

Central Oregon FSA Newsletter

Deschutes, Crook, Jefferson Counties **JUNE 2009**



Central Oregon Farm Service Agency

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Suite 3
Redmond, OR 97756

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Hours
Monday-Friday
8:00am-4:30pm

Website
www.fsa.usda.gov/or

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County Committee Election

This years election will be held in Local Administrative Area (LAA) 3, covering Crook County & (LAA) 4 covering Deschutes County. The COC is actively seeking nominees to run for this year's election. Women and minorities are strongly encouraged to submit nominating petitions. If you or your neighbor is interested in running for the COC, a nomination petition is enclosed. Nominating petitions must be returned by **August 3, 2009**. Prospective candidates must be of legal age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper and be eligible to participate in any FSA Program that is provided by law, regardless of funding. COC's are responsible for making decisions regarding Farm Bill programs. Ballots for the election will be mailed out by November 6, 2009. Make your vote count by voting for the farmer/rancher of your choice. The county office will be holding an informational meeting to explain the COC nomination and election process on June 24, 2009 at 9:00am. Our office is located at 625 SE Salmon Ave., Suite 3, Redmond, OR 97756.

2009 Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE)

Sign Up For DCP & ACRE Has Been Extended Until: August 14, 2009

The Farm Service Agency announced that sign ups for the ACRE program will begin April 27, 2009. ACRE is a provision of the 2008 Farm Bill. Producers have until August 14, 2009 to make their decision for the 2009 crop. The FSA office will not accept any late applications. Producers who elect the ACRE program for a farm agree to:

- *Forgo counter-cyclical payments;
- *Accept a 20% reduction of direct payments;
- and *Accept a 30% reduction in loan rates for all commodities produced on the farm.

Commodities eligible for ACRE payments are wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley.

Your County Committee:

Ken Miltenberger, Chairperson
Adam Barney, Vice-Chairperson
Mike Macy, Regular Member
Brigette Whipple, Regular Member

oats, upland cotton, rice, peanuts, soybeans, sunflower seed, canola, flaxseed, safflower, mustard seed, rapeseed, sesame seed, crambe, dry peas, lentils, and chickpeas. Producers may elect and enroll in ACRE for the 2009 crop year even if they have already accepted advance direct payments under the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP). To elect a farm for ACRE, all producers/owners on a farm must complete the CCC-509 ACRE which irrevocably elects the farm into the ACRE program through crop year 2012. A producer may not elect into ACRE in 2009, but go into the program in 2010, 2011 or 2012, however once a farm is elected into ACRE, it remains in the program through crop year 2012. ACRE payments are only made on base acres which actually grow one of the commodities listed above, if all triggers are met. For more information about the ACRE program, attend the workshop being held at the FSA Office in Redmond on June 10 at 9:00 am, or call the office at 541-923-4358 ext 2.

Acres Reporting Deadline is June 30, 2009

Producers who participate in FSA programs or have Federal Crop Insurance are required to accurately certify all cropland on the farm by **June 30, 2009 deadline**. For disaster program purposes we now require all non-cropland to be reported such as rangeland & scabland. Measurement services are available for producers who are unsure of the acreage in a field or farm. Producers should be prepared to provide planting dates, crop, variety, intended use, acres, crop shares, & any newly acquired land or renewed leases

- *Failure to meet the June 30, 2009 deadline may require a late file fee and on site measurement service to remain in compliance for program benefits.

Pulse Crops

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 states that eligible pulse crops acres may be added as base acres. The addition of pulse crop base acres is: *Effective for 2009 through 2012 crop years * required to be calculated in the same manner as eligible oilseed acreage under the 2002 Farm Bill.

The calculation of pulse crop base acres and yield is based on the acreage and yield history from the 1998 through 2001 crop years. Pulse crops are defined as: *dry peas (green, yellow, Austrian, Umatilla, and wrinkled); intended uses must be Seed or Dry Edible. *Lentil; any intended use. * Large chickpeas (Kabuli garbanzo beans); any intended use. * Small chickpeas (Desi garbanzo beans); any intended use.

