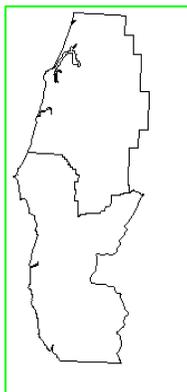


Coos/Curry FSA News

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/or/cooscurry.html>

376 N Central Blvd.
Coquille, OR 97423



June 2009



Coos/Curry FSA

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OFFICE STAFF

Bret A. Harris, CED

Dawn Weekly, PT

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Loan Staff Available

Call for an appointment!

(541) 673-6071, ext. 2

Jim Jutson, FLM

Dana Mahlberg, PT

COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE

Chairman:

Eric Wiley – LAA-2

Vice Chairman:

Rick McKenzie – LAA-3

Member:

Sharon Waterman -LAA- 1

FSA Committee Nominations and Elections

Since COC elections happen only once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into *local administrative areas*, or LAAs. Each LAA selects one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency county committee. Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. In counties with three LAAs, one seat is up for election. This year the Coos/Curry FSA Committee (COC) will be electing the representative from LAA2, Coos County, which is the Southern and Eastern part of Coos County, including the areas of Coquille, Fairview, Myrtle Point, Sitkum, and Powers.



Nominations

Candidate nominations for the FSA county committee election will be **accepted June 15 through Aug. 3, 2009.**

Producers who are residents in the LAA holding the election and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates.

The nomination form, FSA-669A, is available at the county office or may be downloaded from <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>. To be valid, the **nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated**, indicating agreement to serve if elected. The **completed nomination form must be returned to the county office** by the close of business on **Aug. 3, or postmarked by midnight Aug. 3, 2009.**

Voting

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning Nov. 6, and must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Dec. 7, or postmarked by midnight Dec. 7, 2009.

Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm can also vote.

No one can be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

Candidate Eligibility

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate
- Not have been:
- Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

For additional clarification about county committee elections, contact the Coos/Curry FSA office. Contact information appears on the left side of this page

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information. If you want a crop loan, a power of attorney form will need to be completed for husband and wife, if both do not come into the office to sign the forms on the day the loan is disbursed.

Maintenance of CRP Cover

CRP & CREP participants cover are responsible for maintenance according to the conservation plan. All CRP maintenance activity **must be conducted outside the primary nesting season for wildlife** and in accordance with the conservation plan. For **Coos & Curry, the primary nesting season is March 15th through July 15th**. Spot treatment of the acreage may be allowed during the primary nesting season on a case-by-case basis.

Changes in Payment Limitations

The payment limitation provisions over the last 39 years have been expanded to more programs. Some of the changes in this area are listed below.

New forms for 2009 and subsequent years

Anyone that plans to participate in 2009 programs is required to submit a completed CCC-902, CCC-926, and CCC-901, if applicable, for payment eligibility and payment limitation purposes. The form used prior to 2009 was named CCC-502.

Another change for 2009, every member must make a contribution in an entity

All partners, stockholders, or members with an ownership interest in the legal entity must make a contribution, **whether compensated or not compensated**, for active--*

- personal labor,
- active personal management,
- or a combination of active personal labor and active personal management to the farming operation;

*Note: there are exceptions for spouses.

Crop Reporting

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can 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 Load Deficiency Payments.

The certification form FSA-578, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. **The producer certification deadline for Crops in Coos and Curry counties is June 30, 2009.**

CRP & NAP Certification

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

Prevented Planting:

Prevented planting is to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

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.

Farm Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

Estate Method — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

Designation of Landowner Method — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

DCP Cropland Method — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

Default Method — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

Report changes to Farming Operation

Be sure to notify FSA if your operation has changed either through purchase or sale of land or rent/lease of new property. Notification is essential both to maintain accurate records and to maintain program eligibility.

In order to be added to a farm on FSA records, you must provide a copy of a lease, or a statement from the land owner if renting or leasing. To report ownership changes, please provide proof of ownership.

Weather Losses

If you suffer crop losses due to damaging weather, you need to report those losses to the FSA office within 15 days of the date the disaster event occurred. This is a requirement for producers that have NAP coverage. All other producers are encouraged to report losses as they occur. These reports are important in the event a disaster program is implemented.

