

News Updates

Report all Farm Changes

If there have been any changes in the operation of your farm, such as new owners, operators, changes in land, addresses, bank info, etc..., please notify our office as soon as possible. Failure to do so may result in delayed, incorrect or denied payments.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25% of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., we have a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office.

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

2007 DCP Contracts

June 1, 2007 is the deadline to enroll in the 2007 Direct & Counter Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) without a late-payment fee. Please call Diane at (extension 100) or stop by before the deadline. If you wait to enroll after the deadline, you will be charged a \$100 per contract processing fee.

Continued on pg 2

Ginet Re-Elected to Committee

Congratulations to Susan Ginet! Susan was reelected to represent farmers from south of Township 36 in Josephine County on the county committee (COC). Susan was elected to her 2nd consecutive term. The election results for Local Administrative Area 1 are:

Susan Ginet — Elected to the COC,
Bob Crouse — 1st alternate to COC,
Dennis Harmon — 2nd alternate to COC
FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation. The committee members will hold their organizational meeting in January to determine who will serve as the county committee chairman and vice-chairman.

Beginning Farmer & Rancher Land Contract Guarantee Pilot Program

Farmers and ranchers in Oregon may be eligible to participate in a unique pilot program. It is a tool that may help you, or producers you know, acquire or farm land. It also helps land owners that may have an interest selling farm or ranch land on contract to qualified beginning farmers or ranchers.

The program provides the seller of land a no-cost 10-year "prompt payment" guarantee of the installment payments under a contract sale to a beginning farmer or rancher (buyer). If the buyer does not pay an annual installment due on the contract, or pays only part of an installment, FSA provides the scheduled payment or the unpaid portion to the seller through an escrow agent. The guarantee is limited to the total of two annual installments and also covers the amount of unpaid taxes and insurance for a period of two years.

You can find out more about this program by calling Dorothy Scull @ 541-883-6924

Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

Jackson-Josephine County FSA

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OFFICE STAFF

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Donna Finch, PT
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FSA COMMITTEE

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Lori Mefford, Vice-Chairman
Mel Morris, Member

OFFICE HOURS

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E-MAIL Trent.Luschen@or.usda.gov

Farm Service Agency online 
www.eauth.egov.usda.gov

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 are aware of the crop damage. 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. To comply with requirements when prevented planting occurs, producers must late file prevented planting within 15 days after the final planting date. A field visit by FSA will be conducted if planting claim is more than 15 days.

Fruits and Vegetable Plantings

Please be aware that you are prohibited from planting fruits and vegetables on Direct and Counter Cyclical Payment Contract acres. If you are not sure what acres you have available to be planted to vegetables, please contact our office first prior to planting. Planting vegetables on contract acres can have very costly penalties.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office.

Payment Limitation/Eligibility

USDA payments and benefits are subject to producer eligibility and limitation provisions as defined by law. Documents and forms to determine eligibility and limitation * - - are (in Oregon) updated - - *on an annual basis. * - - When the forms are updated, it is the producer’s responsibility to report changes in the farming operation which may affect payment eligibility and payment limitation. The following payments apply to DCP for each contract year under the new Farm bill comes through both direct and counter-cyclical payments. For all covered commodities, except peanuts: \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments. For Peanuts: \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments. The Environmental Quality Incentive Program has a \$450,000 payment limitation total for fiscal years 2002 – 2007. The Conservation Reserve Programs annual limit is \$50,000 per person. Entities such as corporations, limited partnerships, trusts and estates are required to provide names, addresses, and ID numbers of their members.

2007 DCP Contracts (Continued)

Important for this sign up! If you plan on receiving your Advance Direct Payment in a timely manner, you need to complete ALL eligibility and DCP contracts. Remember, all shareholders on each contract MUST be completely enrolled and have eligibility records up-to-date before any payments can be made. Many eligibility updates must be approved by the County Committee to be in compliance. For 2007, Advance Direct payments will be 22% of the total payment; you will receive the remaining 78% in October 2007. Information you may be required to update or bring with you to your appointment is:

- Corporation papers for shares, signing authority, etc
- Current lease on file for cash or share leases
- CCC-502, Farming Plan of Operation
- AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Certification
- AD-526, Adjusted Gross Income

Farm Loans

Loan applications are being accepted for farm operating and ownership purpose from those having difficulty obtaining credit through private lenders. For those applicants that have at least 1 year’s experience in managing or operating a farm or ranch, **operating loans** are available to help with annual operating expenses, farm equipment and livestock purchases, and refinancing related debt. **Ownership loans** include the purchase or enlargement of a farm, or the construction and/or repair of buildings. To qualify for a ownership loan, the applicant must have participated in the business operation of a farm or ranch for at least 3 years. **Loan guarantees** are available to lenders where FSA provides a guarantee against loss on the principal of a farm loan. The loan purposes are similar to direct loans, except refinancing real estate debt is also eligible. FSA reserves a portion of its loan and loan guarantee funds each year to **assist the socially disadvantaged**. FSA offers farm loans to help qualified women and minorities buy and operate family-sized farms and ranches. For the purposes of FSA’s loan programs, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. FSA also provides direct and guaranteed loan assistance for **beginning farmers** defined as an applicant who has not operated a farm for more than 10 years. **Youth loans** are available for 4-H and FFA members, ages 10 through 20, who want to start any income producing enterprise recommended by their leader. For further information, please contact the farm loan staff at 541-883-6924, extension 2.

“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 Civil Rights, 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.”

USDA- FARM SERVICE AGENCY
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