



May 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

## County Committee Elections

The Farm Service Agency County Committee election will be held this year on December 7, 2009. A 3-year term is open in Local Administrative Area (LAA) #1—Lakeview. Eligible voters have the right to nominate candidates of their choice. You can nominate yourself if you are personally interested in serving on the committee. Blank nomination forms are available at the Lake County Farm Service Agency Office.

### Each nomination form must be:

- Limited to one nominee
- Signed by the nominee
- Postmarked or delivered to the county FSA office no later than August 3, 2009.

Persons nominated should be currently engaged in the operation or ownership of a farm or ranch and be well qualified for the committee work. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. FSA County Committee members are paid for their meeting and travel time. County Committee makes the decisions on:

- Commodity price support loans and payments;
- Conservation Programs;
- Incentive, indemnity, and disaster payments for some commodities; and
- Other farm disaster assistance.

Committee members are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA. They help run FSA programs at the local level. Farmers who serve on the committee help decide the kind of programs their counties will have and how they will run. They make FSA agricultural programs fit the needs of local producers. Additional information on the county committee election process can be found at:

[www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections)

## Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is designed to provide catastrophic coverage for all crops not covered by Federal Crop Insurance. These include alfalfa, grass hay, rye crops, grain hay and pasture. Producers interested in purchasing coverage for the 2010 crop year must do so by the following deadlines:

- Pasture, alfalfa, grass, mixed forage, barley, rye, triticale and wheat hay—11-30-2009
- Oat hay—03-15-2010

The application fee is \$ 250 per crop, \$ 750 per county and \$ 1,875 for multi-county.

## DCP Signup Extended

The sign-up period for the 2009 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) has been extended to August 14, 2009. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications after this date.

## ACRE Program

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program provides producers on an eligible DCP farm with the option to receive revenue based payments instead of DCP Counter-Cyclical (CC) payments. An eligible farm may only enroll in either DCP or ACRE. Eligible farms are those with established base acreage of barley, oats and wheat. Farms with 10 or less acres of base acres are not eligible except where the owners are socially disadvantaged or are limited resource producers.

The deadline to elect and enroll in ACRE for 2009 is August 14, 2009. If you choose not to enroll in 2009, then you will also have the opportunity in 2010, 2011 and 2012 but the deadline will be June 1 for each of those years.

Once you elect ACRE participation and do not cancel by the deadline, your election is irrevocable and cannot be changed from the time of election through the 2012 crop year. In addition, all owner(s) must agree to participate and they must understand that even an operator change or farm sale will not negate the ACRE election.

What's the tradeoff? If you enroll in ACRE, you agree to:

- forgo DCP counter-cyclical payments
- a 20% reduction in your DCP direct payments, and
- a 30% reduction in the marketing assistance loan rates for all commodities on your farm

The ACRE program provides producers an option to protect against declines in market revenue. ACRE payments are issued when two conditions are met for a commodity. The first condition is met when the Actual State Revenue falls below the State ACRE Guarantee. The second condition is met when the Actual Farm Revenue falls below the Farm ACRE guarantee.

Since this is a revenue based program, a key item is that you must be producing a covered commodity. If you aren't then this program is not for you. The covered commodity does not necessarily have to have a base.

### **Reporting Crop Acreage**

The annual, timely and accurate reporting of acres for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of FSA programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP), marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments. Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Prevented planting and failed acreage should also be reported. Prevented planting occurs when a crop cannot be planted during the established planting period because of a natural disaster. To be timely filed, prevented planted reports must be submitted no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date for the applicable crop. Failed acreage is comprised of tracts of properly-planted and managed crops that did not grow or were destroyed due to a natural disaster. Reports for failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish, to the satisfaction of the county committee, that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

The deadline to file a Report of Acreage is August 17, 2009.

### **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.

### **Important Dates**

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

July 3, 2009—Office closed in observance of Independence Day.

August 3, 2009—Final date to submit county committee nomination forms.

August 14, 2009—DCP/ACRE sign-up deadline.

August 17, 2009—Crop acreage reporting deadline.

### **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.