

January 20, 2009

Gilliam-Wheeler County Farm Service Agency



Gilliam-Wheeler FSA

333 S Main St
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Condon, OR 97823
(541) 384-2281
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Hours:

Monday – Friday
7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

FSA

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Bonnie Johnson Ext. 100

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FSA Committee Members

Rich Harper

Jeff Nelson

Garey Fischer

Sarah Rucker

Payment Deposits – New

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Garey Fischer! Garey was re-elected to represent farmers from Wheeler County on the county committee. Garey was elected to his 2nd consecutive term.

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

Dates to Remember

February 16	George Washington's Birthday – Office Closed
March. 15	2009 Crop Insurance Deadline (Oats & Barley)
March 15	NAP Deadline – 2009 (Peas, Lentils, Mustard)
June 1	2009 DCP Signup Deadline (no late files)

Selected Interest Rates for January 2009

90-Day Treasury Bill	0.50 %
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	3.00 %
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.875 %
Limited Resource Loans	5.00 %
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50 %
Emergency Loans	3.75 %

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.



Farm Bill Informational Meetings

February 18th, 2009:
Gilliam County Fairgrounds
602 N Washington St, Condon, OR
Time: 1:00 PM-3:00 PM

February 19th, 2009:
Family Services Building
401 Fourth Street, Fossil, OR
Time: 1:00 PM-3:00 PM

Power of Attorney

For experiencing difficulties visiting the county office because of work schedules, distance, health or other reasons, FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information.

2008 Grazing Certification

To meet the provisions of the 2008 SURE Program, producers must report **all** crops, in **all** counties, in which they have an interest in. This includes crops on cropland and/or non-cropland, including native and improved grass (pasture/range) that was hayed, grazed, or left standing. **Please make an appointment with our office to finalize your 2008 Acreage Report as soon as possible.**

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Payment Limits & Direct Attribution

To qualify for commodity and disaster programs under the new farm bill, applicants now must adhere to new **Adjusted Gross Income (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 less than or equal to \$750,000 per year from farm income in order to qualify for direct payments issued under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP). For conservation programs, the average nonfarm 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.

Another change in eligibility is that program payments are limited by direct attribution of payment totals directly to individuals or indirectly to individuals through entities. 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. For more information on how these provisions apply to your own situation, contact your local FSA office.

DCP Signup Underway

Signup has started for the 2009 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment (DCP) Program for farms with base acres. Contact your local USDA office or service center now. Signup will continue until June 1, 2009. The June 1, 2009 deadline is mandatory for all participants. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications.

An electronic application is also available for DCP (or eDCP) for those who wish to register and explore this option. Contact your local FSA office for more information and to establish the required *eAuthentication Level 2* account.

FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. FSA will issue advance direct payments later this month. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.