

USDA - FARM SERVICE AGENCY – KLAMATH CO

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www.fsa.usda.gov/or

COUNTY COMMITTEE

Les Sturm Chair
Ron Stewart Vice-Chair
John Bodnar
Gerda Hyde, Advisor

OFFICE STAFF

Jennifer Simon, CED X107
Dawn Rose, PT X 102
Dorothy Scull, Farm Loan Officer, X 104
Farm Loan Manager, Roseburg OR
Mary Hope , PT X105
Rowena Chase, PT X 109
Jim Jutson, 541.673.6071 X108

Hours: Mon-Fri, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

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Informational Meeting on Crop Insurance and EQIP Programs

The Klamath County Wheat League will be hosting an informational meeting on March 1, 2010. The meeting will start at 8:00 A.M. and will be at the Shilo Inn. Your questions will be the focus of the meeting. Confirmed attendees include NRCS Deputy Chief Craig Derickson, Washington, DC, Dave Paul, Director Risk Management Agency, Spokane WA, Ron Alvarado, State Conservationist Oregon NRCS, Jennifer Simon, Klamath County Farm Service Agency. Other invitees that have not confirmed attendance include RMA Administrator William Murphy, Washington, DC and Lynn Voigt, State Executive Director, Farm Service Agency.

This is a rare opportunity to have individual questions or concerns addressed by the administrators of various programs. If you have any questions about your crop insurance coverage for 2010 or participation in EQIP then this is a must attend event.

Special Reporting Requirements for Prevented Planting or Failed Acreage

Filing an acreage report by the deadline may not be enough to ensure your eligibility for Crop Insurance payments. A CCC-576, Notice of Loss is required to be filed within 15 days of the final planting date for the crop if the crop was prevented from being planted. This is also true for crops that are planted but subsequently fail. This form needs to be on file in your FSA office before your acreage report can be filed to include prevented planting or failed acreage.

***New* Income Compliance Activities for 2009 and 2010**

If you participated in Farm Service Agency or Natural Resource Conservation Service program in 2009 or 2010 the new change affects you. When you certified your Adjusted Gross Income for Farm and Non Farm activities, the certification statement on the bottom of the CCC-926 form indicated the following: "If requested, I agree to authorize CCC to obtain tax data from the IRS for AGI compliance verification purposes and I will take all necessary actions required by the terms and conditions of the IRS disclosure laws so that CCC can obtain such data." As part of the compliance verification process, the USDA and Internal Revenue Service has created a system which will enable USDA to verify income compliance for individuals and entities. Here is how the process will work. You will complete a CCC-927 or CCC-928 form and return that form directly to the Internal Revenue Service. The form authorizes the release of information to USDA. Once the form is returned, the IRS will compare tax data for the applicable year to determine if the Adjusted Gross Income is above or below the certification level. Those levels are \$500,000 in adjusted gross non farm income, \$750,000 in adjusted gross farm income. There is a separate certification of one million dollars in adjusted gross non farm income for some conservation programs. The USDA will receive an automated report for participates that only indicates if participate is above or below the income level. NO SPECIFIC DATA will be provided to USDA. Local County Office Staff will receive no information directly. A list of participates that appear to not meet the requirements will be forwarded to the appropriate State Farm Service Agency Office for further review.

Any FSA or NRCS participants that do not provide the appropriate release to IRS will be considered to be out of compliance and a refund of all program payments may be required. It is recommended that participants return the required authorization prior to June 15 to avoid any delays in processing of 2010 payments. The appropriate forms may be obtained at any USDA service Center, however THEY MUST be returned directly to the IRS by the participant. USDA employees are not permitted to accept any of these completed forms.

Actively Engaged

USDA has amended the rules that govern the requirements to be 'actively engaged' in farming. These rules apply to eligibility for payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program administered by the FSA.

Every stockholder or member of a legal entity, such as a corporation, does not have to contribute labor or management if both of the following apply:

- At least half of the interest in the legal entity is held by stockholders or members who are providing active personal labor or active personal management that altogether qualifies as a significant contribution to the farming operation;
- The total direct payments received, both directly and indirectly, by the legal entity and each of the members cannot exceed \$40,000.

