



NEWSLETTER



AUGUST 20, 2012

Lane County Farm Service Agency

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Eugene OR 97402
541.465.6443 X2
541.465.6483 Fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/OR

Hours M-F
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Lane County Staff

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Lane Co Committee
Bart Edwards, Chair
Andy Petersen
Harry McIntire
Maryrae Thomson

FSA Farm Loan Staff
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Tangent or 97389
541.967.5925 x2
541.928.9345 Fax

Donna Sprengle,
X105
Farm Loan Manager
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**NOTE - the Tangent
Office moved
effective
July 1, 2012**

Farewell and Thank You to Phil Morton, Program Technician (PT)

We are having an Open House to celebrate Phil's service to the farmers and ranchers of Lane County on Wednesday September 5. Phil began his FSA career in Lane County in August 2003 and will be continuing his employment with FSA in the Yamhill County FSA Office in September.

***Please join us in saying farewell to
Phil on September 5.***

Refreshments will be served all day.

Sign Up for FSA Fence Post for Daily Updates

The Farm Service Agency *Fence Post* is an online newsletter that is updated almost daily. It contains articles of interest on the agency's programs and departments, as well as success stories from the field. To access *Fence Post* visit <http://fsa.blogs.govdelivery.com/>. On this website, producers can sign up for *Fence Post* updates by putting an email address in box that says "Get Email Updates" and then navigating to the publication's sign up check box.

Selected Loan Interest Rates for Aug 2012

Farm Operating - Direct - 1.25%
Farm Ownership - Direct - 3.00%
Limited Resource - 5.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment,
Beginning Farmer or Rancher - 1.50%
Emergency - 2.25%
Farm Storage Facility – 7 year - 1.00%
Farm Storage Facility – 10 year - 1.625%
Farm Storage Facility – 12 year - 1.875%

Forest Stand Health and Fire Hazard Protection – NRCS Program

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) IS YOUR LOCAL RESOURCE FOR INNOVATIVE CONSERVATION SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE THE LAND AND PROTECT YOUR WAY OF LIFE.

NRCS and its partners are currently offering technical and financial assistance to private landowners interested in improving forest health and reducing fire hazards on nonindustrial forest land in Lane County. Cost share assistance may be available to help you implement the following conservation activities:

- Pre-commercial thinning
- Fuel Breaks
- Slash Treatment
- Access Roads
- Brush Management
- And more ...

Contact Tom Burnham (x108) or Wallace Jennings (x125) at the Eugene NRCS office, 541.465.6443 Ext 3, to learn more about how they can help you help the land.
www.or.nrcs.usda.gov

Committee Elections Coming Up

The nomination period closed August 1 with the following nominees for Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1:

- Bart Edwards, Junction City
- Maryrae Thomson, Junction City

Ballots will be mailed to producers located in LAA 1 in early November, return date is December 3. More info coming in the next newsletter.

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.



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Banking Changes? Let FSA Know to Prevent Payment Delays

If you have changed banks or accounts since your last payment, contact us now so that your info can be updated.

Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) 2013 Crops

NAP is available for all crops not covered under Federal Crop Insurance. NAP provides catastrophic level coverage (50% yield / 55% price) to crops damaged by eligible weather events that occur before or during harvest.

Cost: \$250/crop not to exceed \$750 per county with a max of \$1875/multi county producer.

Reminders for NAP producers: Timely file acreage reports; keep track of harvested production and submit yearly; file a Notice of Loss within 15 days of when a loss is apparent due to weather conditions.

Application closing dates for 2013 crops:

August 31 Beets, cabbage, canola, carrots, Christmas trees, flowers, greens, herbs (except mint), onions

October 1 Asparagus, garlic, mint, hops, meadowfoam, sugarbeet, triticale grain

November 20 Apricots, blueberries, caneberries, chestnuts, cherries, cranberries, hazelnuts, honey, nectarines, peaches, plums, prunes, strawberries, walnuts

November 30 All forage and grazing crops except oats. All grasses and legumes for seed

March 15, 2013 Beans, broccoli, camelina, cantaloupe, cauliflower, corn, cucumber, lentils, mustard, oats, peas, potatoes, pumpkin, safflower, sunflower, squash, tomato, watermelon

May 15, 2013 Buckwheat

Free GovDelivery – Enroll Now

The Farm Service Agency is moving into paperless operation to save tax payer dollars. Producers can now enroll in the new GovDelivery system which provides instant electronic deadline reminders, bulletins and newsletters direct to your email address.

