



Douglas County FSA News

Douglas County FSA Office
2440 NW Troost St Suite 201 Roseburg, OR 97471
Telephone: 541-673-6071 Extension 2
Fax: 541-672-3818
Website: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/or/>
Email: andrew.schmidt@or.usda.gov

County Committee

Paul Santos, Chairman
Michael Ritchie, Vice Chair
Gerald Briggs, COC Member
Marilyn Manfrina-Burke, Minority Advisor

Staff

Andrew Schmidt, County Director– Ext 104
Jim Jutson, Farm Loan Manager – Ext 108
Tyree Koester, Program Technician – Ext 100
Dana Mahlberg, Program Technician –Ext 117

February 2009

Upcoming Events:

March 11th: Douglas County Livestock Association Spring Conference
March 16th: Final Date to purchase Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite stop by the office to pick up an informational flyer or call your local insurance agent or go online at <http://www.rma.usda.gov/pubs/rme/agr-lite.pdf>

FSA Non-Insured ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

The Farm Service Agency provides catastrophic coverage for crops that are not insurable through a private crop insurance company. The cost of insurance is \$250 per crop, maximum of \$750 for all your crops in the county. The coverage begins at the later of 30 days after purchasing the insurance or the date the crop is planted. The insurance covers 50% of losses due to weather related conditions. The loss level is determined on the individual producers past production history. **The 2008 Farm Bill requires insurance coverage to participate in other supplemental disaster programs.**

March 15, 2009: Beans, broccoli, cantaloupe, cauliflower, corn, cucumber, lentils, mustard, peas, potatoes, pumpkin, safflower, sunflower, squash, tomato, watermelon.

March 31, 2009: Buckwheat

Crops that are insurable with private insurance companies in Douglas County are: Wheat, Oats, Field Corn, Grapes, Apples, Nursery, Barley, and the Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite Program. Contact your private insurance representative for information relating to these crops and their deadlines to apply.

PRICE SUPPORT FOR PRODUCERS OF WOOL AND MOHAIR

The purpose of the loan deficiency program is to financially support producers when market prices fall below a set loan rate. The difference between the loan rate and the actual market price equals a payment rate available to farmers if they forgo a loan on the commodity. You must file paperwork showing your intent to apply for an payment before losing control of the wool.

FOREIGN BUYERS NOTIFICATION

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

DEADLINE FOR 2005 THROUGH 2007 CROP DISASTER PROGRAM (CDP)

The sign-up period for the 2005-2007 Crop Disaster Program (CDP) will end Feb. 27, 2009. The ending date of Feb 27 applies to the receipt of a signed and completed FSA-840 application along with all supporting documentation and required forms at the applicable county FSA office. Late filed application will not be approved after the Feb. 27 deadline.

USDA SETS DATE FOR LAMB REFERENDUM

USDA will offer lamb producers, feeders, and first handlers the opportunity to vote in a nationwide referendum on whether to continue or terminate the Lamb Promotion, Research, and Information Order, authorized under the Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996. The referendum will be held **Feb. 2-27, 2009**.

The referendum will be conducted at USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) county offices. To be eligible to vote, persons must certify and provide documentation, such as a sales receipt or remittance form, which shows they have been engaged in the production, feeding, or slaughtering of lambs during the period, Jan. 1, 2008, through Dec. 31, 2008. A lamb is any ovine animal of any age, including ewes and rams.

Beginning Feb. 2, 2009, and continuing through Feb. 27, 2009, persons eligible to vote should obtain form LS-86 from a county FSA office either in person, by mail, fax, or via the Internet at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsmarketingprograms>. Persons must vote in the referendum at the County FSA office where their administrative farm records are maintained. For those persons not participating in FSA programs, the opportunity to vote will be provided at the County FSA office where the person owns or rents land.

Form LS-86 and supporting documentation must be returned in person, by mail, or by fax to the appropriate county FSA office. The form and documentation returned in person or by fax must be received in the appropriate county office prior to the close of business on Feb. 27, 2009. The form and documentation returned by mail must be postmarked no later than midnight on Feb. 27, 2009, and received in the county FSA office by March 6, 2009.

USDA monitors activities of the American Lamb Board. The mandatory program is financed by producers, seedstock producers (breeders), feeders, and exporters who are assessed one-half cent (\$.005) per pound when live ovine animals are sold. The first handler, primarily packers, pays an additional 30 cents per head on ovine animals purchased for slaughter.

Notice of the referendum will be published in the Dec. 16, 2008, Federal Register. Copies of the Final Rule and Notice are available from the Marketing Programs Branch; Livestock and Seed Program, AMS, USDA; STOP 0251 - Room 2628-S; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW; Washington, D.C. 20250-0251; tel. (202) 720-1115; or via the Internet at www.ams.usda.gov/lsmarketingprograms.

