



**Jackson/Josephine County
FSA News
January – February 2009**



COUNTY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- LAA 1- **Suzanne Ginet - Chair**
- LAA 2- Charlie Boyer - Member
- LAA 3- Lori Mefford – Vice-Chair

OFFICE STAFF

- Joe Hess, County Executive Director**
- Diane Rabbe, Program Technician
- Donna Finch, Program Technician
- Dorothy Scull, Farm Loan Officer**
(Klamath County FSA office, 541-883-6924 ext. 104)

JACKSON/JOSEPHINE COUNTY FSA

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
8:00 AM to 4:30 PM (Open during lunch hour)
Web site: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/or/jackson.html>

Committee Election Results

County Committee election results were very positive for Local Administrative Area 2 (LAA-2). Eighty eight total votes were counted electing LAA-2 Representative **Charles Boyer** to a 3-year term. Second place as alternate is **Teresa Kelly**. Congratulations and welcome aboard!

Mel Morris of Eagle Point retires from the Jackson/Josephine COC after reaching his term limit of nine years of dedicated service to the agricultural producers of Jackson & Josephine Counties. His expertise and commitment will be missed by the Committee, office staff, and County producers. Thank you Mel for your service!

Scrapie And Ewe – Just a brief reminder to sheep and goat producers.

The USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is assisting the American Sheep Industry Association with the eradication of Scrapie. Scrapie is classified as a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE), which affects the central nervous system of sheep and goats and is fatal.

All sheep and goat owners should comply with the rules, no matter how many animals you own or what you do with them. As part of the program, you will have to identify some of your animals and keep good records, in order to be able to trace any infected animal back to its flock of origin. For more information contact APHIS at

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/scrapie/
or by phone at 1-866-USDA-TAG (1-866-873-2824)



2008 Wool Payments

Applications for 2008 Wool and Mohair Nonrecourse Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) and Loan Deficiency Payment Program (LDP) must be completed and submitted no later than Feb. 2nd. Producers who own the sheep or goats for a period of not less than 30 days prior to shearing, comply with highly erodible conservation and wetland conservation provisions, & meet payment eligibility, may apply. You do not have to have sold the wool to participate. If you would like more information, contact the office.

Deadline for 2005 through 2007 Crop Disaster Program (CDP) Feb. 27th

A Sign-Up deadline for CDP has finally been established and applications will be accepted through Feb. 27, 2009 along with all supporting documentation and other required forms. Quantity and quality losses for crops including honey from natural disaster and related conditions that occurred in 2005, 2006 or 2007 may be eligible. Producers may choose only one year to receive benefits. Producers must have had multi-peril crop insurance or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of the loss to be eligible for CDP benefits. If you believe you suffered a Quantity or Quality loss to your insured crop, please contact the office to schedule an appointment. Sign-ups for CDP Quantity began October 15, 2007. Sign-ups for CDP Quality began June 20, 2008.



The mailing of newsletters is costly. Mailings will be restricted to possibly four times a year. To stay in the “know”, current newsletters are posted to the office website located at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/or/jackson.html>

If you are a producer and wish to receive the newsletter by e-mail, contact Donna at: donna.finch@or.usda.gov

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.

Producers who are eligible for the DCP Program will also be eligible to enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program. The enrollment period for the ACRE Program will begin in the spring. You may first enroll in the DCP Program, receive advance direct payments and then later modify your enrollment to include the ACRE program or you may wait and elect to enroll in DCP and ACRE at the same time in spring 2009.



Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements

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 Joe Hess.

Payments Limits by Program for 2009:

DCP – Direct Payments	\$40,000	SURE, LIP, LFP, ELAP - \$100,000
DCP – Counter-cycle and ACRE	\$65,000	CRP Annual Payments - \$50,000
Non-Insured Assistance (NAP)	\$100,000	LDP and Market Gain - Unlimited

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER.....

Feb. 2 – Last day to apply for 2008 Wool LDP payment requests
Feb. 16 – Presidents Day – Office Closed
Feb. 27 – Last day to apply for 2005-2007 Crop Disaster Program (CDP)
Feb. 27 – Name the Newsletter Contest ends
March 15 – Last day to apply for 2009 NAP Coverage. Spring planted veggies
June 1st – DCP sign up deadline.

Help name our newsletter!! A creative & catchy name for the newsletter is needed. No experience necessary. Send all suggestions to Donna at: donna.finch@or.usda.gov. All suggestions will be voted on by the FSA staff. Deadline is Feb. 27th. FSA employees are not eligible to participate.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication and Compliance, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.