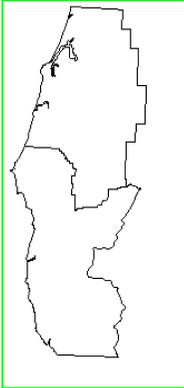


**Coos/Curry FSA News**

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

376 N Central Blvd.  
Coquille, OR 97423



**Sept. 2009**

Coos/Curry FSA

Phone: (541) 396-4323  
Ext. 21  
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Email:  
[bret.harris@or.usda.gov](mailto:bret.harris@or.usda.gov)

**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

**COC Nominating Closed  
Voting Starts Nov. 6**

**2009 Ballot Set**

Nominees for the LAA-2 position (Coquille, Fairview, Myrtle Point, Dora, Sitkum, Broadbent, Bridge, and Powers) on the Coos/Curry FSA Committee (COC) have been set. Nominated to replace Eric Wiley (current COC Chairman) on the committee are:

- **Beau Allen** – rancher & dairyman Myrtle Point area.
- **Mike Miranda II** – dairyman Coquille / Myrtle Point area.

Outgoing Chairman, Eric Wiley, has served three consecutive 3-year terms on the COC, and is ineligible to run again without a 1-term break in service. His commitment to agriculture and service to producers in the area is greatly appreciated.



**Voting Begins Nov. 6**

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.

For additional information about COC elections, contact the Coos/Curry FSA staff at the numbers listed on the left.

**Have Hay – Need Hay?**

The Farm Service Agency's (FSA) on-line **Hay Net Ad Service** is an Internet-based service allowing farmers and ranchers to share 'Need Hay' and 'Have Hay' ads online. Check it out at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov). Go to 'Online Services' at the top of the page and then select 'Hay Net'.

**Livestock Indemnity Program**

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock **death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather**, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold. **Eligible losses must have occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011.**

Livestock Death	Final Date to File a Notice of Loss	Final Date to Submit an Application
Calendar Year 2008	Sept. 13, 2009	Sept. 13, 2009
Jan. 1, 2009 to July 12, 2009	Sept. 13, 2009	Jan. 30, 2010
July 13, 2009 to Dec. 31, 2009	30 days after death	Jan. 30, 2010

**NRCS's CSP Signup**

The **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)** is offered as a continuous signup, and applications are accepted year-round.

This program provides eligible participants with financial and technical assistance to **help producers maintain and manage the existing conservation on their land** while also undertaking additional conservation activities. Eligible lands include cropland, grazing land, non-industrial private forest lands, and Tribal lands.

To be considered for **Fiscal Year 2009 funding**, applicants must **complete the following steps by Sept. 30, 2009**: Self-Screening Checklist; Work with local USDA Service Center to verify their program eligibility; Submit a program application form – CPA-1200 and Appendix; Submit an operation map that identifies their agricultural and/or forest operation and associated acreage amounts.

These packets are available at your local NRCS or FSA office. For further information you can check out the Oregon NRCS website at: <http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp>

## Electronic Services Available

If a producer has Internet access, program participants can access many services from home 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and receive approval and payment by direct deposit within 48 hours.

To participate in these services, you must meet all program eligibility requirements. Online services have stringent security measures to protect your private information.

To utilize electronic services a producer needs an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires an e-mail address and filling out an online registration form at

<http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> followed by a visit to the county office for identity verification.

If you have more questions, or would like assistance establishing your account, just contact your local USDA Service Center and talk with our trained FSA personnel.



## NAP Coverage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

The application deadline date for the 2010 NAP coverage for selected crops in our area is:

- **8/31/09** – Christmas trees, flowers, herbs, onions;
- **9/1/09** - Nursery Crops
- **10/1/09** - Asparagus, garlic;
- **11/20/09** – Apples, blueberries, caneberries, cranberries, grapes, peaches, pears, plums, prunes, nectarines;
- **11/30/09** – All Forage & Grazing Crops except oat forage/grazing

Producers who already have coverage on 2009 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2010, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee. Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.

## 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.

## Biomass Crop Assistance Program

Biomass conversion facilities can begin signing up to participate in the Biomass Crop Assistance Program. The program provides **financial assistance to producers who deliver eligible material to biomass conversion facilities** and FSA will provide financial assistance to collect, harvest, store and transport eligible materials.

**Owners of eligible material** can receive financial assistance for delivering qualified biomass to conversion facilities that use biomass for heat, power, bio-based products or advanced biofuels."

**Biomass conversion facilities** and material owners or producers should contact their local FSA offices or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) for more information.



**Once an agreement is signed between FSA and a facility AND funding through the program is provided**, the facilities can begin accepting materials. **Producers who sell these materials can apply for matching payments** under the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) component of BCAP.

The **matching CHST payments** are paid at a rate of **\$1 for \$1 per dry-ton equivalent** received from a qualified biomass conversion facility, **not to exceed \$45 per dry-ton equivalent**. A biomass owner is eligible to receive payments for two years. The purpose of the matching payments is to assist biomass producers with the CHST cost of delivering biomass to a qualified biomass conversion facility.

