

USDA - FARM SERVICE AGENCY – LANE CO

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Farm Loan Manager, Tangent Service Center

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REPORT CROP ACRES - DEADLINE IS August 15, 2008

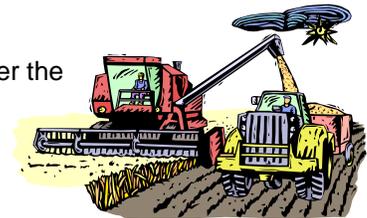
File an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, to prevent loss of benefits for a variety of FSA programs.

All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from: Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP), marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP).

Crop reports on 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, 2008.

Prevented Planted crops need to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

Failed Acreage reports must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.



Pesticide Disposal

A cooperative effort of the OSU/Lane/Linn and Benton County Extension offices and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, a Legacy (old) pesticide collection is slated for late November or early December 2008.

In the near future, there will be advertisement and mailings to notify growers how to dispose of these old pesticides. We are looking for old insecticides, fungicides and/or herbicides for FREE or low fee disposal.

A survey form that will request pesticide type, condition and amount will follow. If any grower has a LARGE amount of old pesticides that needs to be disposed of, please call Ross Penhallegon, 541 682-7313 or ross.penhallegon@oregonstate.edu ASAP. More information to follow.

COUNTY COMMITTEE (COC) ELECTION NOMINATIONS

Nominations are being sought from eligible candidates to represent Local Administrative Area (LAA) 3. LAA 3 includes the **OAKRIDGE, COTTAGE GROVE, LORANE, VENETA, HWY 126 WEST**, and the **COASTAL** areas of Lane County. A map of the boundary is posted in our office.

Eligible voters have the right to nominate candidates of their choice by petition (form FSA-669-A) or you may self nominate. A listing of known farm/ranch owners and operators in LAA3 is posted in our office for your information. **USDA encourages diversity on the Committee, women in agriculture, persons of different ethnic or racial backgrounds, and beginning farmers/ranchers are encouraged to seek nomination.**

Petitions must be received in our office by August 1, 2008. The Committee election will be held on December 1, 2008.

2008 DCP Contracts

Are you planning to participate in the 2008 Direct and Counter Cyclical Payment Program (DCP)? If so, please contact Phil (extension 105) to schedule an appointment. The deadline to enroll is September 30, 2008 (no late enrollment). **Remember that you must designate shares and sign a new DCP contract each year that you want to participate.**

One major change for the 2008 DCP program is the elimination of payments to farms with a total DCP base acreage of 10.0 acres or less.

There are two provisions that will allow payment to farms with 10.0 acres of DCP base or less; those who qualify as a limited resource farmer/rancher or as a socially disadvantaged farmer/rancher. **Rules regarding these two provisions are available in our office.**

COC's may not approve requests for reconstitutions of farms having base acres of 10.0 acres or less if the request was received after May 22, 2008.

A farm having base acres of 10.0 acres or less may be combined with another farm if 1 of the farms undergo a change in land ownership. To qualify for this exception, the owners of each of the farms participating in the new combination must be identical and have identical shares in both farms.

Two types of DCP payments are authorized, direct payments and counter-cyclical payments. Both are computed using the base acres and payment yields established for the farm. Direct payments for the farm equals 85% of the farm's base acreage times the direct payment yield times the payment rate (barley: \$.24/bu; corn: \$.28/bu; oats \$.024/bu; wheat \$.52/bu). Counter-cyclical payments are issued only if the effective price for a commodity is below the target price for the crop. **Direct payment advances of 22% may be requested to be paid following enrollment once all required forms have been filed. Balance of the 2008 direct payment is issued in October 2008.**

Cash Rent Certification Statements

IF land is cash leased and enrolled in DCP, then written leases or Cash Rent Certification Statements are required in order to receive payments.

Producers with cash rent leases who wish to provide a cash rent certification in lieu of obtaining owners' signatures on the DCP contract or providing a copy of the cash lease must submit form CCC-510 (Cash Rent Certification) which states the cash lease arrangement.

For those producers who are enrolling a new farm or an existing farm with a new owner must supply this office with a written lease with the owner's signature on it the first year. After the first year, the cash rent certification form (CCC-510) from you would suffice.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all 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, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a 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: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

NAP is available for all crops not covered under Federal Crop Insurance. NAP provides catastrophic level of coverage (50% yield / 55% price) to crops damaged by the eligible weather events that occur before or during harvest. Due to enactment of the farm bill on 5/22/08, the fee has been increased to \$250/crop, maximum of \$750/county, and a maximum of \$2250/multi County.

