



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

February 20, 2008

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS AND STAFFING CHANGES

Michael Ritchie was re-elected to serve 3 more years as the member for area #1, which is North of Lookingglass-Winston, West of I-5 to Oakland, Elkton area and west.

Pam Davis has been promoted to a District Director for Oregon Farm Service Agency. The County Director position has been filled by Andrew Schmidt.

DO YOU HAVE WETLAND OR STREAMS ON OR ADJACENT TO YOUR PROPERTY?

If you have wetlands or either a seasonal or perennial stream on or adjacent to your property you should ask our office for information relating to the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. This program focuses on water quality, erosion control and wildlife habitat. This program can help you improve environmentally sensitive land while providing you with financial benefits. It is a voluntary program. Please contact our office either by phone or in person to get an informational packet about this program or to set an appointment to talk about the program in person.

LOAN DEFICIENCY AND MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOANS FOR WOOL, MOHAIR AND UNSHORN PELTS

Any wool, and mohair sheared in calendar year 2008 is eligible for a price support payment or loan. In addition, unshorn pelts slaughtered in 2008 are eligible for payments. Currently the authorization to accept price support or loan requests for 2008 ends March 15th. It's unknown what will happen after March 15th, continuation of the program will likely require the passage of a new farm bill.

COOS, CURRY and DOUGLAS COUNTIES ELIGIBLE FOR USDA EMERGENCY FARM LOANS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture named Coos, Curry and Douglas Counties, as well as The Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians located within Coos County in Oregon as eligible for USDA emergency (EM) farm loans due to losses caused by Severe Storms, Flooding, Landslides and Mudslide that occurred from 2/01/2007 through – 12/17/2007.

This designation makes all qualified farm operators in primary 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 the Coos/Curry County FSA at (541) 396-4323 or the Douglas County FSA at (541) 673-6071 x 2 for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures. Additional information is also available online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION AND INDEMNITY PROGRAMS

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 February 28, 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. 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.

CONSERVATION PARTNERS OFFER ASSISTANCE TO 'TURN YOUR NATURAL RESOURCE PROBLEMS INTO OPPORTUNITIES'

The USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers natural resource technical planning and financial incentive assistance to landowners of Douglas County. The programs offered by NRCS include incentive programs to address identified natural resource problems.

One of our major programs is the Environmental Quality Incentive Program. The program is primarily focused on improving pastures for livestock grazing, improving forest lands and improving irrigation systems. The pasture cost share program can include a number of practices including cross fencing, improving livestock water by developing springs, installing pipeline, troughs and rock around troughs to improve livestock distribution and prescribed grazing. The program also can work on controlling invasive weeds such as Himalayan blackberry, scotch broom, poison oak etc.

The EQIP forest incentive program can help on practices such as pre-commercial thinning, control of brush in tree stands or planting under stocked tree stands once the time period required under the Forest Practices Act for re-establishing a stand after harvesting has passed. Within the forest program oak stands that need to be thinned to improve oak woodland and oak savannah habitat are eligible also.

The EQIP irrigation system upgrade program can assist in improving irrigation system water use efficiency. This could include practices such as a change from wheel-line/handline systems to a more efficient system such as a pivot or liner irrigation system or changing to a pod (K-line) sprinkler system, etc. A requirement of the irrigation program is that the landowner be willing to provide or acquire an irrigation system design along with an irrigation water management plan from an outside source such as an irrigation dealer that meets NRCS standards and specifications.

Applications are accepted at any time for these programs. Contact your NRCS office for further information at 541-673-6071.

To learn more about our services and programs you can also access information anytime online at <http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov>. You can also contact these conservation offices at NRCS (541) 673-6071 or Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District at (541) 957-5061 or Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District at (541) 271-2611.

FSA HAS A VARIETY OF LOAN PROGRAMS TO HELP FARMERS AND RANCHERS.

FSA may be able to assist your farming operation with an operating or ownership loan. The rate for operating loans approved in February is 3.875 percent.

It is the time of year where to begin thinking of our spring planting needs. Whether you need loan funds to finance your spring needs for fertilizer, seed, or you need to upgrade your equipment line with a new tractor, planter, baler or perhaps you have been thinking about expanding your operation or need credit to increase your production, FSA may be able to help.

FSA's loan programs are designed to help family farmers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. FSA also provides credit to beginning farmers, most do not have sufficient net worth to qualify for commercial credit. In other cases, they are farmers who have suffered financial setbacks from natural and economic disasters, or who have limited resources with which to establish and maintain profitable farming operations.

Some farmers obtain their credit needs through the use of loan guarantees. Under a guaranteed loan, a local agricultural lender makes and services the loan, and FSA guarantees it against loss; in most cases this is a 90 percent guarantee of loss. In certain limited circumstances, a 95-percent guarantee is available.

For those unable to qualify for a loan guarantee from a commercial lender, FSA also makes loans directly to farmers, which are serviced by an FSA official. FSA has the responsibility of providing credit counseling and supervision to its direct loan borrowers with tools like completing a thorough assessment of the farming operation. The Agency, often with the input of other industry experts, evaluates the adequacy of the real estate and facilities, machinery and equipment, livestock, financial and production management, and the farmer's goals. An FSA official then works one-on-one with the farmer to develop a plan of operation which will help the farmer achieve their goals, both short and long term with the goal of farmer's graduation to commercial credit.

Farm loans must be fully secured and can only be approved for those who have repayment ability and meet certain eligibility criteria.

FSA also offers loans for beginning farmers. Beginning farmers must have been in the business less than 10 years and meet certain other requirements. In addition FSA offers rural youth loans. These are available as direct loans only and have a maximum loan amount of \$5,000. Rural youth loans may be made to individuals who are sponsored by a project advisor, such as a 4-H Club, FFA or local vocational instructor. Individuals must be at least 10 but not more than 20 years old to be eligible. The FSA also has funds and programs to help socially disadvantaged and minority farmers as well.

For more information on FSA loan programs, please contact your local USDA Service Center or FSA County Office located at 2440 NW Troost St., Ste. 201, Roseburg, OR 97470 or call telephone number 541-673-6071 x 2.

Roseburg Service Center
Douglas County FSA Office
2440 NW Troost St. Suite 201
Roseburg, OR 97470-1611

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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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