



September 2008 NEWSLETTER



COUNTY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

LAA 1- Suzanne Ginet - Chair
LAA 2 - Mel Morris
LAA 3 - Lori Mefford

OFFICE STAFF

Joe Hess, County Executive Director
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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>

Riparian Restoration with CREP

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a multi-agency cost-share riparian development program for agricultural lands. Participants receive cost shares and annual rental payments to dedicate portions of cropland or marginal pastureland along streams, rivers, or other permanent bodies of water in exchange for a temporary easement. The easement constitutes a 10-15 year contract with Farm Service Agency.

In addition to the annual rental payment (which is based on the following):

- Type of soils or marginal pasture AND be adjacent to either a seasonal stream, permanent stream or other body of water.

The participant also will receive:

- A one time Sign-Up Incentive Payment of \$10 per full year of contract for each acre enrolled for 10 years, for certain practices.
- Cost share of 50% of eligible expenses from FSA,
- Cost share of 25% of eligible expenses from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB),
- A one time Practice Incentive Payment, 40% of the eligible expenses of the installation of the completed practice,
- And for those participants who enroll 50% of a 5 mile section of stream, a one time payment equal to 4 times the annual base rental rate per acre for each participant.

Funding for this program has been extended by the 2008 Farm Bill and approved by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. However, funds could become limited. Applications are encouraged anytime during office hours. If you would like more information regarding this conservation program please feel free to contact the office.



CREP Riparian Restoration project after mechanical de-brushing along the Applegate River. Photo used with permission from landowners, J & G Hart.

Buy-In by Sept. 16th for 2008 Disaster Assistance

Producers can establish 2008 eligibility for the new disaster assistance programs by paying a fee as required by the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (the 2008 Farm Bill).

Ordinarily producers who wish to participate in the new disaster programs would need crop insurance or non-insured crop disaster assistance (NAP) coverage on all farms in all counties in which they have an interest. Since the 2008 Farm Bill was enacted after the application periods had closed for those programs, producers who did not have insurance coverage could not comply with this requirement in order to be eligible. However, the Farm Bill authorizes a waiver that allows producers to pay a fee, called a "buy-in" fee, to be eligible for the new disaster assistance programs.

The buy-in fee is due no later than **Sept. 16, 2008**, 90 days after the date of enactment, as required by the 2008 Act. Payment of the applicable fees will allow the producer to be eligible for financial assistance under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), and other disaster assistance programs. Those who miss this opportunity will **not** be eligible for 2008 disaster assistance. Producers are also reminded that the payment of the applicable buy-in fee does **not** provide the producer crop insurance or NAP coverage; it only affords eligibility for the disaster programs.



What's Buggin' My Trees?

OSU Southern Oregon Research & Extension and the Small Woodlands Association are sponsoring a two day presentation for woodland owners to discuss forest health issues. The speaker for the program, Dave Shaw, Forest Health Specialist, OSU Extension, will discuss the key insect pests and diseases at work in local woodlands and what can be done about them.

This presentation will be held Thursday, **Sept. 18th**, 7:00 pm at the OSU Extension Auditorium, 569 Hanley Rd. Central Point, OR.

A Forest Health Tour on Friday, **Sept. 19th** from 9:00 am to noon will focus on identification and management of forest root diseases and other problems. Please RSVP the OSU Extension at 541-776-7371 for more information.

2008 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP)

Producers have until **September 30, 2008** to sign up in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) for this fiscal year. Participants can expect their final direct payment to be directly deposited into personal bank accounts sometime during the first few weeks of October.

Producers who did not elect to receive an advance direct payment will receive their entire direct payment for the year in one lump sum after the end of the fiscal year (September 30).

The direct payment for a crop equals 85 percent of the farm's base acreage *times* (x) the farm's direct payment yield *times* (x) the direct payment rate.

If there are any unearned payments, Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically subtract those amounts from the final DCP payments a producers is about to receive.

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 2009 coverage on fall seeded crops has been extended to December 1, 2008. In order to be eligible for disaster assistance programs, like SURE, producers are required to timely purchase, at a minimum, CAT coverage for all insurable crops and/or NAP coverage for all non-insurable crops on their entire farm.

NAP coverage for 2009 costs \$250 per crop, but not more than \$750 per producer per county, or not more than \$1,875 total per producer for all counties.

Producers who already have coverage on 2008 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2009, 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 2008 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.

Did you know?

Hispanic Heritage Month begins on September 15 because this day marks the anniversary of independence for five Hispanic countries – Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico achieved independence on September 16 and Chile on September 18. Why is this important you may ask? Hispanic's have made tremendous contributions to our nation. From the first Hispanic member of US Congress, Joseph Hernandez in 1822, Hispanics have held positions as US Senator, Administrator of the FAA, US Treasurer, US Cabinet Member, US Surgeon General, US Secretary of Transportation, US Secretary of Housing & Urban Development and US Attorney General. From Military Flying Ace's and four-star General's, from Nobel Prize's in Physics and Medicine to literature, music, film, drama, and sports, Hispanics have been recognized for their contributions to America and beyond.

DATES TO REMEMBER.....

Sept.16, 2008 – Last day to Buy-In for 2008 Disaster Assistance
Sept. 18-19th - What's Buggin My Trees Seminar & Field Tour – OSU Extension
Sept.30, 2008 – Last day for 2008 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP)
Nov. 3, 2008 – Mailing of ballots for LAA-2 committee Member
Dec. 1, 2008 – Last day to apply for 2009 Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP)
Dec. 1, 2008 – Election ballots due for LAA-2 Committee Member Election
Jan. 31, 2009 – Last day to apply for 2008 Wool LDP payment requests

USDA-FARM SERVICE AGENCY
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People in Partnership for a Healthy Land

Jackson County Resources

Farm Service Agency (FSA), 541-776-4270
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Jackson Co., 541-776-4267
Jackson County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), 541-734-3143
Oregon Department of Forestry, Medford Unit, Stewardship Forester, 541-664-3328
OSU Extension Service, Jackson County, 541-776-7671

Josephine County Resources

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Josephine Co., 541-476-5856
Josephine County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), 541-474-6840
Oregon Department of Forestry, Grants Pass Unit, Stewardship Forester, 541-474-3152
Southwest OR Resource Conservation & Development Council, 541-476-5906
Illinois Valley Soil & Water Conservation District (IVSWCD), 541-592-3731
OSU Extension Service, Josephine County, 541-476-6613

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