SALE OF TIMBER, MINERALS, AND PARTIAL REAL ESTATE SALES FOR FSA MORTGAGED PROPERTY

FSA borrowers who have mortgaged their real estate to FSA for a farm loan need to be aware of the limitations of our mortgage/deed of trust puts on the sale and use of proceeds from partial real estate sales, timber harvests and mineral sales including gravel. FSA regulations require that written consent be obtained from FSA prior to any removal of timber or minerals or partial sale of the FSA mortgaged property.

Use of the sale proceeds are limited to paying secured real estate lenders in order of the priority of their liens including FSA; paying customary costs associated with the transaction; and with limitations, development or enlargement of farm real estate or applying the funds as a regular payment on FSA loans. Funds may not be used to pay capital gains taxes, refinance debts, purchase equipment/livestock or pay family living expenses. Borrower use of small amounts of timber or minerals for household use is acceptable. If you have any questions, please call Jim Jutson at 541-673-6071 extension 108.

EMERGENCY LOANS

Farmers and ranchers suffering qualifying physical losses due to freezing temperatures, snow accumulation, and freezing rain in Douglas County on December 14-26, 2008 are able to apply for FSA Emergency Loan assistance. Applications for EM loan assistance can be accepted through September 14, 2009. All qualified farm operators in Douglas and contiguous disaster counties eligible for low-interest EM loans from FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. Producers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of this declaration to apply for the loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available, and repayment ability.

FSA has a variety of programs available, in addition to the emergency loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity. Interested farmers may contact Jim Jutson at 541-673-6071, ext. 108.

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)

Are you interested in getting the financial and technical assistance needed to implement certain conservation practices on your land? Do you have land next to a stream or wetland? We may be able to provide the technical and financial assistance you need through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

The program targets the use of Riparian Buffers, Filter Strips, Wetland Restoration, Wildlife Habitat Buffers and Wetland Buffers to meet the objectives of the program

The program can be used on streams and properties both large and small. It is also a great way to participate in conservation because you will receive both financial and technical support. If you are interested in the finding out more about the CREP program contact the Douglas County Farm Service Agency at 541-673-6071 extension 2

ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME (AGI) RESTRICTIONS

To qualify for commodity and disaster programs under the new farm bill, applicants now must adhere to new AGI restrictions.

The AGI ceiling limitation was reduced from \$2.5 million from all sources to a three-year average **non-farm** AGI of \$500,000. Also, under the new regulations, an individual or entity must have a 3 year average AGI of less than or equal to \$750,000 per year from **farming** income in order to qualify for direct payments issued under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP).

For conservation programs, the average non-farm AGI limitation is \$1 million or less for eligibility. However, an individual or entity who has non-farm AGI in excess of \$1 million remains eligible for conservation programs only if 66.66 percent or more of the total AGI is derived from farming, ranching and forestry operations. In addition, the AGI limitation for conservation programs may be waived on a case-by case basis if it is determined that environmentally sensitive land of special significance would be protected.

PAYMENT LIMITATIONS AND DIRECT ATTRIBUTION

Another change in eligibility is that program payments are limited by direct attribution of payment totals directly to individual's social security number or indirectly to individual's social security number through entities tax ID number.

A legal entity is defined as an entity created under Federal or State law that owns land or an agricultural commodity, product or livestock. Through direct attribution, payment limitation is based on the total payments received by the entity and also the individual, both directly and indirectly as an officer, partner or shareholder in an entity. Qualifying spouses are eligible to be considered separate persons for payment limitation purposes, rather than being automatically combined under one limitation.

Also, individuals and entities must be "actively engaged in farming" with respect to a farming operation in order to be eligible for specified payments and benefits. To be "actively engaged in farming", the individual or entity must make significant contributions to the farming operation of: 1) capital, equipment, land, or a combination; and 2) personal labor or active personal management, or a combination (this applies to all members of the entity).

Roseburg Service Center
Douglas County FSA Office
2440 NW Troost St. Suite
Roseburg, OR 97471-1611

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
TUALATIN, OR
PERMIT NO. 71

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter? Please call 541-673-6071 extension 2. If you leave a message please provide us with the full name on the mailing label and your phone number or email andrew.schmidt@or.usda.gov

Do you wish to receive the newsletter by email? Please contact Andy at 541-673-6071 extension 104 or by email at andrew.schmidt@or.usda.gov and you will be emailed the newsletter.

Attention: Agricultural group members and leaders. Do you want FSA to come to your meeting and talk about what FSA has to offer you? If so contact Andrew Schmidt at 541-673-6071 extension 104 or by email at andrew.schmidt@or.usda.gov

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to visit the USDA Douglas County Service Center should contact Andy Schmidt, at 541-673-6071 extension 104, or email andrew.schmidt@or.usda.gov.

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.