Pulse crop base acres will only be eligible for counter-cyclical or Acreage Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) payments for 2009 through 2012 crop years. Direct payments will not be eligible.

Producers with current pulse crop acre history in 1998 through 2001 will be notified of the opportunity to update pulse crop base acres to their farm using one of three options. Producers must also provide verifiable and acceptable production evidence to support the calculated average farm yield for each pulse crop. The deadline for pulse crop base acres and yield election is August 14, 2009.

Producers that did not file acreage reports on pulse crops in 1998 through 2001 may now provide a late-filed acreage report at no charge. Acceptable evidence of the existence and disposition of the crop is required: Late -filed prevented planting provisions for 1998 through 2001 pulse crops also apply.

New Commodity Loan Repayment Rates

Since April 15, FSA began using an improved and more stable system for determining non-recourse marketing assistance loan repayment rates and loan deficiency payment rates for wheat, feed grains, pulse crops, oilseeds, wool, mohair, and honey.

The new method reduces the effects daily market volatilities have on loan repayment rates, and provides more certainty for producers who have taken advantage of marketing assistance loans or loan deficiency payments.

The loan repayment rate may now be determined as the lesser of the loan rate plus interest and a rate based on: 1) average market prices during the previous 30 days, or 2) an alternative method the secretary may develop.

Beginning April 15, 2009, for wheat, corn, grain Sorghum, soybeans, barley, oats, canola, flaxseed and sunflower seed, the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) determines and publishes daily loan repayment rates based on the average market prices during the preceding 30 days. At the same time, CCC will announce each day a repayment rate based on the preceding five days. The new method will replace the current one, which is based on the previous day's market rates. The effective alternative repayment rate will be the lower of either the 30-day average or the 5-day average. The 30-day method will reflect a 30-day moving average of all terminal market prices for the crop, adjusted by the difference between the applicable national loan rate and the county loan rate. The 5-day method will reflect a 5-day moving average of applicable terminal market prices adjusted by applicable county differential and terminal adjustments.

The new loan repayment method will minimize potential forfeitures, accumulation of CCC stocks, CCC storage costs, market impediments and discrepancies in benefits across state and county boundaries.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL)

Producers who can demonstrate a need for eligible commodity farm storage needs or upgrades may be interested in Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) Program. Eligible commodities include rice, soybeans, dry peas, lentil, small chickpeas, peanuts, sunflower seeds, canola, rapeseed, safflower, flaxseed, mustard seed, corn, grain sorghum, oats, wheat, and barley. Loan amounts are 85% of the net cost of storage and/or handling equipment not to exceed \$100,000. Loans will carry a maximum term of seven years.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CENTRAL OREGON FARM SERVICE AGENCY
 625 SE SALMON AVE, SUITE 3
 REDMOND, OR 97756-9580

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Return Service Requested

_____Commodity Loans_____

As a reminder, it is the producer's responsibility to maintain the quality of the commodity in farm storage through the term of the loan. Beginning with the 2008 Farm Bill, producers will be required to provide documentation that all in-handling charges have been paid or provided for before a warehouse-stored Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) will be disbursed for the commodity. In order to qualify for loans and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's), an eligible producer is a person or entity that:

- Has complied with annual program requirements, including acreage reporting for applicable crops, and completing forms AD-1026, CCC-902, and CCC-926.
- Has beneficial interest in the eligible commodity for which a loan or LDP is requested. This includes control, and title of the commodity.
- Loans mature nine months following the month in which the loan was approved.
- Producers who are found in violation of the terms and conditions of loan/LDP provisions face possible administrative actions consisting of liquidated damages, repayment of loan/LDP quantity in violation, calling the loan, and denying future farm stored loans/LDP's.