Controlled Substances

Program participants convicted under federal or state law of any planting, cultivating, growing, producing, harvesting or storing a controlled substance are ineligible for program payments and benefits.

If convicted of one of these offenses, the program participant shall be ineligible during that crop year and the four succeeding crop years for DCP payments, price support loans, LDP payments, market loan gains, storage payments, farm facility loans, NAP payments or disaster payments.

Program participants convicted of any federal or state offense consisting of the distribution (trafficking) of a controlled substance shall, at the discretion of the court, be ineligible for any or all program payments and benefits:

- for up to 5 years after the first conviction
- for up to 10 years after the second conviction
- permanently for a third or subsequent conviction.

Program participants convicted of federal or state offense for the possession of a controlled substance shall be ineligible, at the discretion of the court, for any or all program benefits.

DCP & ACRE Sign-up Underway

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been **extended until August 14, 2009**. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications. Signup in the ACRE option is also available through August 14, 2009.

FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when prices fall below a threshold level.

The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service will save you time, reduce paperwork and speed up contract processing at FSA offices. It is available to anyone eligible to participate in the DCP Program. To access this on-line service, you must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

Crop Loan Rates

Selected commodity prices for June 5, 2009

Commodity	Loan Rate	LDP Rate
Barley \$/bu	2.15	\$0.0
Corn \$/bu	2.35	\$0.0
Oats \$/bu	1.35	\$0.0
Wool \$/lb	0.38	\$0.29

FSA Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

A married woman shall sign her given name: Mrs. Mary Doe, not Mrs. John Doe

For a minor, FSA requires the minor's signature and one from an eligible parent. By signing the applicable document, the parent is liable for actions of the minor and may be liable for refunds, liquidated damages, etc

When signing on one's behalf the signature must agree with the name typed or printed on the form, or be a variation that does not cause the name and signature to be in disagreement. Example - John W. Smith is on the form. The signature may be John W. Smith or J.W. Smith or J. Smith. Or Mary J. Smith may be signed as Mrs. Mary Joe Smith, M.J. Smith, Mary Smith, etc

What do you mean by Graduation?

FSA's "Graduation" has nothing to do with formal education. Graduation is the requirement for FSA Farm Loan Program (FLP) Direct Loan customers to refinance their FSA loans when it appears that they can obtain financing from a conventional lender like a bank, credit union or Farm Credit System lender to refinance their FSA loans. FSA does not replace conventional credit and FSA credit is available to customers only until such time as conventional credit is available to finance their needs.

Furthermore, FSA is required to review customers annually to determine our customers' financial fitness for refinancing. This is one of the reasons we contact our borrowers to obtain current financial information. Additionally, FSA loan guarantees are available to lenders who refinance FSA Direct loans. We can offer lenders up to a 95% guarantee and waive our 1% guarantee fee, if the their loan request is to primarily refinance a FSA Direct loan.

This year we have had a huge increase in the number of customers voluntarily refinancing due to the historically low interest rates offered and the willingness by some farm lenders who participate in FSA loan guarantee program to extend credit to our customers.

If you are interested in refinancing your FSA direct loan while rates are low and wish to contact local lenders who participate in FSA's farm loan guarantee program, please call Jim Jutson at 541-673-6071, ext. 108 for more information.

FSA Signature Policy (continued)

Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office

Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities. All members of a general partnership must sign for the general partnership unless an individual is authorized to act on the behalf of the general partnership and bind all members

Spouses may sign on behalf of each other's individual interest in a partnership, unless notification denying a spouse that authority is provided to the county office

Acceptable signatures for general partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, estates, and trusts shall consist of an indicator "by" or "for" the individual's name, individual's name and capacity, or individual's name, capacity, and name of entity

Requesting 2009 LDPs

To request 2009 crop loans or loan deficiency payments (LDP), you must use the CCC-633 EZ.

- **Page 1** – Producer’s *intention to request* LDPs in the future: Can be signed anytime, and **must be signed before “beneficial interest” is lost.**
- **Page 4** – Producer’s *request for LDP* payment on wool, mohair, and/or unshorn lambs (pelts): Can be submitted anytime after the crop is “harvested” or after sale.

Cooperation with RMA:

FSA and the Risk Management Agency (RMA) work together to improve program compliance and integrity of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. RMA and FSA coordinate to identify, address and reconcile discrepancies of all relevant producer-derived information, and to coordinate a monitoring program to include fact finding relative to allegations of program fraud, waste, and abuse.

