

January 2013



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## Jackson-Josephine County FSA Updates

DEAR PRODUCERS: Welcome to the new GovDelivery bulletins and updates service from your County FSA office. Note that you are welcome to request to receive bulletins from more than one county and can add or remove individual subscriptions at any time.

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### Jackson-Josephine

#### County FSA Office

573 Parsons Dr. Ste.101

Medford, OR 97501

541-776-4270 x 2 phone

541-776-4295 fax

#### Hours

Monday - Friday

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

#### County Office Staff

Joe Hess,

County Executive

Director

[joe.hess@or.usda.gov](mailto:joe.hess@or.usda.gov)

Chris Kirby,

Farm Loan Officer

## County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Jeanne Rodgers. Jeanne was elected to represent farmers from Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1 which includes the southern portion of Josephine County. This is Jeanne's first time serving on the committee. The election results for LAA 1 are:

**Jeanne Rodgers** — Elected to the county committee (COC)

**Robert Crouse** – Elected as first alternate

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.

The committee members held their organizational meeting on January 16th to determine who would serve as the county committee chairperson and vice-chairperson. The officers for the committee this year are:

**Lori Mefford** – Chairperson

**Charles Boyer** – Vice Chairperson

**Jeanne Rodgers** – COC member

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## 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. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 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.

[chris.kirby@or.usda.gov](mailto:chris.kirby@or.usda.gov)

**Klamath Falls Office**

**541-883-6924 x 104**

The information required by the Secretary of Ag must be reported on form FSA-153. Copies of this form may be obtained from this office or on-line at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFileServices/eForms/FSA153.PDF>

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## Important Dates to Remember

<b>Committee Members:</b>	Feb 18	Presidents Day, Office Closed
<b>LAA#1 Jeanne Rodgers</b>	Feb 19	DCP and ACRE sign-up period begins
<b>LAA#2, Charles Boyer</b>	Mar 15	Deadline to purchase NAP coverage for most spring planted crops
<b>LAA#3, Lori Mefford</b>	Mar 20	Regular COC meeting – 10am
<b>Website:</b>	Mar 25	Deadline to file Hispanic and/or Women's Discrimination Claim
<a href="http://www.fsa.usda.gov/OR">www.fsa.usda.gov/OR</a>		

**\*Due to budget related staff reductions, appointments are strongly encouraged.**

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## Farm Service Agency Announces Program Sign-up Dates

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers that the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 extended the authorization of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (the 2008 Farm Bill) for many Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) commodity, disaster, and conservation programs through 2013. FSA administers these programs.

The extended programs include, among others: the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP), the Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE), and the Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC). FSA is preparing the following actions:

- FSA will begin sign-ups for DCP and ACRE for the 2013 crops on Feb. 19, 2013. The DCP sign-up period will end on Aug. 2, 2013; the ACRE sign-up period will end on June 3, 2013.
- The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013 (and vice versa).
- All dairy producers' MILC contracts are automatically extended to Sept. 30, 2013. Eligible producers therefore do not need to re-enroll in MILC. Specific details regarding certain modifications to MILC will be released soon.

FSA will provide producers with information on program requirements, updates and signups as the information becomes available. Any additional details will be posted on FSA's website.

For more information about the programs and loans administered by FSA, visit any FSA county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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## Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period

Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims until March 25, 2013.

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied their applications for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000.

As announced in February 2011, the voluntary claims process will make available at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

USDA will continue reaching out to potential Hispanic and female claimants, around the country to inform those who may be eligible for this program.

**Website:** [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov)

**Phone:** 1-888-508-4429

**Deadline for Claims: March 25, 2013**

Claimants can obtain a claims package in the mail by calling 1-888-509-4429 or by visiting the website [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov).

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## USDA Finalizes New Microloan Program

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack unveiled a new microloan program mid-January that will expand access to credit for small farmers and ranchers and beginning and socially disadvantaged producers.

The microloan application process is simpler and requires less paperwork than traditional operating loans. Additionally, the requirement for managerial experience and loan security has been modified to ensure that small family operations and beginning farmers and ranchers can obtain the credit needed to start and continue an agricultural operation. This loan program will also be useful to specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation, delivery vehicles, and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for an operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program.

Small farmers often rely on credit cards or personal loans, which carry high interest rates and have less flexible payment schedules, to finance their operations. The microloan program will expand access to credit and provide a simple and flexible loan process for small operators.

The current interest rate for Microloans is 1.25 percent.

In addition to microloans, FSA offers several farm loan programs that provide funding to purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed, and supplies, or can be used to construct buildings or make farm improvements.

**Producers interested in applying for a microloan or other FSA farm loan programs should contact Chris Kirby in the Klamath Falls office at (541) 883-6924 extension 104 or by email at [chris.kirby@or.usda.gov](mailto:chris.kirby@or.usda.gov).**

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## Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District: Register Now for 2013 Pasture Management Workshop



Whether you own private land, just purchased rural property, manage public lands, or are part of a family that has ranched for generations, this unique class will help you identify and manage your resources! The class runs from 6pm to 9pm on Thursdays between February 21st and April 18th with 3 additional Saturday Field Trips.

The registration deadline is February 18th. For more information, please contact JSWCD at (541) 776-4270 extension 3 or email [info@jswcd.org](mailto:info@jswcd.org).

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For more information on bulletin subjects or details regarding your GovDelivery subscription with the Jackson-Josephine County FSA Office, contact Joe Hess, County Executive Director at [joe.hess@or.usda.gov](mailto:joe.hess@or.usda.gov) or 541-776-4270 extension 2.

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USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9450, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).