



Service Center

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Gilliam-Wheeler FSA
P.O. Box 467
Condon, OR 97823
541-384-2281 (phone)
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Hours:
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee:

Garey Fischer, Wheeler
Richard Harper, Gilliam
Jeff Nelson, Gilliam
Sarah Rucker, Gilliam

Staff:
Bonnie Johnson
Ellen Wagenaar



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Farm Service Agency

The FSA Dirt

March 2008

CROP DISASTER PROGRAM (CDP)

All eligible farmers who suffered quantity losses to their crops in recent years can enroll in the Crop Disaster Program 2005-2007 (CDP) at local FSA service centers. FSA will announce and conduct sign-up for quality losses under CDP at a later date.

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered losses to the 2005-2007 crops from natural disaster and related conditions. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006, or 2007 must choose only one year to receive benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple crops as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP. The payment rate is set at 42 percent of the established price. Assistance, together with any crop insurance or NAP payment received for the same crop and including the value of the crop production not lost, must not exceed 95 percent of the total value of the crop absent the disaster.

FARM CHANGES

Please notify this office of any farm changes: land ownership, boundaries of farm, operator, etc.

LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM

LCP compensates livestock producers for grazing or stored feed losses resulting from natural disasters. Producers in primary or contiguous counties declared Secretarial disaster areas or counties declared Presidential disaster areas are eligible. Gilliam County and Wheeler County has declared disaster areas in 2005 and 2006. Contact your local office for more details.

PLEASE CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT PRIOR TO COMING IN.

NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

NAP provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops, including grazing, when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters.

Producers must apply for coverage on noninsurable crops and pay the applicable service fees at their local FSA office. The application and service fees must be filed by the application closing date (fall seeded crops usually 8/31; spring seeded crops usually 3/15. The service fee is the lesser of \$100 per crop or \$300 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$900 per producer with farming interest in multiple counties.

Further information on NAP is available from the FSA office or on FSA's web site at: www.fsa.usda.gov.

BEWARE OF CROP INSURANCE REBATING SCHEMES

With the spring sales closing date for many Federal crop insurance policies right around the corner, crop insurance agents have been marketing their products aggressively. Producers report that some agents have approached them with promises of lower insurance premiums, refunds, or dividends. Most of these schemes are not legal. The Risk Management Agency and State Insurance Regulators have stepped up their efforts to uncover illegal rebating. Those producers who are found to participate in these schemes will not only lose their crop insurance coverage but may also become ineligible for other government programs. Producers can report suspicions of illegal rebating to the OIG Hotline:
1-800-424-9121.

FOREIGN INVESTORS MUST REPORT LAND HOLDINGS

“Any foreign person who acquires or transfers any interest, other than a security interest, in agricultural land in the United States is required by law to report the transaction no later than 90 days after the date of the transaction”

Foreign investors must file AFIDA (Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act) reports with the FSA County Office that maintains reports for the county where the land is located.

For AFIDA purposes, agricultural land is defined as any land used for farming, ranching or timber production, if the tracts total 10 acres or more. Disclosure reports are also required when there are changes in land use.

“Failure to file a report, filing a late report or filing an inaccurate report can result in a penalty with fines up to 25% of the fair market value of the agricultural land.”

BANK ACCOUNT CHANGES?

As of January 1, 1999, all FSA payments are supposed to be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. **Payments can be delayed if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers.**

HAVE YOU UPDATED YOUR 1026?

AD-1026 certification must be filed by producers who request benefits under programs and to certify their compliance with highly erodible land (HEL) and wetland conservation (WC) requirements. Having an accurate and updated AD-1026 ensures:

- A means for identifying land and making referrals to the NRCS for determinations.
- Proper land classification
- Proper tracking of affiliated persons who are required to comply with the AD-1026 certification
- HELC and WC provisions will not be violated
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An incorrect certification can result in loss of all USDA benefits earned by the producer and the producer's affiliated persons.

ACREAGE REPORTING

Acreage reporting time is upon us. Please remember that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) crops, acreage reports are to be certified by the June 30 deadline for all Gilliam and Wheeler County crops.

**USDA SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON
CHANGES TO CRP MANAGED
HAYING AND GRAZING**

(Tualatin, OR) Feb. 28, 2008 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced that it will hold a public meeting on March 12, 2008 at 1:30 PM on proposed changes to managed haying and grazing on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land.

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will hold the meeting at the Pendleton Convention Center, 1601 Westgate, Pendleton, OR.

FSA is proposing rule changes, to the frequency that managed haying and grazing is allowed on land that is enrolled in CRP. Public comments will be accepted at the meeting and the public may also comment on changes to primary nesting season dates, during which managed haying and grazing are not permitted.

FSA will consider public comments when it prepares state-specific environmental assessments that will evaluate the effects of the proposed changes. The environmental assessments will aid USDA decision-makers and the public with an analysis of the benefits and potential impacts of the proposed changes to managed haying and grazing on CRP land.

Public comments can be submitted both electronically and by regular mail. They must be received by the closed of business on April 11, 2008. Direct comments to MHG EA's, Geo-Marine Incorporated, 2713 Magruder Blvd., Suite D, Hampton, VA 23666-1572 or send them to the Web site: <http://public.geo-marine.com>.

This meeting is one of 13 public meetings that will be held in 13 states where USDA is proposing rule changes to the managed haying and grazing program. More information on meeting dates and locations is available on the project Web site: <http://public.geo-marine.com>.

Here are specific details about the the public meeting for Oregon. The CRP Managed Haying and Grazing Public Meeting will be held on March 12, 2008 at 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM at the Pendleton Convention Center at 1601 Westgate, Pendleton, OR. Any questions should be directed to Lois Loop, 503-692-3688 X 223 or to lois.loop@or.usda.gov.

**SIGNATURE AUTHORITY FOR
SPOUSES**

Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the County Office.

Spouses shall not sign on behalf of the other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities.

PAYMENT LIMITATION

USDA payments and benefits are subject to producer eligibility and limitation provisions as defined by law. Documents and forms to determine eligibility and limitation, once completed, are reviewed on an annual basis.

It is the producer's responsibility to report changes in the farming operation that may affect payment eligibility and limitation. Please notify this office of any changes – examples: individual to trust, changes of entity members, shares, signature authority, etc.

***NEW FARM BILL COMING SO
PLEASE MAKE FSA MAIL A
PRIORITY. PLEASE FEEL FREE
TO CALL IF YOU HAVE ANY
QUESTIONS – BETTER TO CALL
THAN MISS A DEADLINE OR
OPPORTUNITY.***

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