

## **County Committee Elections**

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. Nominees are:

Eric Wiley: Eric operates the family farm near Broadbent. He raises beef and hay. Eric has served one term on the FSA Committee and is active in other farm organizations.

Jeff Cochran: Jeff operates the family dairy on North Bank Rd. Jeff has served as an alternate on the FSA Committee, on the Coos SWCD Board, and is active in other farm organizations.

Ballots will be mailed by Nov. 4, and voters have until Dec. 5 to return their ballots to the county office. Elected committee members and alternates take office on Jan. 1, 2007

### **Prospective Voter Requirements**

If you're on the mailing list for this newsletter, the chances are you are an eligible voter. An eligible voter is: 1) of legal voting age and participates or cooperates in any FSA program; or 2) Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; **and** 3) Eligible to participate in any FSA program that is provided for by law, regardless of the status of funding.

### **Prohibited Discrimination**

No person shall 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. Contact the county office staff if you have questions about voter eligibility.

## **Report Losses**

Producers: If you had any failed crop acres, give serious thought to reporting your losses before plowing under the evidence. If Congress authorizes a crop disaster program in the future, proof of failed acreage may be required for your participation.

Ensuring that failed acres are documented could be the determining factor in whether you are eligible for future crop disaster program payments.

If you are experiencing low crop yields, you should keep good production records, but you don't need to report this acreage right now.

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop.

## **Marketing Assistance Loan & Loan Deficiency Payment Program Changes**

There have been changes to the marketing assistance loan (MAL) and loan deficiency payment (LDP) program which will affect 2006 and later crop years. These changes include:

\* Beneficial interest provisions – The regulations were amended to state that beneficial interest is lost when a loan eligible commodity is delivered to a dairy, feedlot, ethanol plant, feed mill, wool pool or other end-use facility.

\* Form CCC-633 EZ – To simplify LDP requests, there is a new LDP form. This is a two-part form consisting of an agreement, and a request for benefits. You can find out more by reading an FSA fact sheet online at:

[www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/nonrec03.htm](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/nonrec03.htm) Or stop into our office and ask for the fact sheet

### **Non-Insured Assistance Program**

NAP is available for all crops not covered under Federal Crop Insurance. NAP provides catastrophic level coverage (50% yield/55% price) to crops damaged by weather events. Cost is \$100 per crop not to exceed \$300 per county. Application closing dates for 2007 crops:

- \* 10/1/06 Grass, alfalfa, small grain (fall or spring planted), other forage, grazing, mint, grass seed, clover seed, alfalfa seed, and any other perennial not mentioned
- \* 11/22/06 All fruit crops and honey
- \* 03/15/07 All spring planted crops not mentioned
- \* 05/31/07 Buckwheat

### **Farm Record & Direct Deposit Changes**

Remember to file a new Direct Deposit form with our office if you change banks, bank routing number or account number. The banks DO NOT notify us! Unreported changes may delay payments. Have you sold or purchased land? Leased additional land? Please report farm changes to FSA so records can be updated.

### **2007 EQIP Deadline**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is now accepting applications for the 2007 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). EQIP is a voluntary conservation program through which farmers and ranchers may receive financial assistance to help install or implement a variety of structural and management practices.

### **FSA Signature Requirements**

Proper signatures on Farm Service Agency contracts, applications and forms must be submitted before the document will be considered as filed. All entities, including revocable and irrevocable trusts, corporations, partnerships, estates, etc., must provide evidence of signature authority stipulating those individuals who are authorized to represent the entity. FSA cannot accept signatures without such documentation on file.

Examples of acceptable evidence include trust agreements, corporate charters or resolutions, partnership agreements and court orders of appointment. Spouses can sign for one another on most program documents unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office staff. An FSA-211 may be filed to delegate signature authority for FSA program purposes to another individual.

**September 15 through October 15 is National Hispanic Heritage Month**  
**The Month of October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month**

## **Financial Tools for Beginning Farmers**

Beginning farmers are farmers who have not farmed for more than 10 years. FSA reserves part of its direct and guarantee loan funds each year for beginning farmers. A minimum qualification for farm ownership loans is 3 years involvement in the business operations of a farm. Another is the limitation of size of ownership to 30% of the average size of a farm in the county. One available program is the down payment farm ownership loan where the applicant makes at least a 10% down payment, FSA finances up to 40% with a 15-year term and the remainder would be financed elsewhere. The purchase price or appraised value, whichever is lower, may not exceed \$250,000.

<b>Dates to Remember</b>	
<b>Oct. 1, 2006</b>	NAP Application Deadline for Grass, grains
<b>Oct. 1, 2006</b>	Signup for 2007 DCP begins
<b>Oct. 17, 2006</b>	Regular Coos/Curry FSA Committee Meeting
<b>Nov. 21, 2006</b>	Regular Coos/Curry FSA Committee Meeting
<b>Nov. 22, 2006</b>	NAP Application Deadline for fruit crops
<b>On-going</b>	<a href="#">CCC-633-EZ, "Intention to participate"</a>
<b>On-going</b>	Sign-up for CREP, GRP, 2006 LDP
<b>Within 15 days</b>	NAP notice of loss. Must report damage within 15 days of damage or when damage is apparent.