

USDA - FARM SERVICE AGENCY – LANE CO

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COUNTY COMMITTEE

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Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

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PAYMENTS FOR 2009 CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP) AND DIRECT & COUNTER-CYCLICAL PAYMENT (DCP) PROGRAM WERE MADE THE FIRST PART OF OCTOBER. PLEASE CHECK YOUR DIRECT DEPOSIT ACCOUNT TO VERIFY YOU HAVE RECEIVED YOUR EARNED PAYMENTS.

COMMITTEE ELECTIONS: BALLOTS DUE DECEMBER 7, 2009

Candidates have been nominated for Lane County's FSA Committee election. Ballots will be mailed to known eligible voters the first week of November. You will be voting from the selection of candidates for Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1 ... **JUNCTION CITY, NORTH & WEST EUGENE, and HIGHWAY 36 to DEADWOOD areas of Lane County.** A map of the area is posted in our office. If your primary agriculture interest is in this area and you believe you should have received a ballot, call our office.

VOTE FOR ONLY ONE choice and **SIGN THE BALLOT RETURN ENVELOPE** where indicated. **UNSIGNED BALLOTS ARE NOT VALID.** If you are voting as a representative of an entity, you must have signature authority and include the **BY** or **FOR** in your signature. Spouses can not sign for each other.

Mail your ballot back (postmarked Dec 7th or earlier) or drop it by our office by 4:30 pm on Dec 7th. To assist you in voting, the following are biographies of this year's candidates. All three candidates have indicated they are willing to serve if elected.

CALEB CRUMRINE has farmed in the Junction City area for sixteen years and grows peppermint, grass seed, and grain. He is a graduate of OSU and is a member of the Farm Bureau and River Road Water Control District.

BART EDWARDS lives and farms in the River Road area of Junction City. Bart's been farming for 30 years and produces grass seed, wheat, vegetable and flower seed crops. He's a graduate of OSU and is president of the Junction City Water Control District.

DON PIERCE has lived on Lawrence Road west of Fern Ridge for 9 years. He produces hay and raises lambs and pigs. He is a member of the Long Tom Country Trail.

Please vote for one!

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN PROGRAM

Changes to the Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program have been implemented in accordance with the 2008 Farm Bill, which will allow producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department, October 2009 rates range from 3.0% to 3.75%.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement is available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits, nuts, and vegetables - cold storage facilities



For more information about FSFL, please call our office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov, click on "Price Support" in the left column then "Facility Loan Programs" in the right column.

Sign up for eGov, to conduct business with FSA. Go to <http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov> and use your home computer to file forms, apply for programs, check contracts and view your Customer Statement or payment history. All you need is Level 2 eAuthorization, a valid email account and your home computer. Contact us for more details.

Proclamation by President Obama in observance of *National Disability Employment Awareness Month, Oct 2009:*

"Fair access to employment is a fundamental right of every American, including the 54 million people in this country living with disabilities. A job can provide financial stability, help maximize our potential, and allow us to achieve our dreams. As Americans, we possess a range of vocational opportunities to make the most of our talents and succeed in a chosen career; those with disabilities are entitled to the same opportunities. During National Disability Employment Awareness Month, we recommit ourselves to implementing effective policies and practices that increase employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities."

BIOMASS CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Biomass conversion facilities can begin signing up to participate in the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP). **The program provides financial assistance to producers who deliver eligible material to biomass conversion facilities** and FSA will provide financial assistance to collect, harvest, store and transport eligible materials.

Owners of eligible material can receive financial assistance for delivering qualified biomass to conversion facilities that use biomass for heat, power, bio-based products or advanced biofuels.

Once an agreement is signed between FSA and a facility **AND** funding through the program is provided, the facilities can begin accepting materials. Producers who sell these materials can apply for matching payments under the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) component of BCAP.

