



NEWSLETTER



**October
2012**

County Committee Elections

Watch your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters on November 5, 2012. If for some reason you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county office.

Completed and signed ballots must be returned to the county office by close of business on December 3, 2012.

2013 Reporting of Crops

All Oregon producers are reminded that the acreage reporting dates for many crops have changed. The first acreage reporting date is November 15 but it applies only to producers that have purchased an Apiculture policy (honey) or a Pasture, Range and Forage (haying and grazing) policy from RMA or a crop insurance agent. December 15 is the new date to report Fall Alfalfa Seed, Fall Barley, Fall Canola, Established Perennial Forage, Fall Mint, Fall Wheat, and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains. July 15 is the deadline to report Spring Alfalfa Seed, Spring Barley, Oats, Spring Wheat and all other crops. Please contact the county office for an acreage report appointment now.

USDA Announces Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period Now Open

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced that Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims between September 24, 2012 and March 25, 2013.

As announced in February 2011, the voluntary claims process will make available at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

The Department will continue reaching out to potential Hispanic and female claimants, around the country to get the word out to individuals who may be eligible for this program so they have the opportunity to participate.

Call center representatives can be reached at 1-888-508-4429. Claimants must register for a claims package (by calling the number or visiting the website) and the claims package will be mailed to claimants. All those interested in learning more or receiving information about the claims process and claims packages are encouraged to attend meetings in your communities about the claims process and contact the website or claims telephone number.

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov

Phone: 1-888-508-4429

Claims Period: September 24, 2012 – March 25, 2013.

Independent legal services companies will administer the claims process and adjudicate the claims. Although there are no filing fees to participate and a lawyer is not required to participate in the claims process, persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

**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**

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

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

**Office Staff
Marti Hamilton
Maryanne Webster**

Rural 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:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate 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.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms.

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 these 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 a member of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists 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.

Additional program information, loan applications and other materials are available at the county office. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov

Increased Guaranteed Loan Limit

The Farm Service Agency has announced that the loan limit for the Guaranteed Loan Program will increase to \$1,302,000 on October 1, 2012. The limit is adjusted annually based on data compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The lending limit increases every year according to an inflation index. The maximum combined guaranteed and direct farm loan indebtedness will also increase to \$1,602,000.

As a reminder, the one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed Farm Ownership and Operating loans is 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan.

IRS 1099 Changes

Calendar year 2012 has brought changes to the way FSA reports farm program payments to the producer and to the IRS. In past years, IRS Forms 1099-G would be issued to show all program payments received from the Farm Service Agency, regardless of the amount.

Starting with calendar year 2012, producers whose total reportable payments from FSA are less than \$600 will not receive IRS Form 1099-G. Also, producers who receive payments from more than one county will only receive one Form 1099-G if the total of all payments from all counties is \$600 or more.

The same changes will apply to producers and vendors who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA.

Reporting NAP Losses

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing of a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the county office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

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 www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/ followed by a visit to the county office for identity verification. If you would like assistance establishing your account, just contact the county office

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

The Lake County Farm Service Agency has requested funding for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). If funded, the program will provide cost-share assistance to farmers and ranchers who had fences damaged or destroyed by the Barry Point Fire. The county office will be accepting applications for the program through November 2, 2012. This will be the only opportunity to sign-up for the program--there will be no late-filing provisions.

In general the program requires that an application be filed and approved prior to starting any restoration work (this includes demolition of the damaged fence). A waiver of this requirement may be granted by the Lake County FSA Committee with concurrence from the Oregon State FSA Committee if the following conditions are met:

- The disaster created a situation that required the producer to take immediate steps to prevent further losses.
- An application for cost-share assistance is filed by November 2, 2012.

A producer qualifying for ECP assistance may receive 75% of the cost of installing the fence (materials and labor) not to exceed \$ 2.06 per foot. The amount of cost-share assistance will be reduced by a depreciation adjustment based on the age of the fence:

If age of the fence at the time of disaster is:	THEN allowable cost-share percentage is:
0 to 5 years	100 percent of the eligible costs.
6 to 10 years	75 percent of the eligible costs.
11 to 30 years	60 percent of the eligible costs.
Over 30 years	0 percent of the eligible costs.

Cost-share assistance for the program is limited to \$ 200,000 per person or legal entity per natural disaster—producers will be ineligible for cost-share assistance if the final practice cost documentation is not at least \$ 1,000.

Selected Interest Rates for October 2012	
Farm Operating - Direct	1.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct	3.00%
Limited Resource	5.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency	2.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loan	1.125- 2.0%

Dates to Remember	
Nov 12	Office closed in observance of Veteran's Day
Nov 22	Office closed for the Thanksgiving holiday
Nov 30	NAP Application for Coverage deadline
Dec 15	Acreage reporting deadline for perennial forage and fall seeded grains
Dec 25	Office closed for the Christmas holiday
Jan 1	Office closed for the New Year's holiday

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.