



Douglas County FSA News

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County Committee

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Michael Ritchie, COC Member
Marilyn Manfrina-Burke, Minority Advisor

Staff

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Tyree Koester, Program Technician – Ext 100
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July 1, 2008

FARM SERVICE AGENCY INFORMATIONAL MEETING

There will be an informational meeting to explain what the County Committee and FSA is all about: Thursday July 10, 2008 at 7:00 am at the Farm Service Agency Office.

2008 CROP YEAR WOOL, MOHAIR & UNSHORN PELTS/UPDATE

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Act), was enacted into law May 22, 2008. The 2008 Act authorizes 2008 Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP).

Nothing has changed in the farm bill that requires anything different from you when applying for wool or mohair payments. It still remains for you to be eligible for the LDP program payment, you must own the animal, have a risk in the production and submit form CCC-633 page 1 prior to losing interest in the wool (delivery to the wool pool, sale, disposal, trade for services, etc. would be actions that cause you to lose interest in the wool or mohair). The wool must be shorn in 2008.

Applications are taken on a continuous basis and the deadline to apply for payment on 2008 shorn wool is January 31, 2009

For more information, contact the local office, or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>. Click on the subject “Price Support” in the left column, and then click on “Loan Deficiency Payments” under the Related Topics column.

LIVESTOCK RISK PROTECTION PROGRAM (LRP)

The program is administered through the Risk Management Agency (RMA) and is available in all counties in Oregon and insurance plans include Fed Cattle, Feeder Cattle, Lamb and Swine.

LRP covers a change in price peril, protecting the policyholder against downward price risk during the insurance period. It does not cover any other peril (e.g., mortality, condemnation, physical damage, disease, individual marketing decisions, local price deviations, or any other cause of loss).

Sales for the 2009 crop year will begin July 1, 2008 and continue through June 30, 2009 (or until the maximum underwriting capacity (as established by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation) is reached).

Cattle, swine and lamb producers are encouraged to contact a local livestock insurance agent to learn additional details. Federal crop insurance program policies are sold and delivered solely through private crop and livestock insurance companies. A list of livestock crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers throughout the U.S. or at the RMA Web site address: <http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents>

CROP DISASTER PROGRAM SIGNUP CONTINUES

Eligible farmers and ranchers who suffered crop loss damage before Dec. 31, 2007, can still apply to receive disaster assistance.

FSA continues to accept applications and make payments for **quantity** and **quality** losses under the Crop Disaster Program (CDP), for losses that occurred before the end of the 2007 calendar year. No ending date has yet been announced for CDP. In order to be eligible for crop disaster assistance the crop must have been insured either through the Farm Service Agency or through a private insurance company at a level of catastrophic coverage.

For more disaster program information go online at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>

LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION AND INDEMNITY PROGRAMS **DEADLINE TO APPLY IS JULY 18, 2008**

The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) compensates livestock producers for grazing or stored feed losses.

The Livestock Indemnity Program 2005-2007 (LIP) provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths.

The loss of feed or livestock must have been the direct result from natural disasters occurring between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2007.

For Douglas County the loss must have occurred between January 1, 2005 & December 31, 2005, or March 16, 2005 & May 16, 2005, or December 18, 2005 & January 12, 2006, or December 18, 2005 & January 21, 2006, or February 1, 2007 & December 17, 2007. The following are among the types of commercial livestock operations that will be eligible for LCP: dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, poultry, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, swine or deer. Producers in primary or contiguous counties declared secretarial disaster areas or counties declared Presidential disaster areas between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007 are eligible. Contact your local office for specifics. Producers incurring a loss in more than one of the 2005, 2006 or 2007 calendar years must choose only one year for which to receive benefits.

FSA DIRECT LOAN LIMITS INCREASE

With enactment of the new Farm Bill on May 22, 2008, the maximum direct loan amount that FSA is authorized to make under its Operating Loan (OL) program and Farm Ownership (FO) program has been increased from \$200,000 to \$300,000. This is welcome news for FSA farm loan customers, and helps the Agency's loan programs keep pace with rising operating costs and the cost of farm and ranch land.

Although direct Farm Ownership loan funds are somewhat limited until the beginning of the new fiscal year on October 1, 2008, direct Operating Loan funds remain available. If you have any questions about these expanded direct loan limits or the availability of loan funds be sure to contact the county office.

DOWNPAYMENT LOAN PROGRAM EXPANDED

FSA's direct Down payment Loan Program for beginning farmers received a significant expansion in the new Farm Bill. In addition being available to help qualified beginning farmers and ranchers purchase farmland, this unique FSA loan program is now available to help women and minority farmers and ranchers as well. The maximum FSA loan possible under the program has been increased to \$225,000, and the previous purchase price limitation has been removed.

The interest rate under this expanded direct loan program can now be as low as 1.5 %, and the loan can have a term of up to 20 years. The loan can be secured with a second mortgage, behind the first mortgage of another lender willing to help in financing the purchase of the property, with or without an FSA loan guarantee. The minimum cash down payment required of the loan applicant under this expanded loan program is 5% of the purchase price. For more information on this expanded loan program, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to assist.

ACREAGE REPORTING

Producers or landowners who participate in FSA programs are required to file a timely and accurate acreage report by June 30, 2008. All cropland on farms which receive Direct and Counter-Cyclical payments, Marketing Assistance Loans, and Loan Deficiency Payments must be reported. In addition, all land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program and land in which Non-Insured Assistance Program benefits are received must be reported.

FARM BILL HAS PASSED!!!!

The 2008 farm bill has passed and FSA has started to get a few details of the programs. Here is some preliminary information to date on Disaster Programs.

Livestock Forage Disaster Program – Provides assistance for forage losses due to drought. Ranchers in counties with drought as designated by the USDA Drought monitor as severe, extreme or exceptional qualify for assistance. This program has some similarities to the Livestock Compensation Program FSA is currently administering. However, one exception is that unlike the Livestock Compensation Program, for ranchers to qualify for the new program they must have Federal Crop Insurance or FSA Non-Insured Assistance on the pasture or grazing lands which suffered a loss.

It is expected that for ranchers that suffer 2008 grazing losses they will be offered an opportunity to pay a fee that will meet the requirement of having insurance. The deadline to pay the fee has not been announced yet.

Livestock Indemnity Program – Covers livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality rates during the calendar year due to adverse weather.

Supplemental Revenue Program (SURE) – Covers crop quantity and quality losses in counties declared a disaster and in contiguous counties. The program will also be available to producers with a 50% or greater loss, regardless of any disaster declaration. The program as its name implies looks at total farm revenue for all crops when calculating payments.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish - Emergency relief to producers of livestock (including horses), honey bees, and farm-raised fish. Covers losses from disasters such as adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and Wildfires not adequately covered by any other disaster program.

Tree Assistance Program – Targets nursery and orchardists who suffer greater than 15% mortality due to disasters related to weather. Program provides financial support for replanting and cleaning up existing trees and preparing the land for replanting.

CHANGE IN FARMING OPERATION

If you are making changes to your farming operation, such as changing how you do business from an individual to a Limited Liability Company, etc please contact our office immediately. By keeping your records up to date in the office it prevents delays in payments and prevents loss of program benefits.

Other changes to keep the office informed of are changing bank accounts, adding or removing farm ground from your operation. Change in ownership of the land from an individual to a trust or an estate, etc or new owner. Just give us a call at 541-673-6071 if there are any questions on what you are doing and if it has bearing on how you do business with us.

Remember, we are a Federal Agency and do not report to the local or state government on the status of your farming operation or interests.

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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.

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