



Did you know? Pumpkins are 90% water.

Find other interesting articles at the USDA Economic Research Service web site: www.ers.usda.gov

COUNTY COMMITTEE MEMBERS	JACKSON/JOSEPHINE COUNTY FSA
LAA 1- Suzanne Ginet - Chair	573 Parsons Drive, Suite 101
LAA 2 - Mel Morris	Medford, OR 97501-3769
LAA 3 - Lori Mefford	Phone: (541) 776-4270 ext.2
OFFICE STAFF	FAX: (541) 776-4295
Joe Hess, County Executive Director	OFFICE HOURS
Diane Rabbe, Program Technician	Monday through Friday
Donna Finch, Program Technician	8:00 AM to 4:30 PM (Open during lunch hour)
	Web site: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/or/jackson.html

County Committee Election

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

Committees provide local input on:

- Commodity price support loans and payments;
- Conservation programs;
- Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities; and
- Emergency programs.

FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. Committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

Who Can Vote

Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm can also vote. More information about voting eligibility requirements can be found in the FSA fact sheet titled "FSA County Committee Election - Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a County Committee Member." Producers may contact their local USDA Service Center for more information.

Don't Miss Out on Voting

Ballots will be mailed to voters by Nov. 3, 2008, and must be returned to the FSA county office or postmarked by Dec. 1, 2008. Eligible voters may contact their local FSA county office before the final date to return ballots if they do not receive a ballot.

Uniform Guidelines

USDA issued uniform guidelines for county committee elections to help ensure that FSA county committees fairly represent the agricultural producers of a county or multi-county jurisdiction, especially minority and women producers. Minority persons are African Americans, American Indians or Alaska Natives, Hispanics, Asians, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islanders. The guidelines govern the FSA county committee election process and are designed to increase participation by minorities and women. The following are just some of the specifics of the guidelines that are now in effect:

Continued.....

- If no valid nominations are filed, the secretary of agriculture may nominate up to two individuals to be placed on the ballot.
- County committees must annually review local administrative area boundaries to ensure the fair representation of minority and women producers in their county or multi-county jurisdiction.
- FSA county offices shall actively locate and recruit eligible candidates identified as minority and women farmers and ranchers as potential nominees for the county committee elections through outreach and publicity, including the development of partnerships with community based organizations.

County Committee Election Nominees

Nominees for the Local Administrated Area (LAA) 2 have submitted biographies, and are:

Don Babb: I have a cow/calf ranch in the community of Wimer, near Rogue River. I have always supported the volunteer spirit. I have volunteered for the City, County, State & Federal. Looking forward to being your representative. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Charles (Charlie) Boyer: (Eagle Point) Our primary production is grass-clover hay and grass fed lamb which we market directly to the consumers. We practice Intensive Management Grazing for all of our livestock. I am a grazing management consultant, working closely with the staff at the Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District. I have served on the Jackson SWCD since 1998 and am currently District Chair and recently completed an eight year appointment to the Oregon State Soil and Water Conservation Commission. I am seeking a seat on the FSA County Committee because I believe in the agriculture of Jackson and Josephine Counties. I think we should do as much as possible to keep agriculture strong, efficient, economically sound and environmentally friendly.

John Cox: (Eagle Point) I have been involved with farming and livestock since I was a boy growing up in England. I enjoy raising livestock and currently have a flock of 40 sheep, 30 cows, llamas and chickens. I hay local fields in the summer, raise a batch of wiener pigs each fall and enjoy the produce out of my garden all year long. I actively participate in the Jackson County 4-H program as a parent, a project leader for Riverview 4-H Livestock & More and as the Vice President of the 4-H Executive Board. I served four years as President of the Southern Oregon Sheep Producer's group to encourage promotion of sheep production in this county. I look forward to serving on the Farm Service Agency Board.

