

June 2012



Jackson-Josephine County FSA Updates

Jackson/Josephine County FSA Office

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Hours

Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Jackson/Josephine County Staff

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Committee Members:
LAA#1, Suzanne Ginet
LAA#2, Charles Boyer
LAA#3, Lori Mefford
Website:
www.fsa.usda.gov/OR

County Committee Nominations

County committee nominations are open from **June 15, 2012 through August 1, 2012**. The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers. Every eligible producer should participate in these elections to strengthen the link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. For this year's election the Jackson-Josephine County FSA is seeking nominations of farmers and ranchers from southern Josephine County including the communities of Grants Pass, Williams, Cave Junction and surrounding areas.

County committee members are a critical component in the delivery of FSA services and programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with key decisions on programs in their counties and work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

Operating within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws, FSA county committees apply their local knowledge to make key program administration decisions.

For more information just contact your local FSA office.

Crop Reporting - Reminders

This annual requirement to report to the FSA office can be referred to as "crop reporting", "acreage reporting" or "crop certification." 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. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Load Deficiency Payments programs.

The certification form **FSA-578, Report of Acreage**, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The producer certification deadline for Jackson and Josephine counties is **July 2** this year.

Banking Changes? – Let FSA Know to Prevent Payment Delays

If you changed banks and did not notified FSA, your payment could be delayed. Because payments are electronically transferred into your bank account, changes to your account and routing numbers need to be shared with FSA immediately. Also on FSA loans, to continue 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 to remember that changes in a producer's account be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible delays. Changes can include the type of account, bank mergers, new routing number or account numbers. Your county FSA office can help you avoid these problems if you will contact them in advance of any banking changes.

Farm Reconstitutions

At FSA, farms are “constituted” to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. If an owner or operator cannot agree about program participation, like in the case of the new ACRE program, then producers should inquire about a reconstitution of the farm at the local FSA office.

The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1, 2012, for farms enrolled in specific programs.

Minority Farm Register – Now Open for Minority Farmers and Ranchers

Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages minority farmers and ranchers in Oregon to voluntarily join the USDA Minority Farm Register to receive information and opportunities from USDA agencies. The new Minority Farm Register is an outreach tool designed to reach underserved farmers and ranchers who are not currently enrolled in USDA loan, farm or conservation programs.”

By joining the Register, minority producers may receive outreach materials, newsletters, and program announcements from USDA agencies. They may also receive information and assistance from other USDA-approved outreach partners, such as community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, and minority-serving educational institutions. USDA will carefully control access to and use of the Register.

Registration forms are available in Spanish (AD-2035SP) and English (AD-2035) on the FSA web site www.fsa.usda.gov under “Forms”.

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. Those producers who are having trouble getting credit for their farm or who regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask a lender about an FSA loan guarantee to help with a setback or if a lender has been reluctant

to extend or renew a loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans have a maximum limit of \$1,214,000. This makes the maximum combination of direct and guaranteed loan indebtedness \$1,514,000.

The one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans has increased from 1 percent to 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan, for loans obligated after Oct. 1, 2011.

To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact Chris Kirby at (541) 883-6924 extension 104 or email him at chris.kirby@or.usda.gov.

Selected Interest Rates for June 2012

90-Day Treasury Bill - 0.125%

Farm Operating - Direct - 1.50%

Farm Ownership - Direct - 3.625%

Limited Resource - 5.00%

Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher - 1.50%

Emergency - 3.75%

Farm Storage Facility – 7 year - 1.250%

Farm Storage Facility – 10 year - 1.875%

Farm Storage Facility – 12 year - 2.125%

Commodity Loans 1996-Present - 1.125%

Dates to Remember

June 15 -COC Nomination Period Opens

June 20 –Jackson-Josephine FSA County Committee meeting, 9:00 am

June 30 -2012 Acreage Reporting Deadline in Jackson and Josephine counties

July 4 – Independence Day, office closed

Aug. 1 -Last Day to file COC nomination form

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 or 541-776-4270 extension 2.

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 20250-9410, 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).
