



Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson Counties – August 2008 Central Oregon FSA Newsletter



Central Oregon Farm Service Agency

625 SE Salmon Ave
Suite #3
Redmond, OR 97756

Ph: (541) 923-4358
FAX: (541) 923-4713

Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00am – 4:30pm

Website

www.fsa.usda.gov/or

Individual Highlights:

Farewells and Hellos:
Debby & Dianne

DCP Sign-Up: Contract
Deadline 9/30

New Disaster Program:
SURE Buy-in by 9/16

2009 NAP Deadlines

CRP Critical Feed Use

Commodity Loan Rates

COC nominees: Bill
DuRette & Mike Macy

Farm Loan Changes

Upcoming Dates:
Acreage report by 8/15

Your FSA Staff:

Cameron Kirsch, CED x108 cameron.kirsch@or.usda.gov
Amy Bell, PT x105 amy.bell@or.usda.gov
Dianne Read, PT x106 dianne.read@or.usda.gov
Janelle VanDyke, COT x104 janelle.vandyke@or.usda.gov

Your County Committee:

Ken Miltenberger, Chairperson
Adam Barney, Vice-Chairperson
William DuRette, Regular Member
Brigitte Whipple, Regular Member

Farewells & Hellos

Debby Carter, an 18 year veteran of the FSA office, has received a promotion within the agency. A new hire, Dianne Read, has joined our team. Following is a note from each of them about their new endeavors.

New County Office Reviewer Greetings! When I was trying to decide whether to apply for the County Office Reviewer position, it was with the knowledge that I would greatly miss the farmers and ranchers in Central Oregon. I have enjoyed serving you and greatly enjoyed getting to talk to you about your operations and your families. I did not do

my job just to get it done but rather to get to know the people I was working with. I truly care for all of you and wish you the best in life. However, I also need to make changes that will benefit both my family and me. So with that in mind I am moving forward in my career. But know that I think of you often with fondness.

By Debby Carter

Our New P.T.

Greetings! Hello, I am Dianne Read the new Program Technician here at the Central Oregon FSA office and am looking forward to working with and meeting all

of you. I'm sure there are many of you that I already know since I have spent the last 12 years working for Oregon Dept. of Ag as a Livestock Inspector. For those of you who are not familiar with me, I have an extensive background in ranching and farming, with a "hands on" understanding of Ag. My family and I own and operate a Registered Black Angus Cattle Ranch in Jefferson County and progressively market and show our cattle throughout the Northwest in addition to a hay operation. I am excited to be a part of FSA and help sustain the future of Ag.

By Dianne Read

Direct & Counter-Cyclical (DCP) Program Sign-up

Producers wishing to participate in the 2008 DCP program must submit completed contract applications (form CCC-509 and supporting documentation) by the September 30, 2008 deadline in order to participate. The county office has mailed out the majority of qualifying contracts along with letters explaining the steps to complete. If you still need to complete a contract, please contact the office before September 30th. Producers can fill out their 2008 DCP contract at any USDA Farm Service Agency office, or online by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/edcp> and clicking on "Access

eDCP Service".

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).

As a result of the 2008 farm bill, farms with a base of 10.0 acres or less will no longer receive payment unless they qualify as a socially disadvantaged or limited resource farmer/rancher. For all eligibility requirements or additional information, please contact your local office.

New Disaster Programs Due to the Farm Bill

The 2008 Farm Bill created five new disaster programs, collectively referred to as Supplemental Agriculture Disaster Assistance programs. Those programs include:

1. Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP) – Addresses unique disasters not adequately covered by any other program. Requires acreage intended to be grazed.
2. Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) – Provides assistance to ranchers in areas affected by drought or fire. Requires coverage of intended grazing acreage.
3. Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) – Risk Management Purchase Requirement is not required.
4. Tree Assistance Program (TAP) – Provides compensation for orchardists and nursery producers to replant trees and vines that have been destroyed by natural disasters.
5. **Supplement Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program** – covers crop losses on the whole farm due to natural disasters when either:
 - a. The county receives a Secretarial disaster declaration, including contiguous counties
 - b. The total loss of production for the farm is greater than 50% or more.

The revenue of these new disaster programs are collectively managed through SURE. To be eligible for these programs, producers are required to have a “Risk Management Purchase Requirement” which means they **must** purchase at least catastrophic risk protection (CAT) level crop insurance for **all** insurable crops and/or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for **all** non-insurable crops.

2008 SURE program buy-in

Sales closing dates for CAT and application closing deadlines for NAP have passed for the 2008 crop year for nearly all insurable and non-insurable crops. The 2008 Act allows producers to “buy-in” to the program by paying the administrative fee that would have been applicable if the producer had timely applied for CAT or NAP. These fees are \$100 per crop per county, up to \$300 per county, not to exceed \$900 per multi-county. Buy-in fees should be paid at the county FSA office by the deadline date of **Sept. 16, 2008**. The buy-in fees do not provide any CAT crop insurance coverage or NAP coverage but do allow producers to gain eligibility to participate in the SURE program.

2009 SURE Eligibility

Don’t forget that to be eligible for the 2009 SURE program, CAT and NAP fee deadlines are quickly approaching! If you have any questions regarding 2008 or 2009 requirements, please contact the Central Oregon FSA office.

The Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP)

NAP provides financial assistance to eligible producers affected by natural disasters on non-insurable crop(s) losses. The natural disaster must have reduced your expected production of the crop by more than 50% and pays 55% of the approved price. Eligible crops include commercial crops and other agricultural commodities produced for food (including livestock feed) or fiber for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is unavailable. For further information regarding NAP, please contact your local FSA office.

