



# NEWSLETTER



May 2014

**Lake County  
Farm Service Agency  
17612 Hwy 395  
Lakeview, OR 97630  
(541) 947-2367 Ext 2  
FAX: (541) 947-2070  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/OR](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/OR)**

#### Hours

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

#### County Committee

**Jim McNeley  
Martin Landa  
LeeRoy Horton**

**Next county  
committee meeting is  
scheduled for  
June 17, 2014 at  
1:00 p.m.**

#### Office Staff

**Marti Hamilton, CED  
Missy Merrill, PT**

## **Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)**

A lack of moisture, over an extended period of time, has caused producers in Lake County to suffer from the effects of severe drought conditions. Farms experiencing severe drought conditions may be eligible for cost-share assistance under the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). This disaster program is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency (FSA), which provides cost-share assistance if the damage is so severe that water available for livestock has been reduced below normal to the extent that the livestock cannot survive without additional water. Only those farms or ranches that had adequate livestock watering systems or facilities before the drought are eligible for cost-share assistance.

A producer qualifying for ECP assistance may receive cost-shares not to exceed 50% of the cost of installing eligible temporary measures or 75% of the cost of installing eligible permanent measures. Cost-share assistance is limited to \$ 200,000 per person per natural disaster—producer must have sustained an estimated minimum of \$ 1,000 in damages to qualify for the program.

Approved practices and measures include:

- Installing pipelines, troughs and tanks for livestock water
- Constructing or deepening wells for livestock water
- Developing springs or seeps for livestock water

Cost-share assistance under this program will be limited to expenses incurred after February 2, 2014. The deadline to file an application is June 2, 2014.

To obtain additional program information or to schedule an appointment to file a cost-share application contact the county office.

## **Save Time – Make an Appointment with FSA**

As we roll out the Farm Bill programs administered by FSA, there will be related signups and in some cases multiple management decisions that need to be made by you, the producer, in consult with FSA staff.

To insure maximum use of your time and to insure that you are afforded our full attention to your important business needs, please call our office ahead of your visit to set an appointment and to discuss any records or documentation that you may need to have with you when you arrive for your appointment. For local FSA Service Center contact information, please visit: <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>.

## **Livestock Disaster Assistance Sign-up Underway**

Livestock disaster program enrollment opened on April 15, 2014. These disaster programs are authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill as permanent programs and provide retroactive authority to cover losses that occurred on or after Oct. 1, 2011.

To expedite applications, all producers who experienced losses are encouraged to bring records documenting those losses to the county office. Producers should record all pertinent information of natural disaster consequences, including:

- Documentation of the number and kind of livestock that have died, supplemented if possible by photographs or video records of ownership and losses
- Dates of death supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts
- Costs of transporting livestock to safer grounds or to move animals to new pastures
- Feed purchases if supplies or grazing pastures are destroyed
- Crop records, including seed and fertilizer purchases, planting and production records

Eligible producers can sign-up for the following livestock disaster assistance programs:

### **Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP):**

- LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land. Eligible producers must physically be located in a county affected by a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the county. Producers who suffered eligible grazing losses should

submit a completed CCC-853 and supporting documentation by January 30, 2015.

### **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP):**

- LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law. Producers who suffered livestock death losses should submit a notice of loss and an application for payment to the county office by January 30, 2015.

### **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP):**

- ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires. ELAP assistance is provided for losses not covered by LFP and LIP. Producers who suffered eligible livestock, honeybee or farm-raised fish losses during 2012 and 2013 program years must submit a notice of loss and application for payment to the county office by August 1, 2014. For 2014 program year losses, the notice of loss and an application for payment must be submitted by November 1, 2014.

For more information, producers can review the LFP, LIP and ELAP Fact Sheets on the [Farm Bill webpage](#). Producers are encouraged to make an appointment with their local FSA office to apply for these programs.

## **USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) Offers Farm Bill Website and Online Overview of Farm Bill Programs**

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (the Act), also known as the 2014 Farm Bill, was signed by President Obama on February 7, 2014. The Act repeals certain programs, continues some programs with modifications, and authorizes several new programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Most of these programs are authorized and funded through 2018.

For the latest on 2014 Farm Bill programs administered by FSA, please visit our Farm Bill website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/farmbill](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/farmbill) and for an FSA program overview please read, download and/or print our recently posted FSA Farm Bill Fact Sheet titled, [What's in the 2014 Farm Bill for Farm Service Agency Customers?](#)

For more information on FSA, please contact your local USDA Service Center or visit us online at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

### **New Farm Bill Offers Increased Opportunities for Producers**

The 2014 Farm Bill offers increased opportunities for producers including farm loan program modifications that create flexibility for new and existing farmers. A fact sheet outlining modifications to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) Farm Loan Programs is available [here](#).

The Farm Bill expands lending opportunities for thousands of farmers and ranchers to begin and continue

operations, including greater flexibility in determining eligibility, raising loan limits, and emphasizing beginning and socially disadvantaged producers.

Changes that will take effect immediately include:

- Elimination of the 15 year term limit for guaranteed operating loans.
- Modification of the definition of beginning farmer, using the average farm size for the county as a qualifier instead of the median farm size.
- Modification of the Joint Financing Direct Farm Ownership Interest Rate to 2 percent less than regular Direct Farm Ownership rate, with a floor of 2.5 percent. Previously, the rate was established at 5 percent.
- Increase of the maximum loan amount for Direct Farm Ownership Down Payment Loan Program from \$225,000 to \$300,000.
- Elimination of rural residency requirement for Youth Loans, allowing urban youth to benefit.
- Debt forgiveness on Youth Loans, which will not prevent borrowers from obtaining additional loans from the federal government.
- Increase of the guaranteed percentage on Conservation Loans from 75 to 80 percent and 90 percent for socially disadvantaged borrowers and beginning farmers.
- Microloans will not count toward direct operating loan term limits for veterans and beginning farmers.

Additional modifications must be implemented through the rulemaking processes. Visit the [FSA Farm Bill website](#) for detailed information and updates to farm loan programs.

## **GovDelivery Customers are NOT impacted by the Heartbleed**

GovDelivery customer subscriptions are not affected by the heartbleed bug. This bug has caused major security concerns among users of cloud technology. The Heartbleed bug refers to a flaw in an encryption tool used on the Internet that can expose data that is meant to be hidden.

Your GovDelivery account and information is safe. Nothing in the GovDelivery network architecture is affected by this bug. You can find out more about the Heartbleed bug at <http://heartbleed.com/>

## **New Face in FSA Office**

Melissa (Missy) Merrill has been hired as a temporary Program Technician in the county office. Her first day of work will be May 19, 2014—please join us in welcoming her to the office!!

<b>Selected Interest Rates for May 2014</b>	
90-Day Treasury Bill	.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.125%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.00%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	
7 year term	2.25%
10 year term	2.75%
12 year term	2.875%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	3.125%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%