



Douglas County FSA News

Douglas County FSA Office
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County Committee

Gerald Briggs, Chairman
Paul Santos, Vice Chair
Michael Ritchie, 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

October 2008

FSA PROGRAMS OPEN TO SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED PRODUCERS

The Farm Service Agency makes direct and guaranteed loans to socially disadvantaged applicants, enabling them to buy and operate family-size farms and ranches. Funds are reserved each year specifically for these loans, but regular loan funds can also be used.

Direct loans may be made to qualified applicants by FSA for both farm operating and farm ownership purposes. Guaranteed farm loans also may be made for ownership or operating purposes, and may be made by any lending institution subject to Federal or state supervision (such as banks, credit unions, and units of the Farm Credit System) and guaranteed by FSA. FSA typically guarantees 90 or 95 percent of a loan against any loss that might be incurred if the loan fails.

Persons who are primarily and directly engaged in farming and ranching on family-size operations may apply. A family-size farm is one that a family can operate and manage itself.

Socially disadvantaged loan applicants do not receive automatic approval. In addition to being members of a socially disadvantaged group, individual applicants under this program must meet all requirements for FSA's regular farm loan program assistance, including:

- Have a satisfactory history of meeting credit obligations.
- Have sufficient education; training, or at least one-year's experience in managing or operating a farm or ranch within the last five years for a direct operating loan, or, for a direct farm ownership loan, have participated in the business operation of a farm or ranch for three out of the last ten years.
- Be a citizen of the United States (or a legal resident alien), including Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and certain former Pacific Island Trust Territories;
- Be unable to obtain credit elsewhere at reasonable rates and terms to meet actual needs; and
- Possess legal capacity to incur loan obligations.

A socially disadvantaged person is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Contact the FSA County Office Farm Loan Program staff for more details and other financial options.

Loan limits have increased to \$300,000 for direct farm ownership and operating loans.

YOUTH LOANS AVAILABLE

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing agricultural related projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

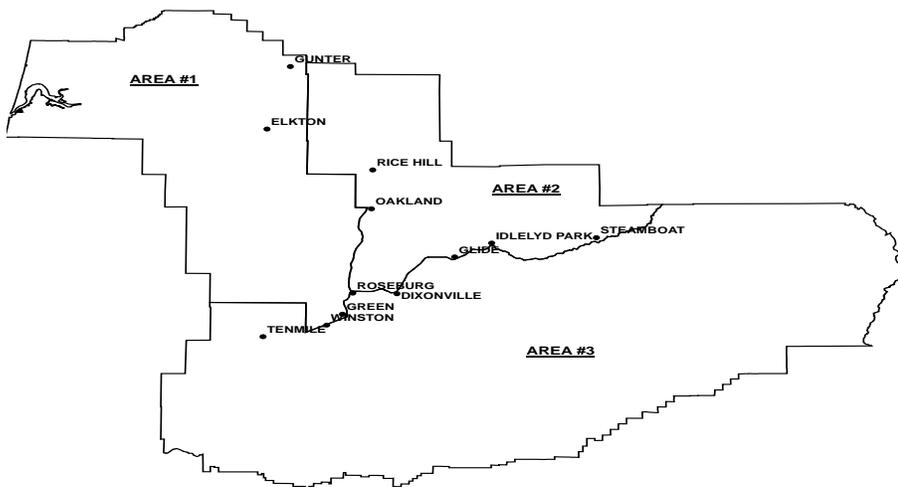
Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 21 years of age
- Live in a rural area or in a town of 50,000 people or fewer
- Must obtain a written recommendation and consent from a parent or guardian if the applicant has not reached the age of majority under state law
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms. The FSA staff can help you with questions you may have about a particular program.

UPCOMING COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

For FSA elections Douglas County is identified by 3 voting areas as identified on the map below. The area up for election this year is area #2. Currently, Paul Santos is the member serving area #2. Three positions are being filled: 1 regular member and 2 alternates. Ballots will be mailed on November 3, 2008 and must be returned to the county office by December 1, 2008 or be post-marked. The nominees for this year's election in area #2 are Paul Santos and George Seonbuchner.



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 deadline to apply for **NAP** coverage on the following crops has been extended for the **2009 crop year ONLY**:

The 2008 Farm Bill requires

insurance coverage to participate in other supplemental disaster programs.

December 1, 2008 (usually August 31): beets, cabbage, canola, carrots, christmas trees, flowers, greens, herbs (except peppermint), onions and radish.

December 1, 2008 (usually October 1): alfalfa, asparagus, barley, clover, garlic, grass, peppermint, hops, meadow foam, mixed forage, oats, rye, sugar beets, triticale, vetch, wheat

December 1, 2008 (usually November 20): apples, apricots, blueberries, cane berries, chestnuts, cherries, cranberries, hazelnuts, honey, nectarine, peaches, pears, plums, prunes, strawberries, walnuts.

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.

WILDLIFE DAMAGE???

If you are experiencing wildlife damage on your farm you might want to contact the USDA Wildlife Services. The Wildlife Services Program assists in solving problems that are created when wildlife causes damage to agricultural property, or natural resources. They also assist with wildlife problems involving threats to human health and safety and threatened or endangered species. You can find more online at www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage or if you have a problem call the local wildlife agent John Brooks at 541-520-7772

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).

CREP is a jointly funded program by the federal government and the State of Oregon. The program has several objectives to include, but not limited to, reducing sediment and nutrient pollution from agricultural lands, stabilize stream banks with adequate vegetation, reduce water temperatures, improve habitat for fish species, and to provide a mechanism for farmers to help them meet water quality requirements established by federal and state law.

Landowners who enroll in CREP plant long term, resource-conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion and enhance wildlife habitat. In return, the Farm Service Agency provides participants with rental payments and financial assistance. There is also an incentive payments based on the costs of establishing the habitat.

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 CREP program or have any questions please contact the Douglas County Farm Service Agency at 541-673-6071 extension 2

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. If you have sheared any wool or mohair since January 1, 2008 you may be eligible for a cash payment based on the pounds of wool or mohair. Rates are in effect for graded and non-graded wool. Mohair only has one rate.

Certain eligibility criteria apply; however, if you currently participate in other Farm Service Agency programs, you have already met most of the criteria. If you have never worked with FSA and you are a producer of wool or mohair please stop by our office or call us at 541-673-6071 extension 2.

FARM RECORD CHANGES

Individuals participating in Farm Service Agency programs should promptly notify the county office of any land purchased or sold, land newly leased or leases terminated. Any changes in ownership, from an individual to a trust should be reported. Changes in how you operate should be reported as well, such as changing from an individual to a Limited Liability Company. If you don't regularly participate in FSA programs you should keep us informed of the land you operate and own. This ensures that when you do wish to participate the application process is shortened. It also ensures that our records, are in good order, which are directly tied to our County Committee Election process. COC elections are based on our Farm Records.

Roseburg Service Center
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Roseburg, OR 97470-1611

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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, audiotope, 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.