The 2009 NAP Sales closing dates are as follows...

August 31, 2008*	Carrots, Onions, Radish, Cabbage, Flowers, Greens, Herbs (except peppermint), Canole, and other fall planted crops not mentioned
October 1, 2008*	Aquaculture, Christmas Trees, Turf Grass Sod, Garlic, Mushrooms, Grass seed, Clover seed, Mint, Alfalfa Hay, Grass hay, Small Grain Forage (fall or spring) and other forage crops, Grazing, Ornamental Nursery & other perennials not mentioned
March 15, 2008	Beans & all ofther spring crops not otherwise mentioned.

* Due to the late announcement of procedures related to the new SURE program, all 2009 NAP sales closing dates that fall before December 1, 2008 have been extended to December 1, 2008. It is important to note that insurance will not take affect until the later of 30 days after NAP is purchased or the date the crop is planted not to exceed the final planting date.

To apply for coverage you must pay the applicable service fees at your local FSA office. The service fee is equal to \$250 per crop per producer, maximum \$750 per county, not to exceed a total of \$1,875 per producer for all counties.

CRP Critical Feed Use: Court Ruling

There has been a lot of commotion regarding Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contract modification for critical feed use (CFU). On July 8, 2008, a Federal court granted a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) to suspend processing of applications and cease the activity of CFU. On July 24, 2008, the same Federal court issued a Permanent Injunction which permitted certain CFU to continue. However, producers permitted to continue were broken down in 3 categories:

- Category A, which includes producers who had applied for CFU and were approved before the July 8, 2008 TRO.
 - Category A producers **may** begin activity on receipt of the notice of the modified conditions.
- Category B, which includes producers who applied for but who had not yet received approval prior to CFU before the July 8, 2008 TRO.
 - Category B producers may **not** begin CFU until the contract modification, a modification of the conservation plan has been approved, and on receipt of the notice of the modified conditions.
- Category C, which includes producers in a special situation.
 - Category C producers are not authorized for CFU unless the producer can make a showing of significant reliance on the CFU, which must include **both**:
 - documentary proof of investment of \$4500 or greater toward haying or grazing equipment or preparation as a result of notice of the CFU act that was made before the TRO, that is, 5 p.m. on July 8, 2008. –and-
 - a declaration from the CRP contract holder attesting to the showing of significant reliance on the announcement of CFU in making the investment defined above.

For further explanation, or questions on the matter, please contact Cameron Kirsch, FSA County Executive Director, at (541) 923-4358 x108.

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-502, and CCC-526.
- Has beneficial interest in the eligible commodity for which a loan or LDP is requested. This includes control, risk of loss, and title.
- 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	\$2.22/bu	\$2.22/bu	\$2.28/bu	\$2.28/bu
Oats	\$1.31/bu	\$1.31/bu	\$1.31/bu	\$1.31/bu
Wheat – HRS	\$3.23/bu	\$3.28/bu	\$3.33/bu	\$3.38/bu
Wheat – HRW	\$3.32/bu	\$3.32/bu	\$3.37/bu	\$3.42/bu
Wheat – Soft White	\$2.70/bu	\$2.70/bu	\$2.75/bu	\$2.80/bu

County Committee (COC) Nominations & Election

This years election will be held in Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2, covering Jefferson County. Ballots will be mailed no later than **November 3, 2008**. Please don't forget to sign your ballot return envelope. Ballots must be received by our office no later than 4:30 p.m. on **December 1, 2008**. Newly elected COC members take office Jan. 1, 2009. The following nominees have expressed a willingness to serve if elected:

- *Bill DuRette* is nominated in LAA-2 covering Jefferson County to serve as a COC member for a 3-year term. Bill resides in the Madras area and has been involved with producing various seed crops. Bill is a current member of the County Committee.
- *Mike Macy* is nominated in LAA-2 covering Jefferson County to serve as a COC member for a 3-year term as well. Mike resides in the Culver area and has been involved with producing various seed crops.

Return Service Requested

Farm Loan Program Changes Due to the Farm Bill

With the new farm bill comes some major changes to the FSA Farm Loan Program. For the first time in years, the maximum direct lending limits have increased from \$200,000 to \$300,000 for farm ownership and farm operating loans. Therefore, each borrower may now have a maximum principal outstanding balance of \$300,000 for direct ownership and \$300,000 for direct operating.

The Down Payment Loan Program for purchasing real estate has also been modified. The program has been expanded to include socially

disadvantaged farmers in addition to beginning farmers. The maximum loan amount is not to exceed 45% of the least of a) the purchase price of the farm or ranch acquired (b) the appraised value of the farm or ranch acquired or (c) \$500,000. The borrower would be required to have a minimum 5% down payment and a lender would finance the remaining 50%. The FSA loan would have a term of 20 years, with an interest rate of 4% less than the direct FO rates or no less than 1.5%.

For further information and eligibility requirements, please contact the Farm

Service Agency loan staff - Sharilyn Millette at (503) 399-5741 x 115 or Kathey Naegeli at (503) 399-5741 x 113.



Upcoming Dates to Remember



Friday, Aug. 15

Tuesday, Aug. 26

Monday, Sept. 1

Tuesday, Sept. 16

Tuesday, Sept. 30

Sept. 15 – Oct. 15

Month of September

Month of October

Last day to report crop acreage for 2008

Women's Equality Day

Labor Day – office will be closed

2008 NAP "Buy-In-fee" for SURE deadline

Last day for 2008 DCP Sign-up

National Hispanic Month

National Literacy Month

Women of Achievement Month

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, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status. (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 Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD) USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.