

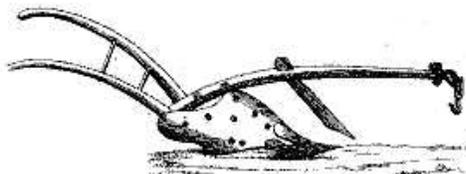


# THE FSA PLOWSHARE \*

News for People Interested in Agriculture

Serving Jackson & Josephine Counties

Nov/Dec 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](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/or/jackson.html)

[www.fsa.usda.gov/farmbill](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/farmbill)

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

## County Committee Election - Ballots Due December 7, 2009

Candidates have been nominated for Josephine County Local Administrated Area (LAA) 1. Ballots will be mailed to known eligible voters residing or operating south of Grants Pass, the first week of November. If your primary agriculture interest is in this area and you believe you should have received a ballot, call our office.

**Vote for only one choice** and **SIGN the ballot return envelope** where indicated. If you are signing as a representative of an entity, you must have signature authority and include the **BY or FOR** in your signature. Unsigned ballots are not valid.

Mail your ballot back (postmarked Dec.7<sup>th</sup> or earlier) or drop it by our office by 4:30 pm on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>.

The following nominees have indicated they are willing to serve on the County Committee for a 3-year term, if elected.

**Suzanne Ginet:** (Williams) has been nominated in LAA #1, Josephine County, to serve as COC member for a 3-year term. Suzy is currently the COC Chairperson. She resides near Williams, where she and her husband operate a family farm where they raise USDA Certified organic beef & hay and ODA certified wine grape seed stock, vineyard & winery.

**Robert (Bob) Crouse:** (Grants Pass) has been nominated in LAA #1, Josephine County, to serve as COC member for a 3-year term. He resides near Grants Pass, where he operates the family farm known as Fort Vannoy Farms, Inc. Mostly known for their dairy operation, Bob also oversees the new expansion of their farm stand and produce outlet for their own fresh sweet corn, pumpkins and fresh flowers.

**Good Luck to our nominees!**

## FSA - YOUR LENDER OF FIRST OPPORTUNITY

FSA offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit elsewhere.

FSA loans available are: Farm ownership loans up to \$300,000. Operating loans also have a \$300,000 limit. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. Rural Youth Loans for 4 H or FFA youth up to age 18 have a loan limit of \$5,000.

Loans to Beginning Farmers, and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

**For details on loan eligibility or available loan programs, contact Dorothy Scull Farm Loan Officer, Klamath County (541-883-6924 ext. 104) for an appointment.**

We encourage you to apply now before funding for 2010 is exhausted.

## **BIOMASS CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (BCAP)**

Biomass conversion facilities can begin signing up to participate in the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP). **The program provides financial assistance to producers who deliver eligible material to biomass conversion facilities** and FSA will provide financial assistance to collect, harvest, store and transport eligible materials.

Owners of eligible material can receive financial assistance for delivering qualified biomass to conversion facilities that use biomass for heat, power, bio-based products or advanced biofuels.

Once an agreement is signed between FSA and a facility **AND** funding through the program is provided, the facilities can begin accepting materials. Producers who sell these materials can apply for matching payments under the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) component of BCAP.

The matching CHST payments are paid at a rate of \$1 for \$1 per dry-ton equivalent received from a qualified biomass conversion facility, not to exceed \$45 per dry-ton equivalent. A biomass owner is eligible to receive payments for two years. The purpose of the matching payments is to assist biomass producers with the CHST cost of delivering biomass to a qualified biomass conversion facility.

Biomass conversion facilities may become "qualified" by submitting a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to the FSA state offices. The MOU generally provides the requirements for becoming a qualified biomass conversion facility. Once a facility becomes qualified, eligible material owners or producers who deliver biomass to that facility may be eligible to receive CHST payments. Currently, there are 4 qualified facilities in Southern Oregon. Biomass One, LP in White City, OR; Roseburg Forest Products, Dillard, OR; CoGen II, LLC; Riddle, OR; Interfor Pacific Inc., Gilchrist, OR.

Eligible material owners or producers, who market eligible material to a qualified biomass conversion facility, may apply for the matching CHST payment at their FSA county office. **An application must be submitted and approved before the eligible material is sold and delivered to a qualified biomass conversion facility.** After the product is delivered, a producer must provide FSA with documentation of product quantity, quality and payment rate. County offices will validate payment requests with information in the county office and information provided under the terms of MOUs with the qualified biomass conversion facilities. CHST payments will not be authorized until after an appropriate environmental analysis has been conducted. For more information, you may visit the FSA website: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

## **FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE (FCI) AND NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP) COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS**

With the passage of the 2008 Farm Bill, FCI and NAP is now required to be eligible to participate in some FSA programs. In the past, producers would be eligible for Crop Disaster Programs because of an eligible production loss on their crops. A Disaster Trust Fund has now been established which funds disaster related programs and requires that you purchase crop coverage. These programs include:

**Supplemental Revenue Assurance Program (SURE)** The SURE program compensates producers for revenue losses on their farm. For the purpose of the program the farm includes all acreage farmed in all counties. Either the entire farm must suffer a 50% loss in revenue for the year or one of the counties that the producer participates in must have a Secretarial Disaster Declaration for the year. Payment is calculated based upon the level of coverage or buy up that the producer has purchased.

