 NAP crop production
July 17, 2007	Regular Coos/Curry FSA Committee Meeting
Aug. 3, 2007	Final Date to enroll DCP for 2007
Continuing	Primary Nesting Season – through July 15
On-going	Sign-up for CREP, GRP, 2007 LDP
Within 15 days	NAP notice of loss. Must report damage within 15 days of damage or when damage is apparent.