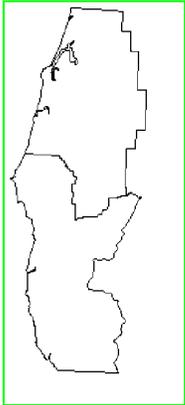


Coos/Curry FSA News

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

376 N Central Blvd.
Coquille, OR 97423



June/July 2008



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

Chairperson:
Sharon Waterman -LAA- 1
Vice Chairman:
Eric Wiley – LAA-2
Member:
Rick McKenzie – LAA-3

Coos/Curry FSA

Phone: (541) 396-4323
Ext. 21
Fax: (541) 396-5106
Email:
bret.harris@or.usda.gov

County Committee Elections **“FSA Counts on You”**

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. This year's election is for a person to represent LAA 1, which includes the northern and western part of Coos County, including the areas of Coos Bay, North Bend, Lakeside, and Bandon.

Nominations

Candidate nominations for the FSA county committee election will be accepted through Aug. 1, 2008.

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. 1, or postmarked by midnight Aug. 1, 2008.**

Candidate Eligibility

Basic eligibility criteria include:

- Must participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA, and;
- Be eligible to vote in a committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate;
- Not have been;
Removed from any public office or convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any felony; or Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

2005-2007 Disaster Program **Sign-up Continues!**

*** Livestock Compensation Prg. (LCP):**

Provides benefits for producers in designated disaster counties for their **added costs of procuring livestock feed in 2005, 2006 or 2007**. Eligible livestock include: dairy cattle, beef cattle, equine, sheep, and goats. *Call for sign-up info.*

LCP Sign-up Ends July 18, 2008.

*** Crop Disaster Program (CDP):**

FSA continues to accept applications and make payments for quantity losses under the Crop Disaster Program (CDP), for losses that occurred before the end of the 2007 calendar year. No ending date has yet been announced for CDP.

Later this summer FSA will begin making payments for quality losses under CDP.

More information is available online at:
www.fsa.usda.gov

CREP Continues for 2008

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.**

Special Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

FSA Direct Loan Limits Increase

With enactment of the new Farm Bill on May 22, 2008, the maximum direct loan amount that FSA is authorized to make under its Operating Loan (OL) program and Farm Ownership (FO) program has been increased from \$200,000 to \$300,000. This is welcome news for FSA farm loan customers, and helps the Agency's loan programs keep pace with rising operating costs and the cost of farm and ranch land.

Although direct Farm Ownership loan funds are somewhat limited until the beginning of the new fiscal year on October 1, 2008, direct Operating Loan funds remain available. If you have any questions about these expanded direct loan limits or the availability of loan funds be sure to contact our county office.



Down Payment Loan Program Expanded

FSA's direct down payment Loan Program for beginning farmers received a significant expansion in the new Farm Bill. In addition being available to help qualified beginning farmers and ranchers purchase farmland, this unique FSA loan program is now available to help women and minority farmers and ranchers as well. The maximum FSA loan possible under the program has been increased to \$225,000, and the previous purchase price limitation has been removed.

The interest rate under this expanded direct loan program can now be as low as 1.5 %, and the loan can have a term of up to 20 years. The loan can be secured with a second mortgage, behind the first mortgage of another lender willing to help in financing the purchase of the property, with or without an FSA loan guarantee. The minimum cash down payment required of the loan applicant under this expanded loan program is 5% of the purchase price. For more information on this expanded loan program, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to assist.

Selected Interest Rates for July 2008	
Farm Operating - Direct	3.625 %
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.000 %
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500 %
Emergency	3.750 %

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.

Special Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

2008 Compliance

Compliance and spot checks will once again be utilized during the 2008 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for spot check and review, a nationwide selection of producers is used to achieve a statistical sampling of participating producers. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program, etc.

For more information about the new spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact your local Farm Service Agency office for additional clarification.

Banking Changes?

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

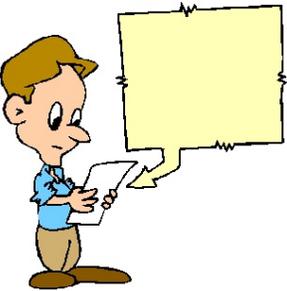


FSA Signature Policy

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. The parent is liable for actions of the minor and may be liable for refunds, 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.
- FAXED signatures will be accepted for certain forms and documents. Producers are responsible for the successful transmission and receipt of FAXED information.
Examples of documents not approved for FAXED signatures include: Joint payment authorization; NAP actual production history and approved yield record; Financing statement; UCC financing statement
- 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 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

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.



Online Services

Producers, if you have Internet access you can electronically log on, fill out and print a variety of FSA paper forms in the comfort of your home as your schedule allows. You can also register for secure electronic access that will allow you to electronically sign and transmit some forms directly to the county office staff. If you are new to the website, first you will want to obtain a Level 2 USDA Service Center Customer ID and password at: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> and then click on "Create an Account Page" link.

USDA eAuthentication is the system used by USDA agencies to enable customers to obtain accounts that will allow them to access USDA Web applications and services via the Internet. This includes things such as submitting forms electronically, completing surveys online, and checking the status of your USDA accounts.

If you already have a Customer ID and password, then click on the following eForms website at:

<http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainervlet> and then click on the "Sign In" button. A disclaimer window will open and after you read the "Warning message" click on the "Continue" button.

Then the USDA Web services page will open to the eAuthentication login page. Enter your login User ID and password and then click on the "Login" button. To sign and transmit forms electronically, you must sign-up and get a User ID and password.

Submitting an e-Form is convenient. You can access information anytime day or night seven days a week. It's faster and forms and applications can be submitted and received in the county office in a matter of minutes, not days or weeks.

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 Loan Deficiency Payments.

The certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. **The producer certification deadline for all 2008 crops has been extended to August 15.**

***Eligible CRP Acres
 Allowed to Hay and Graze
DOES NOT APPLY TO CREP***



USDA has authorized certain acreage enrolled under the **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)** to be available for hay and forage after the primary nesting season ends for grass-nesting birds. Some of the eligible land or forage of the land must be reserved for wildlife and any land that is used under this authority must have a conservation plan. **The most environmentally-sensitive land will NOT BE ELIGIBLE. Ineligible lands include those enrolled in the CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP), RIPARIAN BUFFERS on marginal pasture lands.** No rental payment reduction will be assessed on contracts being utilized for this critical use. A \$75 fee will be charged to process the contract modification.

For more information and to signup contact your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office.

Dates to Remember	
July 4, 2008	INDEPENDENCE DAY – Office CLOSED
July 15, 2008	Regular Coos/Curry FSA Committee Meeting
Continuing	Primary Nesting Season – through July 15
Aug 19, 2008	Regular Coos/Curry FSA Committee Meeting
On-going	Sign-up for CREP, GRP, 2008 LDP
Within 15 days	NAP notice of loss. Must report damage within 15 days of damage or when damage is apparent.

Visit our Web site at
www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA

ATTENTION AG GROUPS

Would you like to have a presentation on the new Farm Bill or more information on FSA and USDA programs? FSA and NRCS staff is available, call Bret Harris, FSA, CED at (541) 396-4323, ext. 25.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program 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 program. (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 to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.