



NEWSLETTER



June 2011

**Lake County
Farm Service Agency
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Lakeview, OR 97630
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**Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

**County Committee
Alice Dinsdale
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Jim McNeley**

**Office Staff
Marti Hamilton
Maryanne Webster**

2011 DCP Signup

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) will continue through August 1, 2011. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2011 DCP contract.

USDA computes DCP payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2011, eligible producers may request advanced direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment.

For more information on this or other FSA programs, contact the nearest FSA office.

Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's)

Producers who are planting grains (barley, oats or wheat) for crop year 2011, will be shearing sheep or selling slaughter lambs should be aware that they may be eligible to receive a LDP for these crops. These payments are available when the posted county price is lower than the county loan rate. The county prices are posted daily, producers will need to contact the county office to find out if there is a LDP available.

To be eligible for LDP's, you must comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements and report how you use cropland acreage on the farm. Requesting LDP's has been made easier with the CCC-633 EZ. Complete Page 1 of the EZ form indicating your intention to receive LDP benefits before losing beneficial interest. Once you've signed the EZ form you can submit an LDP request at any time during the loan availability period — before or after losing beneficial interest. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage

County Committee Elections

The Farm Service Agency County Committee election will be held this year on December 5, 2011. A 3-year term is open in Local Administrative Area (LAA) #2—Adel, Paisley, Plush, Summer Lake and Valley Falls. 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 1, 2011.

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

NOTICE TO HISPANIC AND/OR WOMEN FARMERS OR RANCHERS

COMPENSATION FOR CLAIMS OF DISCRIMINATION

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

To register your name to receive a claims packet, call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or visit: www.farmerclaims.gov

The claims package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Adjusted Gross Income

USDA and the Internal Revenue Service have established an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent is required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA.

This ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) to the Internal Revenue Service by June 15, 2011 to avoid interruption of program benefits. These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainser.vlet>.

Farm Record Changes

June 1, 2011 is the deadline to provide changes to your farm records at the local FSA office for the 2011 crop year. If you are changing your operation entity type, adding or dropping cropland or farms, or adding entities to your operation, contact the FSA county office by June 1.

Actively Engaged

USDA has amended the requirements of being '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). Normally the stockholder or a member of a legal entity must make contributions of active personal labor and/or active personal management for the farming operation. The contributions are to be performed on regular basis, must be identifiable, and separate from the contributions of others. The exception to this rule for a stockholder or member of a legal entity only occurs when 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; and

- The total direct payments received by the legal entity and each of the members can't exceed \$40,000.

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 2012 crop year must do so by the following deadlines:

- Pasture, alfalfa, grass, mixed forage, barley, rye, triticale and wheat hay—**11-30-2011**
- Oat hay—**03-15-2012**

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

Producers with NAP coverage for 2011 must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a Notice of Loss within 15 days of when a loss is apparent due to a natural disaster condition such as drought, frost, hail, etc.

Direct and Guaranteed Loans

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,119,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so a loan can be processed in a timely manner.

FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

Beginning and Limited Resource Loans

FSA has a program to assist beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed.

Additional program information is available at the local USDA Service Center or visit www.fsa.usda.gov and www.nrcs.usda.gov.

Farm Safety

Flowing grain in a storage bin or gravity-flow wagon is like quicksand, it can kill quickly. It takes less than five seconds for a person caught in flowing grain to be trapped.

The mechanical aspects of grain handling equipment, also presents a real danger. Augers, power take offs, and other moving parts can grab people or clothing.

These hazards, along with pinch points and missing shields, are dangerous enough for adults; not to mention children. It is always advisable to keep children a safe distance from operating farm equipment. Always use extra caution when backing or maneuvering farm machinery. Ensure everyone is visibly clear and accounted for before machinery is engaged. FSA wants all farmers to have a productive crop year, that begins with putting safety first.

Hispanic and Women Farmers

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established.

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible for compensation.

To register for a claims package or for additional information on this and other settlement issues contact:

Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process:

www.farmerclaims.gov or call 1-888-508-4429

Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation:

www.blackfarmercase.com or call 1-866-950-5547

Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement:

www.IndianFarmClass.com or call 1-888-233-5506.

SURE

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP). SURE eligibility does not require the purchase of NAP nor insurance on grazed crops. Crop insurance or NAP coverage is no longer required for crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10 percent of the value of the coverage. See the local FSA office for details.

Lake County FSA Office
17612 Hwy 395
Lakeview, OR 97630



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Important Dates

May 30, 2011—Office closed in observance of Memorial Day.

August 1, 2011—Final date to submit county committee nomination forms.

August 15, 2011—Crop acreage reporting deadline.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of 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, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or 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, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.