

January 9, 2014



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A Happy and Prosperous New Year to Lane Co OR Agricultural Producers!

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Lane County Oregon FSA Updates

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Reminder of 2014 Acreage Report Deadline

January 15, 2014 is the next acreage report deadline for fruit orchard crops, grapes, and blueberries.

We have already passed the December 15, 2013 deadline for many fall planted crops, including fall wheat and mint, and perennial hay and pasture. However, no late-file fees will be charged if you complete your acreage report by January 15, 2014. If you have these 2014 crops planted and you haven't yet filed your acreage report, make sure you contact our office no later than Wednesday, January 15th!

Acreage reports submitted after the deadline are considered late filed. Producers filing acreage reports after January 15th for mint, wheat, hay/pasture, other fall-planted small grains, fruit tree crops, blueberries, and grapes will be required to pay a late file fee. The minimum cost is \$46.00 per farm.

Although we do not yet know the status of 2014 FSA programs, most programs require crop acreage reports to be filed. Don't find yourself out of the eligibility loop. **Call our office now for an appointment!**

Remember to Vote and Return your Ballot

Farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers are urged to vote in the FSA County Committee election by Jan. 17, 2014, the deadline for casting ballots.

Next County Committee Meeting:

January 22, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

County Committees provide producers with the opportunity to help implement federal farm programs in their communities. It is vital that all farmers and ranchers, especially women and minorities, participate in the elections process to ensure the opinions expressed in committee meetings reflect an area's agricultural sector.

The election is being held for the Coburg, Creswell, Springfield, Hwy 58, and Hwy 126 areas of Lane County. The candidate nominated by Lane County agricultural producers is Gary A Smith of Springfield. You may also vote for a write-in candidate.

The ballots will be counted at a public meeting in the Lane County FSA Office, 780 Bailey Hill Road Suite 5, Eugene, on January 22 beginning at 9:00 A.M. For more information about the elections call our office at 541.465.6443 Ext 2 or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Farming Operation Changes

Producers who have bought or sold land, or added or dropped rented land from their operation must report those changes to the FSA office as soon as possible. A copy of the deed or recorded land contract for purchase property is needed to maintain accurate records with FSA. Failure to do so can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. While making record updates, be sure to update signature authorizations. Making record changes now will save time in the spring.

Breaking New Ground

Agricultural producers are reminded to consult with FSA and NRCS before breaking out new ground for production as doing so without prior authorization may put a producer's federal farm program benefits in jeopardy. This is especially true for land that must meet Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions.

Producers with HEL determined soils must apply tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements as specified in their conservation plan.

Producers should notify FSA prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to ensure compliance. If you intend to clear any trees to create new cropland, these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure any work will not risk your eligibility for benefits.

Landowners and operators can complete form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is necessary.

Dates To Remember

Jan 15	New deadline to file 2014 Reports for mint, fall grains, native/perennial forage <u>without late fees</u>
Jan 15	Deadline to file 2014 Reports for all orchard acreages, blueberries, & grapes <u>without late fees</u>
Jan 17	Last Day to Return Corrected COC Ballots
Jan 20	Office Closed in Observance of Martin Luther King Jr Day
Jan 22	County Committee Meeting & Election Ballot Count

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