FSA will assist RMA and insurance providers in monitoring conditions throughout the growing season and conduct growing season inspections. All suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse concerning the Federal Crop Insurance Program will be referred to RMA. FSA will also assist RMA with auditing claims. Producers may also report suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse to their local FSA County Office, the RMA Office or OIG.

Dates to Remember	
June 16, 2009	Regular COC Meeting
June 30, 2009	Last Day to timely report 2009 crop acreages
July 21, 2009	Regular COC Meeting
July 27 to	Coos county Fair – <i>stop by the Natural Resources tent!</i>
Aug 14, 2009	Last Day to signup for 2009 DCP/ACRE program
Aug 3, 2009	COC Nominations Deadline
Aug 18, 2009	Regular COC Meeting
Mar 31, 2009	Last Day to apply for LDP on 2008 crops (except wool)
On-going	Sign-up for CREP, GRP, 2009 LDP
Within 15 days	NAP notice of loss. Must report damage within 15 days of damage or when damage is apparent.

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 Adjudication and Compliance, 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.

FSA-669A

(04-17-09)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY (FSA) COMMITTEE ELECTION

The County FSA Committee election will be held on the first Monday of December. Ballots will be mailed to voters not less than 4 weeks before the election.

This form allows individuals to nominate themselves or any other person as a candidate. If additional forms are needed, this one may be copied or may be obtained at the County FSA Office or obtained electronically at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov>. Each form submitted must be:

- A. Limited to one nominee.
- B. Signed and dated by the nominee in Item 4. Nominee must sign if willing to have his/her name placed on the ballot and agrees to serve if elected.

Note: Name shown on ballot will appear exactly the same as in Agency records.

- C. Delivered to the County FSA Office or postmarked no later than August 3.

The County FSA Committee is responsible for reviewing each form to determine the eligibility of nominees. A person who files this form and is found ineligible will be so notified and have an opportunity to file a challenge.

Persons nominated should actively participate in the operation of a farm or ranch and be well qualified for committee work. A producer is eligible to be a County FSA committee member if the producer resides in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) in which the election is to be held and is eligible to vote.

Federal regulations may prohibit County FSA Committee members from holding certain positions in some farm, commodity, and political organizations if such positions pose a conflict of interest with FSA duties. The positions include functional offices such as president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer; and positions on boards or executive committees. Conflict of interest restrictions also apply to employees, operators, managers, and majority owners of tobacco warehouses. Questions concerning eligibility should be directed to the County FSA Office.

A candidate has the option to request that all voted ballots for an individual county committee election be returned to the respective State Office in lieu of being returned to the county office. This request must be in writing and submitted to the local County Executive Director prior to the announced end of the nomination period.

The duties of County FSA Committee members include:

- A. Administering farm program activities conducted by the County FSA Office.
- B. Informing farmers of the purpose and provisions of the FSA programs.
- C. Keeping the State FSA Committee informed of LAA conditions.
- D. Monitoring changes in farm programs.
- E. Participating in county meetings as necessary.
- F. Performing other duties as assigned by the State FSA Committee

FSA-669A
(04-17-09)

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency

NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

1. NAME OF NOMINEE <i>(Type or print Nominee's Full Name)</i>		TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE		
3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION <i>I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.</i>		5. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE <i>(MM-DD-YYYY)</i>
4A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE		6A. COUNTY
4B. DATE <i>(MM-DD-YYYY)</i>		6B. LAA NO.
		7. STATE
		DATE OF ELECTION IS 1st MONDAY OF DECEMBER OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR

8. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE

VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES: The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.

<p>ETHNICITY</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	<p>RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)</p> <input type="checkbox"/> America Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White	<p>GENDER</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
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INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM

Complete the form as follows:

ITEM 1 Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be:

- A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election.
- B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member.
- C. Willing to serve if elected.

ITEM 2 Enter the nominee's current address.

ITEM 3 The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.

ITEM 4 The nominee must sign and date.

ITEM 8 Completing this item is voluntary.

ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 3.

NOTE: *The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a) and the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, as amended. The authority for requesting the following information is 7 CFR Part 7. The information will be used to obtain nominees for County FSA Committee.*

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.