



**APRIL 2008
NEWSLETTER**

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FARM BILL EXTENDED UNTIL APRIL 18th

Passage of the farm bill, currently being debated by Congress, has been delayed, requiring a 33-day extension that was recently passed and signed by President George W Bush. "America's farmers deserve better than a series of short-term extensions here of our current law," says Secretary of Agriculture Ed Shafer. "They need to know what farm policy is going to be so that they can make sound business decisions about what to plant this year and how they are going to finance it." The current farm bill will now extend to April 18. Congress will have until that date to pass a consolidated bill.

*******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.

*******ACREAGE REPORTING*******

Certification for crop acreages is due June 30, 2008. Producers must report farm acreages, production and intended uses by this date. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency 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 1 day after the final planting date. Producers, who wish to receive commodity loans or Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's), including wool, must also file on all cropland. Please remember, June 30, 2008 is the final date to report without a late filing fee.

******* 2008 CROP YEAR WOOL, MOHAIR & UNSHORN PELTS/UPDATE*******

The Consolidated Appropriations Act for 2008 has extended the Wool & Mohair Loan Deficiency Program through April 18, 2008. Wool must be shorn in 2008 and a weight slip provided with the application. Wool producers do not need to sell their wool. A certified weight slip will suffice. The document must contain your name & address, the net quantity, the date, the type of the wool (graded or un-graded). All other program policies apply; 2008 annual crop acreage reporting, 2008 Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) on form CCC-526, Payment Limitation Review on form CCC-502, and Highly Erodible Conservation and Wetland Conservation certification on form AD-1026. Whether or not shorn wool after April 18th will be eligible for this program depends on future legislation, such as the new Farm Bill. For more information, contact FSA, or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>. Click on the subject "Price Support" in the left column, and then click on "Loan Deficiency Payments" under the Related Topics column.

*******NOT TOO LATE TO RETURN YOUR 2007 AG CENSUS FORM*******

The 2007 Census of Agriculture, the only source of consistent and comprehensive agricultural data for every state and county in the nation, was mailed out to agricultural producers across the United States last December with a Feb 4th due date for return. Officials at the National Agricultural Statistics Service say that while the deadline has passed, completed forms are still being accepted. Conducted every 5 years by the US Department of Agriculture's National Statistics Service (NASS), the Census provides detailed data covering nearly every facet of U.S. agriculture. Government organizations, lawmakers, town planners and individual farm operations can use this vital information to help them plan for future facilities, services and community growth. Producers can return their forms by mail or, for the first time, they have the convenient option of filling out the Census online. For more information about the Census, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov. The Census is your voice, your future and your responsibility.

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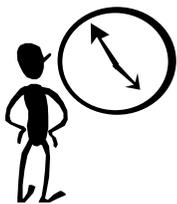
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CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE

All participants in USDA programs are required to have a conservation system in place on all highly erodible land (HEL) that they operate. Several areas where problems can arise with complying with a conservation system are; renting new cropland, purchasing new land, breaking out additional cropland, planting different crops such as soybeans, and changing or removing existing conservation practices. It is very important that you contact the FSA office before doing any of the above. Also, it is very important that you contact our office before modifying – tiling, draining, dredging, filling, or leveling any wetland or drainage ditch. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in loss of all Federal payments and eligibility.

2009 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP) UPDATE FOR JACKSON & JOSEPHINE COUNTY AG PRODUCERS

The USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service is accepting applications for the 2009 program year to assist local ag producers to financially address high priority natural resource concerns. The application deadline for Jackson & Josephine County applicants is October 3, 2008. If available, please submit your conservation farm plan with your EQIP application. In Jackson County, refer questions to Nicola Giardina or Peter Winnick at (541) 776-4267 ext 3. In Josephine County, refer questions to Suzy Liebenberg or David Chain at (541) 673-8316 ext 3. Visit our website for more information about EQIP, county funding priorities, and applications at: <http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/index.html>



IMPORTANT DATES

April 18, 2008 - application deadline for CREP, CRP, 2008 LDP's
May 5, 2008 - DDAP111 sign-up concludes
May 26, 2008 - Memorial Day – office closed
June 30, 2008 - Last day to timely file 2008 acreage reports
July 4, 2008 - Holiday-Office closed
Sept 2, 2008 - Preliminary Jackson Co EQIP application deadline

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