COMMODITY LOAN RATES (Additional crop rates available)	Crook County	Deschutes County	Jefferson County	Sherman County
Barley	\$2.16/bu	\$2.16/bu	\$2.24/bu	\$2.24/bu
Oats	\$1.35/bu	\$1.35/bu	\$1.35/bu	\$1.35/bu
Wheat – HRS	\$3.81/bu	\$3.86/bu	\$3.91/bu	\$3.96/bu
Wheat – HRW	\$2.99/bu	\$2.99/bu	\$3.04/bu	\$3.09/bu
Wheat – Soft White	\$3.17/bu	\$3.17/bu	\$3.22/bu	\$3.27/bu

_____Special Accommodations_____

FSA programs are available to all eligible interested persons. Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required please contact the FSA office.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs 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 programs. (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 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.

FSA-669A

(04-17-09)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

The County FSA Committee election will be held on the first Monday of December. Ballots will be mailed to voters not less than 4 weeks before the election.

This form allows individuals to nominate themselves or any other person as a candidate. If additional forms are needed, this one may be copied or may be obtained at the County FSA Office or obtained electronically at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov>. Each form submitted must be:

- A. Limited to one nominee.
- B. Signed and dated by the nominee in Item 4. Nominee must sign if willing to have his/her name placed on the ballot and agrees to serve if elected.

Note: Name shown on ballot will appear exactly the same as in Agency records.

- C. Delivered to the County FSA Office or postmarked no later than August 3.

The County FSA Committee is responsible for reviewing each form to determine the eligibility of nominees. A person who files this form and is found ineligible will be so notified and have an opportunity to file a challenge.

Persons nominated should actively participate in the operation of a farm or ranch and be well qualified for committee work. A producer is eligible to be a County FSA committee member if the producer resides in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) in which the election is to be held and is eligible to vote.

Federal regulations may prohibit County FSA Committee members from holding certain positions in some farm, commodity, and political organizations if such positions pose a conflict of interest with FSA duties. The positions include functional offices such as president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer; and positions on boards or executive committees. Conflict of interest restrictions also apply to employees, operators, managers, and majority owners of tobacco warehouses. Questions concerning eligibility should be directed to the County FSA Office.

A candidate has the option to request that all voted ballots for an individual county committee election be returned to the respective State Office in lieu of being returned to the county office. This request must be in writing and submitted to the local County Executive Director prior to the announced end of the nomination period.

The duties of County FSA Committee members include:

- A. Administering farm program activities conducted by the County FSA Office.
- B. Informing farmers of the purpose and provisions of the FSA programs.
- C. Keeping the State FSA Committee informed of LAA conditions.
- D. Monitoring changes in farm programs.
- E. Participating in county meetings as necessary.
- F. Performing other duties as assigned by the State FSA Committee

FSA-669A
(04-17-09)

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency

NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

1. NAME OF NOMINEE <i>(Type or print Nominee's Full Name)</i>	TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE	
3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION <i>I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.</i>	5. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE <i>(MM-DD-YYYY)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.</i>	6A. COUNTY
4A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE	6B. LAA NO.
4B. DATE <i>(MM-DD-YYYY)</i>	7. STATE
DATE OF ELECTION IS 1st MONDAY OF DECEMBER OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR	

8. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE

VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES: The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.

ETHNICITY	RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)	GENDER
<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	<input type="checkbox"/> America Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM

Complete the form as follows:

- ITEM 1** Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be:
 - A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election.
 - B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member.
 - C. Willing to serve if elected.
- ITEM 2** Enter the nominee's current address.
- ITEM 3** The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.
- ITEM 4** The nominee must sign and date.
- ITEM 8** Completing this item is voluntary.

ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 3.

NOTE: *The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a) and the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, as amended. The authority for requesting the following information is 7 CFR Part 7. The information will be used to obtain nominees for County FSA Committee.*

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.