- Fall planted vegetable seeds, canola, carrots, onions and other seed crops; Christmas trees, cut flowers, ornamental nursery, herbs **August 31, 2008**
- Grass, alfalfa, small grain, (fall or spring planted), other forage, grazing, grass seed, clover seed, alfalfa seed, and any other perennial not mentioned **October 1, 2008**
- **All fruit crops**, honey **November 20, 2008**
- All spring planted crops not mentioned **March 15, 2009**
- Buckwheat **May 31, 2009**

NOTE: Peppermint is no longer an eligible crop for NAP coverage as it is eligible for Federal Crop Insurance coverage beginning with the 2008 crop.

Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Act), Pub. L. 110-246, was enacted June 18, 2008. The 2008 Act created several new disaster programs under the title, "Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance" (SADA). To be eligible for these programs, producers **must** purchase at least CAT (Catastrophic) level of crop insurance for **all** insurable crops and/or NAP (Non-insured Assistance Program) coverage for non-insurable crops. Sales closing dates for CAT and application closing deadlines for NAP have passed for the 2008 crop year for nearly all insurable and non-insurable crops. A waiver has been authorized in the 2008 Act to allow producers to pay, within 90 calendar days of enactment (9/16/08), a buy-in fee to be eligible for SADA for crops for which they did **not** purchase crop insurance or NAP coverage for 2008.

Five new Supplemental Disaster Assistance Programs were created. The four programs subject to the Risk Management Purchase Requirement waiver are: 1. Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program; 2. Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP); 3. Tree Assistance Program (TAP); 4. Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP). **Note:** The fifth new disaster program, the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), is exempt from the Risk Management Purchase Requirement and; therefore, does **not** require a waiver.

To be eligible for assistance under SURE, TAP, and ELAP, producers **must** obtain a plan of insurance for each insurable commodity on the farm and, for each non-insurable commodity; the producer **must** file the required paperwork and pay the administrative fee by the applicable State application closing date for NAP. **According to the 2008 Act, a farm is defined as the sum of all crop acreage in all counties that is planted or intended to be planted for harvest by the eligible producer.**

Waivers exist for Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmers or Ranchers. Details found in our office.

Generally, producers are eligible for SURE, TAP, or ELAP only if they have obtained either crop insurance or NAP coverage for all crops on all farms in all counties in which they have an interest. Producers are generally eligible for LFP only if they have obtained either crop insurance or NAP coverage for the grazing land incurring losses for which assistance is being requested. However, for the 2008 crop year only, those producers who suffered losses on an insurable or non-insurable commodity but did not meet the crop insurance or NAP coverage criteria can "buy-in" or be "waived in" to be eligible for these disaster programs.

The "buy-in" fee for both CAT and NAP is \$100 per crop, but not more than \$300 per producer per administrative county, or \$900 total per producer for all counties less any previously paid fees for CAT and/or NAP. Producers must "buy-in" for all non-insurable and insurable crops that aren't already covered by NAP or crop insurance.

Your deadline to submit the CAT and/or NAP fee for "buy-in" is COB September 16, 2008. Call for an appointment to discuss this coverage and application process.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CROP DISASTER PROGRAM (Quality Losses)

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from natural disasters. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in those years must select only one year for payment. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. **Only producers who obtained Federal crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.**

Producers must have suffered quality losses of at least 25 percent to be eligible for CDP Quality Loss. Producers may receive assistance for both quantity and quality losses. However, the total quantity and quality assistance, together with any crop insurance or NAP payment received for the same crop and the value of the crop production not lost, must not exceed 95 percent of the total value of the crop absent the disaster. **In determining affected production, participants must supply verifiable production records to substantiate the level of quality loss to the FSA county committee. Verifiable production records must include the quantity of production, indicating level of quality loss and the price.**

Cascade Pacific RC & D Announces New Farm Energy Audit Program

Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development (CPRCD), a 501 c3, non-profit organization serving western Oregon is pleased to announce our New Farm Energy Audit and Grant Packaging Program. CPRCD provides services to farmers and ranchers to conduct on-farm energy audits and package grants for energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements.

Those who want to develop and complete projects to save energy and money on the farm or need help sorting through programs can find assistance through Cascade Pacific RC & D's services to help producers:

- Conduct a comprehensive on-farm energy audit,
- Identify improvements to energy efficiency, and
- Seek grants and other funding for upgrades from USDA Rural Development, Oregon Department of Energy, local utilities, and others.

To learn more about this cost effective program, contact Karen Strohmeyer at 541-967-5925 Ext 4 or Ext 128.