**Biomass conversion facilities may become "qualified" by submitting a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** to the FSA state offices. The MOU generally provides the requirements for becoming a qualified biomass conversion facility. Once a facility becomes qualified, eligible material owners or producers who deliver biomass to that facility may be eligible to receive CHST payments.

**Eligible material owners or producers**, who market eligible material to a qualified biomass conversion facility, may **apply for the matching CHST payment at their FSA county office**. An application must be submitted before the eligible material is sold and delivered to a qualified biomass conversion facility. **After the product is delivered, a producer must provide FSA with documentation of product quantity, quality and payment rate.** County offices will validate payment requests with information in the county office and information provided under the terms of MOUs with the qualified biomass conversion facilities. CHST payments will not be authorized until after an appropriate environmental analysis has been conducted.

## **Banking Changes?**

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using direct deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds.

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.

**Beginning August 3, 2009**, FSA/CCC payments made by direct deposit will be transmitted by Kansas City to Treasury. This allows FSA to be compliant with the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (DCIA), which requires that Federal payments be processed through the Treasury Offset Program (TOP) so that any delinquent Federal debt can be offset.

This will result in the following processing changes:

- **a 1 day delay in receipt of funds via direct deposit**

- the potential for all payments to be offset through TOP

- the description on the bank statement reading "FSA TREAS 310"

## **Farm Storage Facility Loan Program**

Changes to the Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program have been implemented in accordance with the 2008 Farm Bill, which will allow producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The **maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000**. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with **CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment**. Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. **Interest rates** for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department, **currently 3.125%**.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed.

**Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.**

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- **Hay**
- **Renewable biomass**
- **Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities**

For more information about FSFL or other FSA price support program, please visit your FSA county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## **Crop Loan Rates**

Selected commodity prices for Aug. 25, 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

## **Loans for Socially Disadvantaged**



FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged Applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is a member of a group that has been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact their local FSA office for details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

## **CREP & Continuous CRP Available**

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) allows farmers and ranchers to voluntarily enroll environmentally sensitive land into a program that decreases erosion, restores wildlife habitat and safeguards ground and surface water. CREP is a partnership with federal and state government and is limited to specific geographic areas.

USDA has indicated there will not be general signups scheduled for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in 2009. The budget has no available funding for CRP general signups, and instead advocates enrollment in either CREP or Continuous CRP.

Environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) or Continuous CRP will be eligible for annual rental payments and cost-share of up to 50 percent on approved practices. These targeted programs will remain funded, and continue to provide heightened environmental benefits on select areas.

*October is National Disability  
Employment Awareness Month*



Coos/Curry County FSA Office  
 376 N Central Blvd.  
 Coquille, OR 97423-1244

**PRESORTED STANDARD  
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 PERMIT NO. 71**

**Conservation Compliance (Sodbuster, Swampbuster)**

Most Farm Service Agency programs require compliance with sodbuster and swampbuster provisions. These provisions require producers to follow an approved conservation system on all highly erodible land planted to an annual crop as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Several areas where problems can arise with complying with a conservation system are; renting new cropland, purchasing new land, breaking out additional cropland, planting different crops, and changing or removing existing conservation practices.

It is very important that you **contact our office before modifying** - tiling, draining, dredging, filling or leveling - **any wetland or drainage ditch**. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations **can result in loss of all Federal payments and eligibility**.

Be sure to have determinations made on any new land you plan to plant to annual crops. If you plan to plant a different crop on your current cropland, check with NRCS to assure the new crop will qualify under your conservation system. Swampbuster provisions state that **converting a wetland to make possible the planting of a crop will result in the loss of all USDA benefits**. To avoid this possibility it is strongly recommended that producers check with NRCS before starting to work in the fields.

Dates to Remember	
Sept 1, 2009	<a href="#">2010 Nursery Nap deadline</a>
Sept 22, 2009	<a href="#">Regular COC Meeting</a>
Oct. 1, 2009	<a href="#">Federal Fiscal 2010 Begins</a>
Oct. 2009	<a href="#">CRP &amp; DCP payments</a>
Oct. 20, 2009	<a href="#">Regular COC Meeting</a>
Nov. 30, 2009	<a href="#">NAP signup deadline for forage crops (hay) &amp; grazing</a>
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.

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

**ATTENTION AG GROUPS**

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

**Youth Loans**

The Farm Service Agency makes **loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups**. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The **maximum loan amount is \$5000**. **Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:** Be a **citizen** of the United States or a legal resident alien; Be **10 years to 21** years of age; Live in a **rural area** or in a town of 50,000 people or fewer; Must obtain a **written recommendation** and consent from a parent or guardian if the applicant has not reached the age of majority under state law; Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements; Be unable to get a loan from other sources; Conduct a modest **income-producing project** in a **supervised program of work** as outlined above; Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a **project advisor**; The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

***Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms. The FSA staff can help you with questions you may have about a particular program.***

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 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.