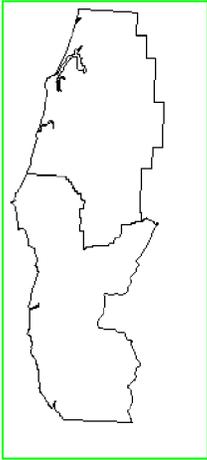


## Coos/Curry FSA News

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

376 N Central Blvd.  
Coquille, OR 97423



August 2008

### 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

Chairperson:

Sharon Waterman -LAA- 1

Vice Chairman:

Eric Wiley - LAA-2

Member:

Rick McKenzie - LAA-3

## NOTICE: 2008 Disaster Programs Requires Crop Insurance or NAP

### Eligibility "Buy-In" Deadline is September 16, 2008

The recently-enacted Farm Bill legislates 2008 disaster programs covering losses to crops, trees/vines/bushes, forage, and other losses due to adverse weather. These programs require the crops you planted, grew, produced or were prevented from planting to have been covered by federal crop insurance or FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). *All* of your crops on *all* of your acreage must be covered, not only those acres that suffered losses.

Due to the late passage of the Farm Bill in May, you will be given an opportunity to "buy-in" to the disaster program by paying a \$100/crop catastrophic crop insurance or NAP service fee for any 2008 crops that are not already covered by crop insurance or NAP.

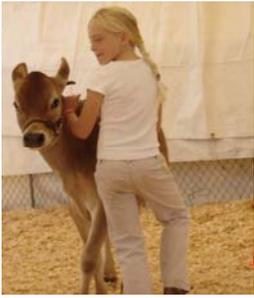
This eligibility "buy-in" **must be completed by September 16, 2008** at your FSA Office to satisfy the requirement for total CI / NAP coverage. Note that it does not provide you with crop insurance indemnities or NAP benefits. Once this requirement is met, you may be eligible for one or more of the following programs:

- **Supplemental Revenue Program (SURE):** Covers crop revenue losses from quantity or quality deficiencies in disaster declared counties, contiguous counties, or in cases where the overall production loss exceeds 50%
- **Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP):** Compensates livestock owners for forage losses due to drought. Additionally, losses due to wildfire will be covered on public lands.
- **Tree Assistance Program (TAP):** Provides for partial reimbursement for replanting, salvage, pruning, debris removal and land preparation for orchardists and nursery tree growers if losses exceed 15%.
- **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (EALHF):** Emergency relief to producers of livestock (including horses), honey bees, and farm-raised fish. Covers losses from disasters such as adverse weather, blizzards and wildfires or other conditions not adequately covered by any other disaster program. This program is authorized at the discretion of the Secretary.
- **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality. ***This is the only disaster program that does not require crop insurance or NAP coverage.***

Further details of all of these disaster programs, including signup information, will be provided at a later date. Note that additional requirements exist for disaster programs eligibility.

**Bottom Line: To be eligible for Disaster Programs in 2008, you must pay the fees for the eligibility buy-in at your FSA Office by September 16, 2008.**

Contact your FSA Office for more information.



Carrie Harris



(L-R) Margie Harris, Hanna Robison, Johnny Newton, Carrie Harris



Hayden Weekly



Margie Harris

## Coos County Fair

## Sign Up Underway for the 2008 DCP

Producers have until September 30, 2008 to sign up for the 2008 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP). Producers can fill out their 2008 DCP contract at any USDA Service Center or Farm Service Agency County Office. Sign-up can also be completed online by going to

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/edcp>

and clicking on "Access eDCP Service." You can choose payment options, assign crop shares and sign and submit contracts from any computer with Internet access. You can also view and print submitted contract options.

FSA computes DCP 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 2008, eligible producers may request to receive an advance payment of 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. FSA will issue advance direct payments as soon as practical after enrollment. Final direct payments will be issued after Oct. 1, 2008. Counter-cyclical payments vary depending on market prices, and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price (which takes into account the direct payment rate, market price and loan rate).

For all eligibility requirements or addition information, contact your local office.

## Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) Coverage for 2009

NAP is available for all crops not covered under Federal Crop Insurance. NAP provides catastrophic level of coverage (50% yield / 55% price) to crops damaged by the eligible weather events that occur before or during harvest.

The new Farm Bill increased the NAP **fee to \$250/crop, maximum of \$750/county**, and a maximum of \$1,875 for multi County.

Because of the late announcement of P.L. 110-246 about the 2009 risk management purchase requirement for the Supplemental Disaster Programs, an extension of 2009 NAP application closing dates has been authorized:

- **December 1, 2008** for **Grass Forage (hay), Mixed Forage (hay), Grazing, Barley, Oats, Clover, Vetch ...**

- **NOTE: Sales Closing Date for 2009 FCIC Cranberry coverage is November 20, 2008.**

## New Crop Certification Deadline

For 2008, the final crop reporting dates for most crops are being extended to August 15, 2008. **Late fees will not be applied if acreage reports are filed by August 15 and all other reporting requirements are met.**

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.

