

June 2013



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Gilliam/Wheeler County FSA Updates

Gilliam/Wheeler County CRP Sign-Up Ends June 14th FSA Office

333 S Main St, PO Box 467,
Condon, OR 97823

Phone: 541-384-4251
Fax: 541-384-2288

County Executive Director:

Justin Faulhaber, Ext. 105

Program Technicians:

Bonnie Johnson, Ext. 100

Ellen Wagenaar, Ext. 103

Enrollment for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) ends June 14, 2013. Voluntary participation in CRP protects the nation's natural resources, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities across the United States.

Currently, about 27 million acres are enrolled in CRP. Producers accepted in the program can receive cost-share assistance to plant long-term, resource-conserving covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the 10 to 15-year contract.

Contracts on 3.3 million acres of CRP are set to expire on Sept. 30, 2013. Producers with expiring contracts or producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP. For more information on CRP and other FSA programs, visit a local FSA service center or www.fsa.usda.gov.

2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program Application Deadline

The last day to submit SURE applications for 2011 crop losses is June 7, 2013. The SURE Program provides payments to producers when crop revenues are less than the crop guarantee. The SURE Program payment is equal to 60 percent of the difference between the crop guarantee and revenue.

To determine the guarantee and revenue for the SURE Program, all crops on all farms for a producer are included in the calculation. Payments under the SURE Program are limited to \$100,000.

To be eligible for the 2011 SURE Program, producers must have crop insurance on all insurable crops. For crops that are not covered by crop insurance such as hay, producers must have purchased Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage.

For more information concerning the 2011 SURE program or other Farm Service Agency programs, contact the local FSA office or visit the Farm Service Agency

website
at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=landing&topic=landing>

Crop Certification

After spring planting, producers should certify their 2013 acreage. 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 enrolled in programs other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program), all remaining crop reports are to be certified by July 15th.

Acreage reports on crops covered by NAP are due in the county office by the earlier of the specific crop reporting date or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFLP) allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility or permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of seven, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) borrows from the U.S. Treasury Department.

A partial disbursement of funds is available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin. For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

Sodbusting

Farmers and ranchers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in Farm Service Agency programs. Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an AD-1026, indicating the area to be brought into production.

If Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates that the area will be highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage before bringing land into production if they wish to protect their farm program eligibility.

Banking Changes?

If you changed banks and did not notified FSA, your payments could be delayed. Payments are electronically transferred into your bank account, if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers, there could be problems. 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. It is important that any changes in a producer's account such as type account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).