



May 2007

Lake County News

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
Martin Murphy
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 3, 2007. A 3-year term is open in Local Administrative Area (LAA) #3—Christmas Valley, Fort Rock, Silver Lake. 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, 2007.

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;
- Establishments of yields;
- 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

Reporting Crop Acreage

Remember to file your annual crop acreage report with the county office. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can help prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program, Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. Producers are required to file reports by August 15, 2007.

Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes operating loans to individual rural youths age 10 through 20 to establish and operate income producing projects. These projects must be of modest size and be initiated, developed, carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H Clubs, FFA, or a similar organization or with a vocational teacher or county extension agent. The project must be an organized and supervised program of work. It must be planned and operated with the assistance 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.

Loans for Socially Disadvantaged Applicants

The Farm Service Agency can make direct and guaranteed loans to socially disadvantaged applicants to buy and operate family-size farms and ranches. 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 individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Direct loans may be made to applicants by FSA for both farm operating and farm ownership loans. Guaranteed farm loans also may be made for ownership or operating purposes, and may be made by any lending institution subject to federal or state supervision (e.g., banks and units of the Farm Credit System) and guaranteed by FSA. FSA typically guarantees 90 or 95 percent of a loan against any loss that might be incurred if the loan fails. Persons who are primarily and directly engaged in farming and ranching on family-size operations may apply. Socially disadvantaged loan applicants do not receive automatic approval. Individual applicants under this program must meet all requirements for FSA's regular farm loan program assistance.

DCP Sign-Up Deadline

The sign-up deadline for the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) is September 30, 2007. The late-filed application deadline has been extended from June 1, 2007 to August 3, 2007—applications filed after August 3, 2007 will be assessed a late filing fee of \$ 100 per farm.

Important Dates

May 28, 2007—Office closed in observance of Memorial Day

July 4, 2007—Office closed in observance of Independence 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 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status. (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 USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD) USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY
17612 HWY. 395
LAKEVIEW, OR 97630

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