



AUGUST 2007 NEWSLETTER

COUNTY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

OFFICE STAFF

Diane Rabbe, Acting CED
Donna Finch, Program Technician

JACKSON/JOSEPHINE COUNTY FSA

573 Parsons Drive, Suite 101
Medford, OR 97501-3769
Phone: (541) 776-4270 ext.2 FAX: (541) 776-4295

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>

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

The Jackson/Josephine County Farm Service Agency (FSA) Committee election for Local Administrative Area #3 (LAA) will be held this year on December 3, 2007. The LAA#3 includes Township 36 South, south to the California State line and from Range 2 West, east to the Klamath County line (Ashland, Medford, Central Point, Talent & Phoenix, Green Springs, Dead Indian, Jacksonville & part of the Applegate areas). The County Committee is an important part of the service delivery of USDA programs. They oversee local FSA operations and make critical decisions on how FSA commodity, conservation, and disaster programs are administered in its communities. Ballots will be mailed to voters on November 2nd and must be returned to the FSA office or postmarked by December 3rd. If you don't receive a ballot, and feel you should, please contact this office. The only people eligible for voting are those in the LAA#3 voting district. The following person(s) have been nominated and have agreed to serve on the County Committee for the 2008-2010 term. Lori Mefford resides at 5526 Rogue Valley Hwy, Central Point. She helps run the family farm (Seven Oaks Farm) which includes raising a variety of row crops, alfalfa, onions, and a cow/calf operation. She belongs to the Oregon Cattlemen's Assoc., Onion Producers Assoc., and is a board member of the Direct Marketing Assoc. She is presently serving as Vice-Chairperson of the Jackson/Josephine County Committee.

FSA's 2007 National Compliance and Spot Check Review

FSA is committed to delivering accurate program payments to America's agricultural producers. The accuracy of payments not only benefits farmers and ranchers, but also maximizes taxpayer dollars and government efficiency. As part of the 2007 National Compliance Review, FSA's national office is requiring local FSA county offices to conduct compliance reviews and spot checks of certain producers selected by the national office through a statistical sampling method. A statistical sample of FSA employees, County Committee (COC) and State Committee (STO) members have also been selected for review using this same process. FSA may review a producer's operations in multiple states and counties, depending on the scope of the producer's operations. FSA will review both the accuracy of the representations made by the selected producers in connection with participation in FSA programs as well as the producer's compliance with applicable program requirements. The reviews may need to be conducted at various times throughout the year depending on the FSA programs in which the producer is participating. FSA appreciates the cooperation of its customers as the agency continues to enhance its operations. FSA's goal is to ensure that program dollars are delivered effectively and efficiently so America's farmers and ranches can provide safe and abundant food, fiber and fuel for consumers at home and abroad.

2008 NAP Policy Deadlines

Non-Insured Assistance (NAP) participants must purchase coverage on or before the application closing dates. The following is a list of 2008 NAP application closing dates for Oregon. **August 31**-Beets, cabbage, canola, Christmas trees, flowers, greens, herbs (except peppermint), onions, and radish. **October 1**-Alfalfa, asparagus, barley, clover, garlic, grass, herbs (peppermint), hops, meadowfoam, mixed forage, oats, rye, sugarbeet, triticale, vetch, and wheat. **November 20**-Apples, apricots, blueberries, caneberries, chestnuts, cherries, cranberries, grapes, hazelnuts, honey, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, prunes, strawberries and walnuts. **March 15-08**-beans, broccoli, cantaloupe, cauliflower, corn, cucumber, lentils, mustard, peas, potatoes, pumpkin, safflower, sunflower, squash tomato and watermelon. **May 31-08**-Buckwheat. Please contact the Jackson/Josephine FSA office for a complete list of eligible crops.

Agricultural Assistance Act of 2007

The 2007 Act provides approximately \$3 billion in agricultural disaster aid for America's farmers and ranchers. The Act provides funds for a Crop Disaster Program (CDP), Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) and Dairy Disaster Assistance Program (DDAP). The Act also extends the Emergency Forestry Conservation Reserve Program (EFCRP). Additionally, the 2007 Act extends the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program through September 2007. In addition, the agency will design and develop software for sign-up and processes. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006, or 2007 must choose only one year to receive benefits. One important change from past disaster programs is that only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for the year of disaster for the crop you request assistance on. For more information about FSA's disaster programs, visit the agency's website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>, and click on Find FSA Fact sheets and search under the topic Disaster Assistance. More news about sign-up will be provided as soon as program procedure is known.

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

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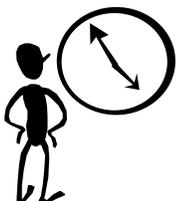
Hay Net

The Farm Service Agency's (FSA) electronic Hay Net Ad Service (eHayNet) is an internet-based service allowing farmers and ranchers to share 'Need Hay' ads and 'Have Hay' ads online. FSA's HayNet customers can use a personal computer to submit Have Hay Ads or Need Hay Ads as well as view existing ads. For more information, access <http://www.fsa.gov/FSA> and click online services and follow the directions.

Conservation Partners Offer Assistance to "Turn Your Natural Resource Problems Into Opportunities"

The USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) offer Natural resource technical planning and financial incentive assistance to landowners of Jackson County. To learn more about our services and programs you can also access information anytime online at <http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov> or <http://www@jwcd.org>. You can also contact these conservation offices at (541) 776-4267 ext. 3 or (541) 734-3143.

For conservation assistance in Josephine County, contact Suzy Liebenberg (NRCS) at (541) 476-5856 or Josephine SWCD at (541) 474-6840 or the Illinois Valley SWCD at (541) 592-3731.



IMPORTANT DATES

August 3, 2007- Last day to enroll DCP Contracts

September 3, 2007- Holiday-office closed

November 2, 2007- Ballots mailed to eligible voters

December 3, 2007- Last day to return ballots to USDA Service Center

January 1, 2008- Elected committee members take office

September 28- Conservation Cost Share List (Practice Payment Schedule) Unveiled at the NRCS office

November 30- Application deadline for 2008 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) to NRCS office

September 15 – OWEB Small Grants Application Due (to Jackson SWCD @ 743-3143)

October 15 – OWEB Restoration Grant (Large Grant) Applications due (to OWEB)

3rd Wednesday every month – Jackson SWCD Board Meetings

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