

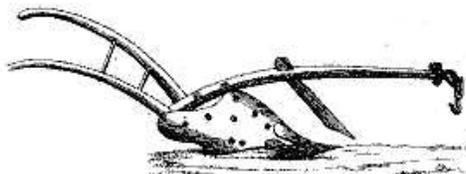


THE FSA PLOWSHARE *

News for People Interested in Agriculture

Serving Jackson & Josephine Counties

Aug/Sept 2009



USDA Service Center
573 Parsons Dr. Suite 101
Medford, OR 97501-3795

Phone: 541-776-4270 ext. 2
Fax: 541-776-4295

Hours: Monday – Friday
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

County Committee:
LAA-1 Suzanne Ginet, Chair
LAA-2 Charlie Boyer, Member
LAA-3 Lori Mefford, Vice-Chair

County Office Staff:
Joe Hess, CED
Diane Rabbe, PT
Donna Finch, PT
Dorothy Scull, Farm Loan Officer
(Klamath Co. FSA Office,
541-883-6924 ext. 104)

www.fsa.usda.gov/or/jackson.html

www.fsa.usda.gov/farmbill

* A plowshare is the leading or cutting edge of a plow which cuts the soil and turns it over.

NAP Coverage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

The application deadline date for the 2010 NAP coverage and crops is as follows:

August 31 Beets, cabbage, camelina, canola, Christmas trees, flowers, greens, herbs (except mint), onions, radish

October 1 Asparagus, garlic, mint, hops, meadowfoam, sugarbeet

November 20 Apples, apricots, blueberries, caneberries, chestnuts, cherries, cranberries, grapes, hazelnuts, honey, nectarine, peaches, pears, plums, prunes, strawberries, walnuts

November 30 All forage and grazing crops except oat forage and grazing

March 15 Beans, broccoli, cantaloupe, cauliflower, corn, cucumber, lentils, mustard, oats, potatoes, pumpkin, safflower, sunflower, squash, tomato, watermelon.

Producers who already have coverage on 2009 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2010, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.



Loans for Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged Applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact their local FSA office for details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

CREP & Continuous CRP Available

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) allows farmers and ranchers to voluntarily enroll environmentally sensitive land into a program that decreases erosion, restores wildlife habitat and safeguards ground and surface water. CREP is a partnership with federal and state government and is limited to specific geographic areas.

USDA has indicated there will not be general signups scheduled for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in 2009. The budget has no available funding for CRP general signups, and instead advocates enrollment in either CREP or Continuous CRP.

Environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) or Continuous CRP will be eligible for annual rental payments and cost-share of up to 50 percent on approved practices. These targeted programs will remain funded, and continue to provide heightened environmental benefits on select areas.

Livestock Indemnity Program

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from disaster. Using funds from the Agricultural Disaster Relief Trust Fund established under section 902 of the Trade Act of 1974, the program is administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA). LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold. Eligible losses must have occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011.

The following table provides the final dates to file a notice of loss and/or application for payment for either 2008 or 2009 livestock losses.

For more information on available supplemental disaster assistance programs, please visit your FSA county office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.



Livestock Death	Final Date to File a Notice of Loss	Final Date to Submit an Application
Calendar Year 2008	Sept. 13, 2009	Sept. 13, 2009
Jan. 1, 2009 to July 12, 2009	Sept. 13, 2009	Jan. 30, 2010
July 13, 2009 to Dec. 31, 2009	30 days after death is apparent	Jan. 30, 2010

Loan Deficiency Payments

Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's) are available to Wool & Mohair producers, in addition to many other types of commodities. USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) makes available nonrecourse Marketing Assistance Loans and Deficiency payments for certain commodities. CCC establishes loan rates for the commodities annually at the national level, and adjusts the rates locally. Marketing loans provide interim financing for eligible producers, allowing them to store their crops at harvest (when prices tend to be the lowest), then market their crops when prices rise.

Under certain circumstances, when applicable loan rates are greater than the posted county or announced national market price for the eligible loan commodities, producers can repay loans at the announced applicable market price amount, without interest.

Alternatively, a producer may be eligible for and choose to receive an LDP in lieu of securing a marketing loan. An LDP is the difference between the loan rate at a given location and the announced market price for the applicable commodity.

Marketing loans and LDP's help ensure an orderly distribution of commodities to the market through the year and prevent delivery of commodities as loan collateral to USDA. **Wool and Mohair Producers: The final day to apply for 2009 production is January 31, 2010.**

Banking Changes?

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using direct deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. It has been calculated that having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with direct deposit.

To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institution.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

Beginning August 3, 2009, FSA/CCC payments made by direct deposit will be transmitted by Kansas City to Treasury. This allows FSA to be compliant with the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (DCIA), which requires that Federal payments be processed through the Treasury Offset Program (TOP) so that any delinquent Federal debt can be offset. This will result in the following processing changes:

- **a 1 day delay in receipt of funds via direct deposit**
- the potential for all payments to be offset through TOP
- the description on the bank statement reading "FSA TREAS 310"

Selected Interest Rates for August 2009	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	3.125%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans — Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	3.125%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	4.250%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.500%

Dates to Remember	
Continuous Sign-Up	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program/CRP / CREP
Aug. 31, 2009	NAP deadline: Beets, Cabbage, Camelina, Canola, Christmas Trees, Flowers, Greens, Herbs (except Mint), Onions, Radish
Sept. 13, 2009	2008 LIP Sign-Up ends
Oct. 1, 2009	NAP deadline: Asparagus, Garlic, Mint, Hops, Meadowfoam, Sugarbeet
Nov. 20, 2009	NAP deadline: Apples, Apricots, Blueberries, Caneberries, Chestnuts, Cherries, Cranberries, Grapes, Hazelnuts, Honey, Nectarine, Pears, Plums, Strawberries, Walnuts
Nov. 30, 2009	NAP deadline: All forages and grazing crops except oat forage and grazing

USDA-FARM SERVICE AGENCY
Jackson/Josephine County
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Return Service Requested

Attention: Agricultural group members and leaders. Do you want FSA to come to your meeting and talk about what FSA has to offer you? If so, contact Joe Hess at 776-4270 ext. 106, or by e-mail joe.hess@or.usda.gov.



Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the FSA County Office staff, and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are necessary.

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.