



February 2009

Lake County News

**Lake County
Farm Service Agency
17612 Hwy 395
Lakeview, OR 97630
Ph: (541) 947-2367 Ext. 2
FAX: (541) 947-2070**

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

**County Committee
Martin Murphy
Alice Dinsdale
Jim McNeley**

**Office Staff
Marti Hamilton
Maryanne Webster**

DCP Signup Underway

Signup has started for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program for farms with base acres. Signup will continue until June 1, 2009. The June 1, 2009 deadline is mandatory for all participants. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications.

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Martin Murphy!! Martin was re-elected to represent farms from LAA #2 (Adel, Paisley, Plush, Summer Lake and Valley Falls).

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.

Adjusted Gross Income & Direct Attribution

To qualify for commodity and disaster programs under the new farm bill, applicants now must adhere to new Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) restrictions. The AGI ceiling limitation was reduced from \$2.5 million from all sources to a three-year average non-farm AGI of \$500,000. Also, under the new regulations, an individual or entity must have a 3-year average AGI less than or equal to \$750,000 per year from farm income in order to qualify for direct payments issued under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP).

For conservation programs, the average nonfarm AGI limitation is \$1 million or less for eligibility. However, an individual or entity who has non-farm AGI in excess of \$1 million remains eligible for conservation programs only if 66.66 percent or more of the total AGI is derived from farming, ranching and forestry operations. In addition, the AGI limitation for conservation programs may be waived on a case-by-case basis if it is determined that environmentally sensitive land of special significance would be protected.

Another change in eligibility is that program payments are limited by direct attribution of payment totals directly to individuals or indirectly to individuals through entities.

A legal entity is defined as an entity created under Federal or State law that owns land or an agricultural commodity, product or livestock. Through direct attribution, payment limitation is based on the total payments received by the entity and also the individual, both directly and indirectly as an officer, partner or shareholder in an entity. Qualifying spouses are eligible to be considered separate persons for payment limitation

purposes, rather than being automatically combined under one limitation.

Also, individuals and entities must be "actively engaged in farming" with respect to a farming operation in order to be eligible for specified payments and benefits.

To be "actively engaged in farming," the individual or entity must make significant contributions to the farming operation of: (1) capital, equipment, land, or a combination; and (2) personal labor or active personal management, or a combination. For more information on how these provisions apply to your own situation, contact your local FSA office

Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000. Youth loan eligibility requirements:

- US citizenship (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands), legal resident alien or U.S. National
- 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Live in a rural area: city or town with a population of 50,000 or less
- Unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conducting a modest income-producing ag project in a supervised program as outlined above
- Demonstrated capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

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 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.

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches. While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for FO / OL loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of socially disadvantaged groups. A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. For the purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, Blacks or African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asians and Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders. Applicants who believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged should contact their local FSA office for additional details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and have a reasonable likelihood of success.

Electronic Services Available

If a producer has Internet access, program participants can access many services from home 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and receive approval and payment by direct deposit within 48 hours. To participate in these services, you must meet all program eligibility requirements. Online services have stringent security measures to protect your private information. To utilize electronic services a producer needs an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires an e-mail address and filling out an online registration form at: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> followed by a visit to the county office for identity verification.

Important Dates

February 16, 2009—Office closed in observance of President's Day.

May 25, 2009—Office closed in observance of Memorial Day.

Special Accommodations

FSA programs are available to all eligible interested persons. Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required please contact the FSA office.

The U.S. 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 a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (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 to USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication and Compliance, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.