**Livestock Forage Program (LFP)** The LFP compensates producers for forage losses due to drought and other conditions. To be eligible for payment the insured pasture must be located in a county with a drought designated as a D2 or higher by the US Drought Monitor. Applications must be received prior to December 14, 2009.

**Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm Raised Fish (ELAP)** The ELAP program compensates producers for losses due to adverse weather or other loss conditions that are not covered under LIP, SURE or LFP. The ELAP program will compensate producers for feed losses or physical losses not covered under the programs. This is not an annual program and is only available at the discretion of the Secretary of Agriculture. Applications must be received prior to December 14, 2009.

All three programs require that producers purchase insurance coverage in the form of NAP or other crop insurance for the year of the application for their crops. Insurance must be purchased by the closing date for the applicable crop. For non-insurable crops, contact us for coverage under NAP. For insurable crops contact your crop insurance agent; we have a list in our office.

### **Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP)**

NAP is available for all crops not covered under Federal Crop Insurance. NAP provides catastrophic level of coverage (50% yield / 55% price) to crops damaged by the eligible weather events that occur before or during harvest. Fees are \$250/crop, maximum of \$750/county, and a maximum of \$1875/multi County.

Sales deadlines coming up:

>**All fruit crops, honey November 20, 2009**

>**All forage and grazing crops except oat forage and grazing November 30, 2009**

>**All spring planted crops not mentioned, oat forage March 15, 2010**

Producers who have paid for NAP coverage and suffer a weather related crop loss must notify the FSA office by completing form CCC-576 within 15 days of the date of the weather event or are aware of the crop damage. An appraisal must be performed on any acreage for which the intended use has changed or for any acreage that will not be taken to harvest prior to destroying or abandoning crop acreage. Failed acreage must be reported prior to destroying or abandoning crop acreage.

### **Adjusted Gross Revenue-LITE (AGR-LITE)**

Similar to AGR Pilot, the plan provides protection against low revenue due to unavoidable natural disasters and market fluctuations that affect income during the insurance year. Most farm-raised crops, animals, and animal products are eligible for protection. AGR-Lite also establishes revenue as a common denominator for the insurance of all agricultural commodities. The maximum liability of coverage is \$1 million. Available in all Oregon counties. *Sales Closing dates: 1/31/10 current policy holders, 3/15/10 new applications.*

These Crop Insurance policies are sold by private insurance agencies. Call our office for a listing.

<b>Dates to Remember</b>			
Continuous Sign-Up	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program/CRP / CREP		
Nov. 6, 2009	<b>Ballots mailed</b> to Jo Co. owners/operators residing in LAA #1		
Nov. 20, 2009	<b>Federal Crop Ins. &amp; NAP deadline:</b> Apples, Apricots, Blueberries, Caneberries, Chestnuts, Cherries, Cranberries, Grapes, Hazelnuts, Honey, Nectarine, Pears, Peaches, Plums, Strawberries, Walnuts, & Actual Revenue History Cherry Pilot.		
Nov. 30, 2009	<b>Federal Crop Ins. &amp; NAP deadline:</b> All forages and grazing crops except oat forage and grazing. Apiculture Vegetation Index Pilot (all of OR)		
Dec. 7, 2009	<b>Ballots must be post marked by this date.</b>		
Jan. 1, 2010	<b>Committee Members take office.</b>		
Mar. 15, 2010	<b>Federal Crop Ins. &amp; NAP deadline,</b> all spring planted crops not mentioned, oat forage.		
<b>Selected Farm Program Interest Rates for November 2009</b>			
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125 %	Emergency Loans (Amount of Actual Loss)	3.750 %
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.875 %	Farm Storage Facility Loan, 7 yr term/per annum	3.000 %
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.750 %	Farm Storage Facility Loan, 10 yr term/per annum	3.375 %
Farm Ownership Loans — Down Payment	1.500 %	Farm Storage Facility Loan, 12 yr term/per annum	3.625 %

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

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### **FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN PROGRAM**

Changes to the Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program have been implemented in accordance with the 2008 Farm Bill, which will allow producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department, October 2009 rates range from 3.0% to 3.75%.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement is available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

#### **The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:**

Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain;

Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain;

Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas; Hay; Renewable biomass; Fruits, nuts, and vegetables - cold storage facilities.

For more information about FSFL, please call our office or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov), click on "Price Support" in the left column then "Facility Loan Programs" in the right column.

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.