Teresa Kelly: (Sams Valley) I grew up on a cattle ranch here in the Rogue Valley in the Sams Valley and Table Rocks area. I worked and learned the cattle and farming business with my Dad and Grandpa, and my Mom in the yard and garden. My husband Scott and I purchased and homesteaded 75 acres of land which had been in my family since 1953. The land was used only for spring pasture. For the last several years we have had most of our property enrolled in the CREP program. It is already having a positive affect on the fish and wildlife habitat. I have participated in the Forest Incentive Program performing fuel hazard reduction projects. I am a member of the Seven Basins Watershed Council since its start-up and have served on its Board of Directors for the last few years. Thanks for considering me, Teresa Kelly.

Good Luck to our nominees!

Proper ballot signatures are important! As in any other official election, improper signatures render the ballot ineligible. Make your vote count! ALL signatures must be written in INK. Take a look at the addressee's name on the ballot. The name represents the farm owner or operator as filed on FSA forms or taken from the counties property ownership records.

A check mark must be witnessed & signed by the mark by a person who receives no direct benefit from the action or by an FSA employee.



Witnessed by *Sally Smith*

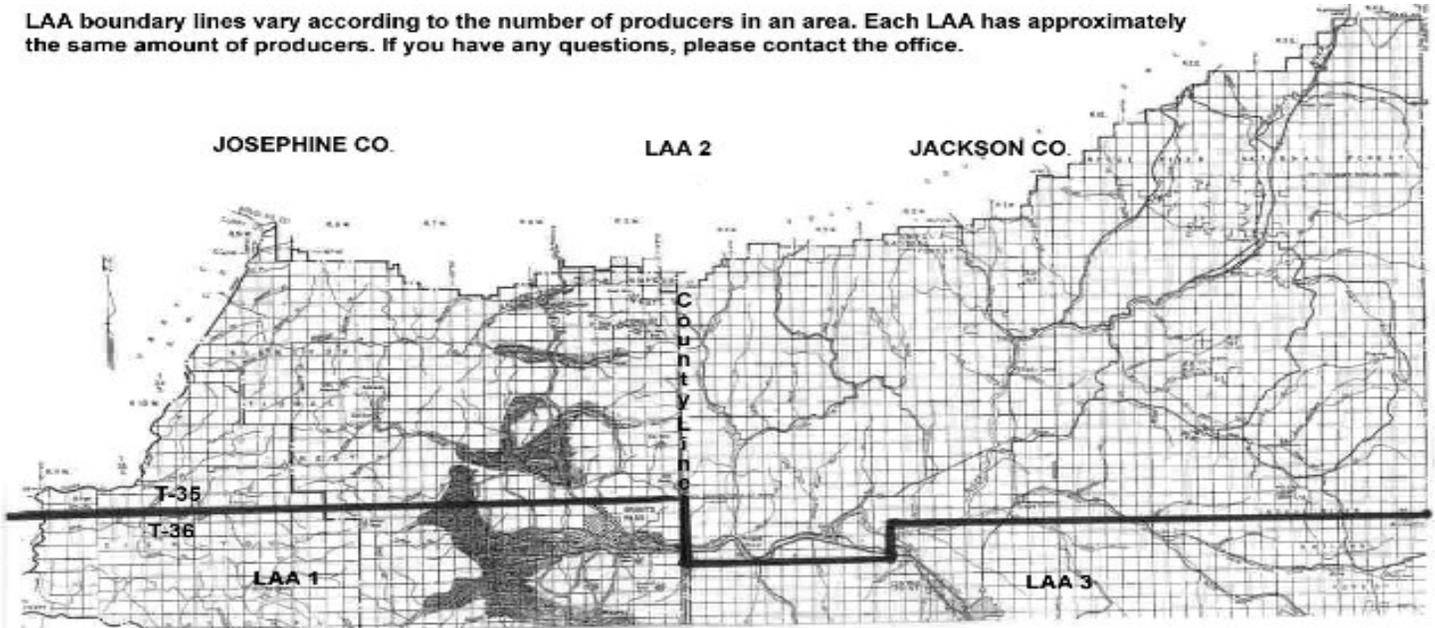
A printed signature i.e., "Jack Smith", or written in any other language other than English, must also be witnessed & signed by the mark by a person who receives no direct benefit from the action or by an FSA employee. If the signature is illegible, it must be known by the FSA staff or it will become invalid. Altered or tampered signatures and ballots will also become invalid.