The matching CHST payments are paid at a rate of \$1 for \$1 per dry-ton equivalent received from a qualified biomass conversion facility, not to exceed \$45 per dry-ton equivalent. A biomass owner is eligible to receive payments for two years. The purpose of the matching payments is to assist biomass producers with the CHST cost of delivering biomass to a qualified biomass conversion facility.

Biomass conversion facilities may become "qualified" by submitting a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to the FSA state offices. The MOU generally provides the requirements for becoming a qualified biomass conversion facility. Once a facility becomes qualified, eligible material owners or producers who deliver biomass to that facility may be eligible to receive CHST payments.

Eligible material owners or producers, who market eligible material to a qualified biomass conversion facility, may apply for the matching CHST payment at their FSA county office. **An application must be submitted and approved before the eligible material is sold and delivered to a qualified biomass conversion facility.** After the product is delivered, a producer must provide FSA with documentation of product quantity, quality and payment rate. County offices will validate payment requests with information in the county office and information provided under the terms of MOUs with the qualified biomass conversion facilities. CHST payments will not be authorized until after an appropriate environmental analysis has been conducted.

For more information, you may visit the FSA website: www.fsa.usda.gov

FSA - YOUR LENDER OF FIRST OPPORTUNITY

FSA offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit elsewhere.

FSA loans available are: Farm ownership loans up to \$300,000. Operating loans also have a \$300,000 limit. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. Rural Youth Loans for 4 H or FFA youth up to age 18 have a loan limit of \$5,000. Loans to Beginning Farmers, and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For details on loan eligibility or available loan programs, contact the Farm Loan Staff in Tangent (newsletter heading) for an appointment.



We encourage you to apply now before funding for 2010 is exhausted.

MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOANS

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity.

Beneficial interest means 1) retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; 2) responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and 3) title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for a loan, even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans. Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling in the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans.

The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE (FCI) AND NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP) COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS

With the passage of the 2008 Farm Bill, FCI and NAP is now required to be eligible to participate in some FSA programs. In the past, producers would be eligible for Crop Disaster Programs because of an eligible production loss on their crops. A Disaster Trust Fund has now been established which funds disaster related programs and requires that you purchase crop coverage. These programs include:

Supplemental Revenue Assurance Program (SURE) The SURE program compensates producers for revenue losses on their farm. For the purpose of the program the farm includes all acreage farmed in all counties. Either the entire farm must suffer a 50% loss in revenue for the year or one of the counties that the producer participates in must have a Secretarial Disaster Declaration for the year. Payment is calculated based upon the level of coverage or buy up that the producer has purchased.

Livestock Forage Program (LFP) The LFP compensates producers for forage losses due to drought and other conditions. To be eligible for payment the insured pasture must be located in a county with a drought designated as a D2 or higher by the US Drought Monitor. Applications must be received prior to December 14, 2009.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm Raised Fish (ELAP) The ELAP program compensates producers for losses due to adverse weather or other loss conditions that are not covered under LIP, SURE or LFP. The ELAP program will compensate producers for feed losses or physical losses not covered under the programs. This is not an annual program and is only available at the discretion of the Secretary of Agriculture. Applications must be received prior to December 14, 2009.

All three programs require that producers purchase insurance coverage in the form of NAP or other crop insurance for the year of the application for their crops. Insurance must be purchased by the closing date for the applicable crop. For noninsurable crops, contact us for coverage under NAP. For insurable crops contact your crop insurance agent; we have a list in our office.

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. Fees are \$250/crop, maximum of \$750/county, and a maximum of \$1875/multi County.

Sales deadlines coming up:

- >All fruit crops, honey
- >All forage and grazing crops except oat forage and grazing
- >All spring planted crops not mentioned, oat forage

November 20, 2009
November 30, 2009
March 15, 2010



Producers who have paid for NAP coverage and suffer a weather related crop loss must notify the FSA office by completing form CCC-576 within 15 days of the date of the weather event or are aware of the crop damage. An appraisal must be performed on any acreage for which the intended use has changed or for any acreage that will not be taken to harvest prior to destroying or abandoning crop acreage. Failed acreage must be reported prior to destroying or abandoning crop acreage.

LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM (LIP) SIGNUP NOW IN PROGRESS

LIP provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from disaster. Using funds from the Agricultural Disaster Relief Trust Fund established under section 902 of the Trade Act of 1974, the program is administered by FSA. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat or cold. The purchase of Federal Crop Insurance and/or NAP coverage is not required for this program.

Date of Livestock Death

July 13, 2009 – Dec 31, 2009

Final Date to File a Notice of Loss

30 days after death is apparent

Final Date to Submit Payment Application

Jan 30, 2010

ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE (AGR) PILOT - Provides an insurance safety net for producers growing insurable and non-insurable crops. AGR: 1) provides insurance coverage for multiple agricultural commodities in one insurance product; 2) uses a producer's historic Schedule F tax information as a base to provide a level of guaranteed revenue for the insurance period; 3) uses commodity production-cash receipts as the method of measurement; 4) reinforces program creditability using IRS tax forms; and 5) provides protection against low revenue due to unavoidable causes. Coverage is available in Lane County. **Sales Closing date: 1/31/10.**

ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE-LITE (AGR-LITE) - Similar to AGR Pilot, the plan provides protection against low revenue due to unavoidable natural disasters and market fluctuations that affect income during the insurance year. Most farm-raised crops, animals, and animal products are eligible for protection. AGR-Lite also establishes revenue as a common denominator for the insurance of all agricultural commodities. The maximum liability of coverage is \$1 million. Available in all Oregon counties. **Sales Closing dates: 1/31/10 current policy holders, 3/15/10 new applications.**

These Crop Insurance policies are sold by private insurance agencies. Call our office for a listing.

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES 2009 VALUE ADDED PRODUCER GRANT (VAPG) PROGRAM

The VAPG program provides 50%-matching grants to farmers, ranchers, foresters, and fishermen for either planning or working capital purposes to implement value-added ventures -- i.e. marketing or processing projects that add value to the commodities they produce -- or for some types of on-farm renewable energy generation projects. The goal of the program is to help agricultural producers generate new products, expand market opportunities, and increase their income from the commodities they produce. A revised 2009 VAPG solicitation was published in the Federal Register on September 1, 2009. The deadline for applications is November 30, 2009. Detailed information and guidelines may be viewed at the following website link - <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/or/vapg.htm>

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UPPER WILLAMETTE AGRICULTURAL WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA PLAN

The Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan (formerly known as Senate Bill 1010) is how the Agricultural community addresses contributions from agricultural activities towards water quality. The area plan is a tool that provides agricultural water quality partners and landowners information about:

- Local water quality concerns in the plan area.
- Goals and implementation strategies to encourage conservation and improve water quality.
- Optional management practices that landowners may implement to improve water quality.

The focus of the Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan is on voluntary and cooperative efforts by landowners and other conservation entities to protect local water quality.

The Management Area includes approximately 495,000 acres and encompasses the cities of Eugene, Junction City, Monroe and Veneta and the rural communities of Crow, Elmira, Lorane and Noti.

All agricultural activities fall under the management plan regardless of size. If you are interested in determining if there are resource concerns that need to be addressed in your agricultural operation contact Dave Downing at the Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District at 465-6443 Ext 110 to schedule an evaluation appointment.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER



COC Election voting begins	Nov 6, 2009
Office closed in observance of Veteran's Day	Nov 11, 2009
NAP Coverage for all fruit crops and honey	Nov 20, 2009
Office closed in observance of Thanksgiving Day	Nov 26, 2009
NAP Coverage for all forage & grazing crops except oat forage & grazing	Nov 30, 2009
COC Election ends, Ballots must be postmarked	Dec 7, 2009
COC Election Ballot Count & Regular Committee meeting	Dec 10, 2009

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS: Special accommodations will be made upon request for those with disabilities, vision, or hearing impairments. If such accommodations are needed, please contact Jean Larkin at 541.465.6443 Ext 101 or jean.larkin@or.usda.gov.

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