



**Farm Service Agency
Oregon**



Farm Loan Programs

FSA News

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FSA DESIGNATES 23 COUNTIES IN OREGON AS NATURAL DISASTER AREAS
Decision Allows Nursery Growers and Others to Apply for FSA Assistance

TUALATIN, OR, January 23, 2009 – The Administrator of the USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), has designated much of Western Oregon as a natural disaster area, making all qualified nursery, farm, and ranch operators eligible for FSA low-interest physical loss Emergency (EM) loans.

On January 14, 2009, 12 Oregon counties were designated as primary natural disaster areas due to physical losses caused by freezing temperatures, snow accumulation, and freezing rain that occurred from December 14 through December 26, 2008. Those primary natural disaster counties are Benton, Clackamas, Columbia, Douglas, Jackson, Lane, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Washington, and Yamhill Counties.

In addition, 11 other Oregon counties were named as contiguous disaster areas where eligible nursery, farm, and ranch operators may qualify for FSA physical loss Emergency loan assistance. Those counties are Clatsop, Coos, Curry, Deschutes, Hood River, Jefferson, Josephine, Klamath, Lincoln, Tillamook, and Wasco Counties.

All 23 of these Oregon counties were designated as natural disaster areas, making all qualified nursery, farm, and ranch operators eligible for physical loss EM loans, provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for the loans to help cover part of their actual physical losses.

FSA considers 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 nursery, farm, and ranch operators recover from adversity.

USDA also has other programs available to assist nursery, farm, and ranch operators, including the Emergency Conservation Program, Federal Crop Insurance and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program.

Interested farmers may contact their local USDA Service Centers for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs. Additional information is also available online at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

FSA's news releases and media advisories are available on the Web at FSA's home page: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

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