In addition, **for the new permanent disaster programs**, producers **must report all crops and land uses in all counties** in which they have a farming interest. Crops on cropland and/or non-cropland, **including native or improved grasses that will be hayed or grazed must also be reported.**

## Want Your Info Via E-mail?

If you use a computer at home or in your farm or ranch operation, you may prefer to receive information via e-mail from FSA. To get on our list, send your e-mail address and full name, address and phone number to [bret.harris@or.usda.gov](mailto:bret.harris@or.usda.gov) Note that USDA will not share or sell your e-mail address.

Note also that all county FSA newsletters are available on the FSA (Oregon) website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/or](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/or).

## Down Payment Loan Program Expanded

FSA's direct down payment Loan Program for beginning farmers received a significant expansion Farm Bill. In addition to being available to help qualified beginning farmers and ranchers purchase land, this 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.

## FSA Farm Loans

The new **Farm Bill provides increased limits on loans through FSA's Farm Loan Program**. The maximum loan amount authorized for direct Farm Ownership (FO) loans and direct Operating Loans (OL) has been increased from \$200,000 to \$300,000.

In the FO program, the maximum loan term for the revised down payment program has been extended from 15 years to 20 years. Changes in the Down Payment Program mean the required down payment amount has been reduced from 10 percent to 5 percent and interest rates have been reduced to as low as 1.5% depending on the present FO interest rate. This program allows the agency to loan up to 45% of the purchase price with another lender providing 50% of the financing and the applicant contributing 5%.

FSA makes both direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank, Farm Credit System institution or other lender. FSA loans can be used to purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed and supplies. The loans can also be used to construct buildings or make farm improvements.

If you're having trouble getting commercial credit, check with your county office staff about a FSA loan.

## Farm Reconstitutions

In Farm Service Agency terms, farms are **constituted** to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator 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. To be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program. If 2008 DCP direct payments have already been issued on the farm, the reconstitution will be effective for 2009 unless the payments are refunded. Also reconstituted farms must re-enroll in the DCP **within 30 days**, but no later than **September 30, 2008**.

## FARM BILL HAS PASSED!!!!

The 2008 farm bill has passed and it contains legislation for some **new permanent disaster programs**. For 2008 and future years:

**Livestock Forage Disaster Program** – Provides assistance for forage losses due to drought. Ranchers in counties with drought as designated by the USDA Drought monitor as severe, extreme or exceptional qualify for assistance. This program has some similarities to the LCP for 2005-2007 losses, but one exception is that **unlike LCP, for ranchers to qualify for the new program they must have Federal Crop Insurance or FSA Non-Insured Assistance (NAP) on all cropland AND the pasture or grazing lands which suffered a loss.**

**Livestock Indemnity Program** – Covers livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality rates during the calendar year due to adverse weather.

**Supplemental Revenue Program (SURE)** – Covers crop quantity and quality losses in counties declared a disaster and in contiguous counties. The program will also be available to **producers with a 50% or greater loss, regardless of any disaster declaration**. The program as it name implies looks at **total farm revenue for all crops when calculating payments**.

**Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish** - Emergency relief to producers of livestock bees, and farm-raised fish. Covers losses from adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and Wildfires not adequately covered by any other disaster program.

## SWCD's Seek New Board Members

Both the Coos and Curry Soil and Water Conservation districts (SWCD) are seeking nominations for persons to serve on the respective districts board of directors.

Information regarding zone boundaries, eligibility requirements, and copies of required election forms may be obtained from the SWCD offices at:

Coos SWCD – 371 N Adams St, Coquille, OR 97423. phone (541) 396-6879  
Curry SWCD – 94181 4<sup>th</sup> St, gold Beach, OR 97444. phone (541) 247-2755

Forms must be mailed or hand delivered to ODA, NRD at 635 Capitol St NE, Salem, OR 97301-2532 by 5 p.m. Aug 26, 2008.



### Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more that 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

**Visit our Web site at**  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA)

Dates to Remember	
Aug 15 2008	<b>2008 Acreage Reports Deadline</b>
Aug 19, 2008	Regular Coos/Curry FSA Committee Meeting
<del>Aug 31, 2008</del> <b>Dec 1, 2008</b>	<b>Sales Closing Date – 2009 NAP Crops</b> – Nursery, Aquaculture, Christmas Trees, Flowers
Sept 1, 2008	<b>Labor Day – Office Closed</b>
<b>Sept 16, 2008</b>	<b>Deadline to pay Buy-in fee</b> for 2008 NAP & CAT to be eligible for 2008 disaster assistance
<del>Oct 1, 2008</del> <b>Dec 1, 2008</b>	<b>Sales Closing Date – 2009 NAP Crops</b> – <b>Grass, Mixed Forage,</b> Barley, Oats, Clover, Vetch,
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.

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