County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers. Producers can subscribe to receive free e-mail updates by visiting www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe. You can subscribe to any number of county and state FSA offices.

Federal Crop Insurance Coverage (FCIC) 2013 Crops

These crops are NOT eligible for loss assistance under NAP. Federal Crop Insurance is sold and maintained by private insurance agents. Call our office for a list of authorized agents or access the web address listed below.

2013 Insurable Crops & sales closing dates:

September 30 Wheat, Peppermint (winter option)

November 20 Grapes, Apples, Pears

November 30 Apiculture

January 31, 2013 Adjusted Gross Revenue

March 15, 2013 Adjusted Gross Revenue Lite, Peppermint (basic), Barley, Field Corn, Oats, Processed Beans, Sweet Corn

May 1, 2013 Nursery (inground & container)

Variable Dates Livestock Risk Protection: Fed Cattle, Lamb, Swine, Feeder Cattle Livestock Gross Margin, Dairy

Crop insurance agents:

<http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents/>

Beginning and Limited Resource Loans

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

- Has operated a farm for 10 years or less
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial mgmt 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 and loan approval is not guaranteed.

Additional program information and loan applications are available at the Tangent FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Highly Erodible Land Sign-Up

The Highly Erodible Land Initiative sign-up under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) began on July 23, 2012. The purpose of this initiative is to protect up to 750,000 acres of the nation's most highly erodible croplands. Producers may enroll at their local FSA office. Enrollment will continue until the 750,000 acre limit has been met.

CRP is a voluntary program designed to help farmers, ranchers and other ag producers protect their environmentally sensitive land. Through this Highly Erodible Land Initiative, eligible landowners receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible cropland and maintain it for a period of 10 years. Croplands with an Erodibility Index (EBI) of 20 or greater are eligible for enrollment.

Contact your local FSA office or visit FSA's website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/crp

**Hispanic
Heritage
Month
observed
Sept 15 -
Oct 15**

Farm Reconstitutions (Land Changes)

In program terminology, farms are constituted to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. The reconstitution, or recon, is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. The following are the different methods used when completing a farm recon. To be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by August 1 for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program. If DCP direct payments have already been issued on a particular farm, the reconstitution will be effective for the next year, unless the payments are refunded.

Estate Method - The division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

Designation of Landowner Method — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

DCP Cropland Method — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

Default Method — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

Drought Disaster Assistance

USDA has streamlined the disaster designation process, lowered emergency loan rates and created greater CRP flexibility to help farmers and ranchers in drought-stricken areas across the country.

FSA's low-interest emergency loans will help producers recover from losses due to drought, and other natural disasters. The interest rate has been reduced to 2.25 percent, providing a much-needed resource for producers hoping to recover from production and physical losses associated with natural disasters.

New guidelines were announced for emergency haying and grazing on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land. Annual rental payments for farmers enrolled in the CRP, who use those lands for emergency grazing and hay production, will be reduced by 10 percent instead of 25 percent. Also, because of the current severe drought, all counties with a drought level of D 0 or higher, as measured by the US Drought Monitor, are approved for emergency haying and grazing outside of the primary nesting season (PNS). Interested landowners should check with their local FSA office to obtain information on beginning and ending dates for emergency haying and grazing in their county.

USDA encourages all farmers and ranchers to contact their crop insurance companies and local USDA Farm Service Agency Service Centers, as applicable, to report damages to crops or livestock loss. In addition, USDA reminds livestock producers to keep thorough records of losses, including additional expenses for such things as food purchased due to lost supplies.

More information about federal crop insurance may be found at www.rma.usda.gov. Additional resources to help farmers and ranchers deal with disaster losses may be found at www.usda.gov/disaster.

Dates to Remember

- August 21/22 FSA closed for training
- August 31 NAP sales closing date, see crops previously listed
- September 3 Labor Day – **Office Closed**
- SEPTEMBER 5 OPEN HOUSE ALL DAY FOR PHIL MORTON**
- September 30 FCIC sales closing date, Wheat & Peppermint
- October 8 Columbus Day – **Office Closed**



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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 20250-9450, 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).