



# THE PLOWSHARE \*

News for People Interested in  
Agriculture

Serving  
Jackson & Josephine Counties

Spring 2009

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

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.

Congratulations!!  
Cyndi Harrington, winner of  
“Name our FSA Newsletter”  
Contest. Thank you to all those  
who made entries.

## DCP Signup Extended

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment (DCP) Program for farms with base acres. Signup has been extended to August 14, 2009 and we will not accept any late-filed applications after that date. This means that **all** signatures must be obtained by August 14th. An electronic application is also available for DCP (or eDCP) for those who wish to register and explore this option. Contact your local FSA office for more information and to establish the required *e-authentication Level 2* account.

FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2009, you may request to receive advanced direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm.

Producers who are eligible for the DCP Program will also be eligible to enroll in the **Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program**.

The decision to participate has been extended to August 14, 2009 for the 2009 crop year only. Once the decision has been made to participate in ACRE, it is irrevocable. By enrolling a farm in ACRE, that farm is no longer eligible for counter-cyclical payments, a 20% reduction in direct payments will apply and a 30% reduction in marketing assistance loan rates will apply. Payments are based on crops planted on the farm, not base acres, but the planted acres on which payment is calculated cannot exceed the total base acres on the farm. If enrolled in ACRE, five years of production data must be provided to establish a crop history and annual submission of production records are required.

Farms enrolled in ACRE may receive two types of payments: direct payments and ACRE payments. For an ACRE payment to be made, two triggers must be met: 1. The State ACRE Guarantee must exceed the Actual State Revenue, and 2. The Farm ACRE Benchmark Revenue must exceed Actual Farm Revenue. If these two triggers are met, the ACRE payment is calculated.

Contact Diane for more information.





### ***GOT WOOL?? YES SIR, YES SIR, THREE BAGS FULL!!***

Calling all wool growers!! We know you are out there. Here's a simple program to pay for the wool off the back of your sheep! Come in and sign up before you shear. Fill out some forms (we'll even help). And you get paid! Whether you plan to sell, dump or give away your wool, you could qualify for an LDP (Loan Deficiency Program) payment. Come in or call us today!

### **National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS)**

If a NASS employee contacts you requesting cash rental rate or other information about your farm(s), please cooperate with them. The information they collect is helpful in many ways. Individual data is kept confidential.

### **FSA Appeal Process**

After an FSA official has made a decision on your request or application for USDA Services, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree. Generally, appellants have three choices – 1) an informal review with the original agency decision maker, 2) an opportunity for mediation and 3) appeal to the next level of authority within the agency. If you have any questions regarding the Appeal Process please contact the office.

### **Farm Loan Servicing Corner**

#### **Sale of Timber, Minerals, and Partial Real Estate Sales on FSA Mortgaged Property:**

FSA borrowers who have mortgaged their real estate to FSA for a farm loan need to be aware of the limitations of our mortgage/deed of trust puts on the sale and use of proceeds from partial real estate sales, timber harvests and mineral sales including gravel. FSA regulations require that written consent be obtained from FSA prior to any removal of timber or minerals or partial sale of the FSA mortgaged property.

Use of the sale proceeds are limited to paying secured real estate lenders in order of the priority of their liens including FSA; paying customary costs associated with the transaction; and with limitations, development or enlargement of farm real estate or applying the funds as a regular payment on FSA loans. Funds may not be used to pay capital gains taxes, refinance debts, purchase equipment/livestock or pay family living expenses. Borrower use of small amounts of timber or minerals for household use is acceptable.

If you have any questions, please contact Jim Jutson at 541-673-6071, ext. 108.



### **2009 Acreage Reporting**

Annual acreage reporting is required for most Programs that FSA administers. **Before a producer can report their crop acreage they must have planted their 2009 crops;** Planting dates are required, along with crop name, crop type, crop intended use, irrigated or non-irrigated, total acres planted in each field, crop shares, copies of leases for newly acquired ground or for ground with expired leases. For SURE, LIP, LFP producers reporting must report all farm acreage including range, whether it is grazed or left standing, scabland, or pasture. Please contact the county office with any changes from the previous year(s) farmed ground so that we can reduce any delays and be accurate in the acreage reporting.

**The deadline for reporting your 2009 crop acreage is June 30, 2009.** Please call the office should you have any questions regarding acreage reporting or any other programs for the 2009 year.

### **The Non- Insured Assistance Program (NAP)**

Producers who have paid for NAP coverage and suffer a weather related crop loss must notify our office within 15 days of the date of the weather event or the date they become aware of the crop damage. It is important to remember that a timely filed acreage report must be on file to receive NAP benefits. An inspection must be performed on any acreage for which the intended use has been changed or for any acreage that will not be taken to harvest prior to destroying or abandoning the crop acreage. This information can be found in the NAP Basic Provisions (CCC-471 BP) available in the county office or on the FSA website.

Contact Diane Rabbe at (541) 776-4270 extension 100, if you have any questions regarding NAP.

NAP basic provisions (CCC-471 NAP) are available on the FSA website <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

### **Buy-In for 2008 Disaster Programs**

Producers have an opportunity to become eligible for several programs if they suffered 2008 agricultural losses due to a natural disaster. Producers who did not obtain crop insurance or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for 2008 can pay a buy-in fee through May 18, 2009, to become eligible for 2008 disaster assistance programs authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

Producers who have not already taken the necessary steps to become eligible for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP), and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) are required to complete the following steps by May 18, 2009:

- Pay a \$100 “buy-in” fee per crop. The maximum fee is \$300 per county, per producer, not to exceed \$900 for multi-county producers.
- In the case of each insurable crop, excluding grazing land, agree to obtain a policy or plan of insurance for the next insurance year for which crop insurance is available; coverage level should equal 70 percent or more of the yield at 100 percent of the price.
- In the case of each non-insurable crop, agree to file the required paperwork and pay the applicable administrative NAP coverage fee by the applicable state application closing date for the next available year.

Producers who choose to “buy in” under this provision will be considered, for insured crops, to have obtained a policy or plan of insurance for the 2008 crop year at a level of coverage not to exceed 70 percent of the yield at 100 percent of the price. For non-insurable crops, producers will be considered to have a level of coverage equal to 70 percent of the yield. These levels of coverage will be used to calculate the 2008 SURE guarantee.

### **Controlled Substance**

Any person who is convicted under federal law of planting, producing, cultivating, harvesting, growing, or storing a controlled substance will be ineligible to participate and receive payments under USDA programs. Marijuana, opium poppies, and other drug producing plants are controlled substances.

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

Return Service Requested



**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER.....**

March 1 – July 15 Primary Nesting Season  
May 18 - Buy-In for SURE, eLAP, TAP  
May 25 – Memorial Day Holiday/ Service Center closed  
June 30 – 2009 Crop Acreage Report Deadline  
June 30 – 2008 NAP Production Reporting Deadline (APH)  
August 14 – DCP sign up deadline

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 arraignments 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.