LAA 3 Election Results

Votes Counted, John Bodnar-33, Garry Freitag-25, Robert Valladao-14. Congratulations to John Bodnar who was elected to his first consecutive term for the county committee. Garry Freitag was elected as the 1st-alternate and Robert Valladao the 2nd alternate. The committee held their organization meeting January 14th. Les Sturm will continue as the chairperson. Ron Stewart will serve as the vice chair and John Bodnar will serve as a member. Gerda Hyde will continue to be the minority advisor.

2010 DCP Signup Deadline Will Be Here Soon

Klamath County, with the exception of a few, has completed issuing payments for 2009 DCP and CREP participants. We thank you for your patience during our transition to a new payment processing method. We are currently actively enrolling 2010 farms for DCP. The actual deadline is June 1, however the deadline will be here before we know it. We need you to contact the office to make an appointment to enroll your farm soon. This year we received new imagery. As a result of the significant amount of EQIP projects we have found that numerous farms are requiring changes to boundaries. These boundaries are time consuming and require coordination with NRCS. We need participants to come in and initiate appropriate changes early so that we can ensure everything is completed prior to June 1. This is the final deadline for 2010 DCP and no extensions will be granted.

Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act

Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. FSA 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 percent 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.

Help Available to Stressed Farmers

In the past year, the economy, inclement weather, drought and other factors have hurt many farming operations around the country. These events pushed some farmers to the emotional breaking point. Watching their livelihood being threatened is difficult for farmers and ranchers and especially for those who care about them.

The National Suicide Prevention Hotline is available to help. If you know a farmer or rancher who is under stress and is reluctant to ask for help, or if you just need to talk to someone, call 1-800-273-TALK (8255). Your call will be routed to the crisis center nearest you, where trained staffers are available 24/7. This nationwide service is free and confidential. Help is just a phone call away.

For more information, go to <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>. This service is not affiliated with the US Department of Agriculture.

Customer Statement

January signals the beginning of a new year, and a time to starting thinking about filing taxes. Producers who have signed up for a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account will be able to access their farm data via their Customer Statement.

The Customer Statement puts a range of USDA services and programs into a single report that's at your fingertips and available online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

It allows USDA customers to view their participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation programs; information on farm loans; and conservation plan and land unit information.

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.

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 staff directly or by phone.

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has 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 or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information.

Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

Appeal Process

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree.

Generally, program participants have several choices — an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation, an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency, and finally an appeal with the National Appeals Division.

FSA Signature Policy

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.

There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

For more clarification on spousal signature authority, feel free to contact your local FSA office.

Dorothy Scull is Retiring

Dorothy Scull, Farm Loan Officer has announced her retirement. Dorothy's last day will be on March 31, 2010. Prior to being a loan officer Dorothy worked in the Klamath office as a Program Technician. She will be missed by producers and office staff. Please join us on March 17, 2010 for an open house and to wish her well in her retirement.

USDA – FARM SERVICE AGENCY
 KLAMATH COUNTY OFFICE
 2316 SOUTH SIXTH STREET SUITE C
 KLAMATH FALLS OR 97603

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Sign up for eGov, to conduct business with FSA. Go to <http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov> and use your home computer to file forms, apply for programs, check contracts and view your Customer Statement or payment history. All you need is Level 2 eAuthorization, a valid email account and your home computer. Contact us for more details.

Important Dates	
Ongoing	CREP Applications, Farm Storage Facility Loans
March 15, 2010	NAP Coverage Deadline for oats, camelina RMA Deadlines for Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite (new applications/enrollment policies) and all other spring seeded crops (excluding wheat)
March 31, 2010	Last day to apply for LDP's and commodity Loans
May 31, 2010	Office Closed- Observance of Memorial Day
June 1, 2010	Deadline to Enroll in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP)
July 5, 2010	Office Closed- Observance of the Independence Day Holiday
August 16, 2010	Acreage Reporting Deadline for Klamath County
February Interest Rates	
Operation Loans 2.265	Commodity Loans 1.5 %
Farm Ownership Loans 4.875%	Farm Storage Facility Loans 7 Year 3.250% , 10 Year 3.625%
	Farm Storage Facility Loans 12 Year 4.0%