



March 2007

Klamath County News

Klamath County USDA Service Center

Klamath County FSA
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541-883-6924 (phone)
541-882-9044 (fax)

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/or/klamath.html>

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Lester Sturm, Chair
Ron Stewart, Vice
Garry Freitag, Member
Gerda Hyde, Advisor

County Executive

Director Jennifer Simon,
ext 107

Farm Loan Officer

Dorothy Scull ext. 104

Farm Loan Manager

Jim Jutson

Staff

Rowena Chase PT ext 108
Joe Hess, PT ext. 102
Mary Hope, PT ext. 105
Dawn Rose, PT ext. 109



2007 DCP Sign-up Continues

\$100

This is the amount you pay for enrolling a DCP contract between June 2, 2007 and September 28, 2007.

The 2007 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) began October 1, 2006, and continues until June 1, 2007. Farmers are encouraged to sign up for the DCP program online. The online service is an example of the technological innovation USDA is using to make its programs more accessible.

Following the June 1, 2007, deadline, USDA will accept late applications through Sept. 30, 2007, with a **\$100 late fee**. While DCP participants must sign DCP contracts annually, producers can choose not to participate in the program in any given year.

USDA computes DCP payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2007, eligible producers may request to receive direct advance payments based on **22 percent** of the direct payment rate for each commodity associated with the farm. USDA will issue DCP advance direct payments beginning Dec. 1, 2007. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price (which takes into account the direct payment rate, market price and loan rate) for a commodity is below its target price.

2007 Acreage Reporting

\$46

per farm

This is the minimum amount you pay per farm if you do not file an acreage report by August 15, 2007.

The 2007 acreage reporting deadline is **August 15, 2007** in Klamath County. Many FSA programs require a timely filed acreage report to remain in compliance. Also, failing to file acreage reports with the county office may affect eligibility for future programs.

Acreage reporting cannot be completed until your crops are planted. When you are finished planting your 2007 crops, contact the office to make arrangements for reporting your acreage.

Your Klamath FSA would like to remind you that acreage reporting deadlines vary by county so you should check with any other county offices to be sure of their acreage reporting deadlines.

Loans for Socially Disadvantaged

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) can make and guarantee loans to eligible socially disadvantaged applicants to buy and operate family size farms and ranches. Funds specifically for these loans are reserved each year. A socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher is one of a group whose members

have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, and Asians and Pacific Islanders. Contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager or Officer for more details and assistance in applying.



Beginning Farmer & Rancher Land Contract Guarantee Pilot Program

Farmers in Oregon may be eligible to participate in a pilot program that may help you, or producers you know, acquire farm land.

The program provides the seller of land a 10-year "prompt payment" guarantee of the sale to the 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 at 883-6924 ext 104.

ager or officer for more details or assistance.

County Committee Advisors

Gerda Hyde has graciously accepted the position of County Committee Minority Advisor.

FSA County Committee (COC) Advisors are a valued voice for under represented groups and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.

County committee members and their county executive directors, actively reach out to producer groups who are under represented on county committees. The COC shall have submitted the name of their nominee to the State Committee for confirmation, no later than February 1 of each year.

Eligibility requirements for COC advisor nominee include:

- be actively participating in farming or ranching in the county or area
- be willing and able to serve as an advisor, if appointed
- indicate in writing a willingness and ability to serve

County committee advisors serve for

- for a 12-month period not to exceed 9 consecutive years beginning March 1 each year

Duties and Responsibilities of COC Advisors include:

- attending each COC meeting, including executive sessions
- participating in all deliberations
- increasing awareness of and participation in FSA activities, including elections, by eligible voters to ensure that socially disadvantaged group problems and viewpoints are understood and considered in FSA actions
- helping to develop interest and incentives in socially disadvantaged group members for considering FSA work as a career
- actively soliciting candidates from socially disadvantaged groups for nomination during the election process
- able to perform special duties at COC s request

e-LDP Service Available



Producers who are connected to the Internet can now apply from the comfort of their own home for an Electronic Loan Deficiency Payment, or eLDP, on stored grain 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The producers will receive approval and payment by direct deposit normally within 48 hours.

To participate in the new service, you must meet all eligibility requirements for marketing assistance loans and LDPs for the commodity. You must also establish a customer profile at the county FSA office.



You will need an active USDA eAuthentication level 2 account which requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/>, followed by a visit to the county office for identity verification.

During your visit to the FSA county office you can create your own unique customer profile in the computer system. A CCC-633EZ (page 1) also needs to be on file at the county office.

E-file participants must have an e-mail address, direct deposit and set up a customer profile to enable their online capability. The voluntary eLDP service has stringent security measures to protect your private information.

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 once completed are reviewed on an annual basis. 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. 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. The Conservation Reserve Programs annual limit is \$50,000 per person.

Farm Reconstitutions

In program terminology, farms are *constituted* to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1 for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

Estate Method — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

Designation of Landowner Method — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

DCP Cropland Method — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

Default Method — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

New Faces at NRCS

Maggie (McManus) Bishop recently started working for the Klamath Falls NRCS as a Soil Conservationist. She moved to Lakeview nine years ago with her family to raise Registered Angus cattle and grow alfalfa hay.

In December of 2006 she received her degree in Crop and Soil Science with a minor in Animal Sciences from Oregon State University.

For the past two summers spent time as a student working with the NRCS: one summer in Enterprise and the past summer in Salem with a brief stay in Redmond. She is looking forward to expanding her knowledge and experiences with agriculture and natural resources here in Klamath Falls.

Jeremy Jirak is originally from Hartford, KS where he grew up in the rural Kansas farm community. He graduated from the University of Kansas with a B.S. in Ecology, Biodiversity,





and Evolutionary Biology. While attending KU he worked for Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and joined them full-time after graduation. During his time with the private lands division of KDWP he was technical service provider for USDA Farm Bill programs and focused on the Wildlife Habitats Incentives Program. From there he took a position as an Assistant Manager with KDWP managing the Mined Land Wildlife Area, a 15,000 acre wildlife area in SE Kansas.

Wanting to get back to working with private landowners on conservation issues, Jeremy moved 2000 miles to Klamath Falls and is now a NRCS Biologist serving the High Desert Basin. In his spare time he likes to hunt, fish, and hike.

Dates to Remember	
March 21	National Ag Day
March 31	Deadline for 2006 LDP's
May 31	Deadline for 2006 LDP's on pulse crops
June 1	Last day to enroll DCP contracts w/o \$100 late fee
August 15	Acreage Reporting deadline
Continues	Continuous CRP
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans

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<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/OR>

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