If your ballot is addressed to a business, trust, or other fiduciary capacity, the representative must be designated in writing by a legal entity, such as:

- Corporation, estate, revocable and irrevocable trust, Limited Partnership, Limited Liability Company or other business enterprise, excluding general partnerships and joint ventures.

The person with the signature authority must sign in the following manner: Jack Smith Farms, Inc. **by** Jack Smith, President; Smith Family Trust **by** Jack Smith, Trustee; D & S Family LLC, **by** Sally Smith, Member **OR** by using the word "for" i.e. Jack Smith, President **for** Jack Smith Farms, Inc; Jack Smith, Trustee **for** Smith Family Trust; Sally Smith **for** D & S Family LLC. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

LAA boundary lines vary according to the number of producers in an area. Each LAA has approximately the same amount of producers. If you have any questions, please contact the office.



The Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District presents the workshop **“Horses & Mud”** on **Saturday, October 18th**, from **9am to 5pm** at the OSU Extension Conference Room, Medford. Learn how to weather the winter with your horses and livestock. For more info & register, contact Angie Boudro at 541-734-3143.

Farms to Forest Program Tour / October 28th, 9:00 am

Come join your neighbors and hear about a co-operative program that can put some green in your pocket, give you more time to drink lemonade and keep your farm productive for decades. Visit with landowner Lawrence Martin, staff from Oregon Water Trust and Oregon Forest Resource Trust Program to see and hear about one family’s experience in water conservation and forestry on Evans Creek. Co-sponsored by OSU Extension Service, registration is limited to 25. Call the OSU office to register for the October 28th 2 hour morning event and directions, at **541-776-7371**. For more detailed information call Jeffrey Kee at Oregon Water Trust 503-222-9091 ext 23 or Jeffrey@owt.org

The Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District will also present a series of workshops on ponds, water rights and construction on **Nov. 13th & 20th**, at **6:00 PM** at the USDA Service Center. Contact Angie Boudro for more info. 541-734-3143.



USDA-FARM SERVICE AGENCY
Jackson/Josephine County
573 Parsons Dr., Suite 101
Medford, OR 97501-3769

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
TUALATIN OR
PERMIT NO. 71



CATASTROPHIC CROP INSURANCE provides producers with a financial “safety net” against the risk of major crop loss. The catastrophic (CAT) level of crop insurance covers unavoidable causes of loss as specified in the specific crop provisions (e.g., drought, excess moisture, flooding, hail, wind, fire, insects and disease). CAT is available Nationwide, where the applicable insured crop has an approved crop insurance policy/plan and coverage for such crop is available in the county.

PEARS, GRAPES, APPLES, & STONE FRUITS (Jackson Co. only) sales closing date is **November 20th**. A list of crop insurance agents is available on the Risk Management web site: www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents (yes, there is a 3 following www) or contact our office.

Josephine County Soil & Water Conservation District will be holding it’s annual meeting on October 30th at 6 PM, at JJ North’s County Buffett, 1150 NE E St., Grants Pass, OR. Guest speaker will be Stephanie Page, ODA Water Quality Planner. For more information, contact Randi Omley-Tatum, 541-474-6840.

DATES TO REMEMBER.....

- Oct. 18, 2008 – Horses & Mud, Jackson SWCD 9am-5pm, Conference Room
- Oct. 28, 2008 – Farms to Forest Tour, OR Water Trust. 9Am. Contact OSU Extension, 541-776-7371
- Oct. 30, 2008 - Josephine SWCD Annual Meeting, 6PM, JJ North’s Country Buffett
- Nov. 3, 2008 – Mailing of ballots for LAA-2 committee Member
- Nov. 13 & 20th – Ponds Series Workshop, Jackson SWCD, 6pm.Conference Room
- Nov. 20, 2008- Catastrophic Crop Ins. closing dates for Grapes, Pears, Stone Fruits
- 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

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.