

June 2006

County Committee Elections

From June 15 through Aug. 1, farmers and ranchers can **nominate eligible peers or themselves as candidates for election to the Coos/Curry Farm Service Agency County Committee**. This is an important time for the community because county committee members make decisions that have significant effects on you and the area's agricultural sector as a whole. For example, committee members make decisions on applications for federal farm program and disaster payments. Committee members play a vital role by helping local farmers and rancher's weather tough financial times and natural disasters. To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet basic eligibility requirements. Contact the county office staff or visit

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections> for details about candidate eligibility. Nomination forms can be obtained at the county office or online at the above address.

Remember, the **nomination period runs June 15 through Aug. 1**. Voting takes place in the fall. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by Nov. 3. December 4th is the last day to return voted ballots to the county office. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office Jan. 1, 2007.

This year we will elect the representative from LAA-2, which is the Southern and Eastern part of Coos County, including the areas of Coquille, Fairview, Myrtle Point, Sitkum, and Powers.

Acreage Reporting

The timely filing of an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a number of programs, including DCP, CRP/CREP, NAP, as well as marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments (**including wool LDP**).

To be timely, you must file an FSA-578 by June 30, 2006. Prevented planted acreage must be filed no later than 15 calendar days after the final reporting date for the crop and failed acreage must be filed before the disposition of the crop.

We accept crop certifications from operators, owners, persons authorized by power of attorney and tenants and sharecroppers, for their share. We will also accept from all producers crop acreage reports for any purpose.

Requesting LDPs for 2006

To request 2006 crop loan deficiency payments, you must use the CCC-633 EZ, Loan Deficiency Payment Agreement and Request. Here's an explanation for each page of the form:

Page 1 – Producer's *intention to request* LDPs in the future:

- **Must be signed before beneficial interest is lost.** Gives terms and conditions for requesting LDPs.
- Covers all farms and all eligible crops in all counties. Submit one to the county office staff. Remind staff of other counties where you have farming interest.
- This is **your intention to request an LDP** in the future. **It is not a request for payment.**

Page 2 – Producer's *request for LDP* payment on feed grains, minor oilseeds, rice and pulses.

Use after grain is harvested and in storage. You maintain beneficial interest. The LDP rate will be the rate in effect on the date page 2 is received in the office.

- Can use after beneficial interest is lost. LDP rate will be the rate in your administrative county office on the date beneficial interest was lost. Must provide production evidence.
- Use when you wish to receive LDP rate based upon date commodity was delivered to warehouse. You must maintain beneficial interest from harvest through delivery to the warehouse. Complete all required sections including item 23B.

Page 4 – Producer's request for LDP payment on sheared wool, sheared mohair or unshorn pelts:

- Use when wool or mohair is sheared and in storage. You maintain beneficial interest. LDP rate is based on date page 4 is received in county office.

- Use if beneficial interest is lost at shearing. LDP rate will be the rate in your administrative county office on the date beneficial interest was lost. Must provide production evidence.
- **For unshorn pelts, page 4 is submitted within 60 days of slaughter.** LDP rate is based upon date of delivery to slaughter company or buyer.

Report Farm Changes

Have you sold or purchased land? Leased additional land? Please report farm changes to FSA so records can be updated. For farm ownership changes we need proof of ownership.

The USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers farm loans to help qualified women and minorities buy and operate family-sized farms and ranches.

FSA reserves and targets a portion of its loan and loan guarantee funds each year to assist Socially Disadvantaged Applicants. Socially disadvantaged groups are those whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For the purposes of FSA's loan programs, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

FSA's loan and loan guarantee funds are available to individuals and entities that are primarily and directly engaged in farming and ranching on family-sized operations. Farm Ownership loan funds are available to help qualified socially disadvantaged persons purchase a farm or ranch. To qualify, the applicant must have participated in the business operation of a farm or ranch for at least 3 years. For those applicants that have at least 1 year's experience in managing or operating a farm or ranch, Operating Loan funds are available to help with the purchase of livestock, machinery, and equipment, as well as annual production expenses.

Further information is available from your local FSA office and on the Oregon State FSA website at www.fsa.usda/or/

Payment Limitation Rules

Certain FSA program benefits may not be provided until payment eligibility determinations are made. Forms for this purpose must be filed before an application is approved or payment made. Any determination of person ineligibility or "not actively engaged in farming" results in the applicant's ineligibility to receive program payments.

Statutory provisions require that all entities – partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, trusts, etc. - provide the names, addresses, and ID numbers of their members to the COC. Entities must also inform their members of the requirement for designating "permitted entities" for payment purposes. Spouses may be considered separate persons for payment limitation purposes if requested and requirements are met.

The following programs are subject to payment limitations:

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| * DCP: Direct Payment - \$40,000 per crop year | * Counter-cyclical Payment - \$65,000 per crop year |
| * LDP's: \$75,000 per crop year | * Market Gains: \$75,000 per crop year |
| *Emergency Conservation Program - \$200,000 Program - \$100,000 per crop year | * Noninsured Assistance |
| * Conservation Reserve Program - \$50,000 per fiscal year of the farm bill. | * EQIP - \$450,000 for the life |