



USDA - FARM SERVICE AGENCY - LANE COUNTY

780 Bailey Hill Rd Suite 5
Eugene OR 97402- 5451

Voice: 541.465.6443 Ext 2
FAX: 541.465.6483
www.fsa.usda.gov/or

COUNTY COMMITTEE

Andy Petersen, Chairperson
Darrel Spiesschaert, Vice-Chairperson
Bart Edwards, Member
Pam Detering, Advisor

OFFICE STAFF

Jean A Larkin, CED X101
Patti S Anderson, PT X100
Phillip R Morton, PT X105

jean.larkin@or.usda.gov
patti.anderson@or.usda.gov
phillip.morton@or.usda.gov

Farm Loan Staff: Tangent Service Center 33630 McFarland Rd, Tangent OR 97389 541.967.5925

Katie Hennessy, Farm Loan Manager, X105

katie.hennessy@or.usda.gov

Scott Nieman, Farm Loan Off, X109

scott.nieman@or.usda.gov

Donna Sprenkle, Farm Loan Off, X104

donna.sprenkle@or.usda.gov

Julie Neuschwander, Farm Loan Off, X111

julie.neuschwander@or.usda.gov

Patty Curtis, Prog Tech, X106

patty.curtis@or.usda.gov

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
10, 2010

Publish Date: October

COMMITTEE ELECTIONS: BALLOTS DUE DECEMBER 6, 2010

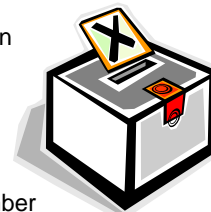
Two candidates have been nominated for the Lane Co FSA Committee election. Ballots will be mailed to known eligible voters the first week of November. You will be voting for one person to fill Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2 which includes the Coburg, Creswell, Springfield, Hwy 58, Hwy 126 areas of Lane County. A map of the boundary is posted in our office. If your primary agriculture interest is in this area and you haven't received a ballot by November 20, call our office.

VOTE FOR ONLY ONE (you may also vote for a write-in candidate) 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 (i.e. Doe Farms Inc by John Doe). Spouses cannot sign for each other.

Mail your ballot back or drop it by our office by 4:30 pm on Dec 6th. Ballots will be counted at the December 9 COC meeting. To assist you in voting, the following is a short biography of this year's candidates; they have indicated that they are willing to serve if elected.

ANDY PETERSEN resides at Upper Camp Creek Road east of Springfield. Other than seven years in the Air Force, Andy has spent his life on the family ranch, O. Petersen & Sons Farm Ptn. The ranch deals in cattle, hay, and timber. Andy has been a member of the Lane County Livestock Association for sixteen years.

GARY SMITH lives on Hill Road north of Springfield. He operates Smith & Sons Ranch LLC with his wife and sons which is a cow-calf operation. He also does custom haying and equipment work. He's a member of the Lane County Livestock Association and Mohawk Watershed.



PRICE SUPPORT FOR PRODUCERS OF WOOL AND MOHAIR

The purpose of the loan deficiency payment (LDP) program is to financially support producers when market prices fall below a set loan rate. The difference between the loan rate and the actual market price equals a payment rate available to producers if they forgo a loan on the commodity. If you have sheared any wool or mohair since January 1, 2010 you may be eligible for a cash payment based on the pounds of wool or mohair. Rates are in effect for graded and non-graded wool. Mohair only has one rate. Deadline to apply for 2010 wool, mohair, and unshorn lamb pelts is January 31, 2011. FSA is currently paying \$.29 per pound of wool.

NEW CONSERVATION LOAN PROGRAM – This is a great opportunity for you to fund conservation projects

The Conservation Loan (CL) Program was recently announced by the Secretary of Ag Tom Vilsack. The purpose of the program is to help finance conservation measures based on an approved NRCS conservation plan. There will be \$75 million available for direct Conservation Loans and \$75 million for guaranteed Conservation Loans for use by the end of Fiscal Year 2010. Loans can be obligated this Fiscal Year and closed in the following year. Since time is so short this year, only those applicants with conservation projects ready to go with an approved NRCS conservation plan could possibly use this year's funding. Funding for next year is expected to be similar.

The test for credit and family sized farming operation requirements do not apply for Conservation Loans. Conservation projects could be totally financed upfront and any cost share received would be applied as an extra payment to the CL loan. Normal loan limits apply. Typically real estate would be taken as security for a CL loan. **More information is available from the Farm Loan Staff listed above, located in Tangent.**

PAPER CHECK CONVERSION – OVER THE COUNTER (PCC –OTC)

Over the next year, FSA/CCC is moving toward an electronic method for processing producers' checks. This will allow FSA/CCC to process collections faster. When producers present checks, either in person or through the mail, the checks will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The funds will be debited from the producer's account, usually within 24 hours of receipt. Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the Service Center or visit the following U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site for detailed information:

<https://www.pccotc.gov/pccotc/pcc/usingpcc/Legal%20Notices/legalnotices.htm>

Note: FSA/CCC will begin this process in the coming months.

What is PCC - OTC?

PCC – OTC is a process for converting paper checks presented to FSA into electronic debits to the producer's bank account. It presents many benefits, such as reducing lost/misplaced checks and paper handling. This improves customer relations, speeds the check clearing process, and reduces the potential for human error.

How will my checks be handled?

If the check is presented in person, the check will be scanned into the system, voided, and stamped with the words, "Electronically Processed" or "Electronically Presented" and the voided check will be returned to the customer.

If the check is mailed to FSA, the check will be scanned into the system and voided. The customer will not receive the check back from FSA. FSA will hold checks for up to 14 calendar days to ensure that the item was successfully processed, and then FSA will shred the check.

How quickly will funds be transferred from my account?

The transfer of funds from your account could occur within 24 hours. Therefore, you should be sure that you have sufficient funds in your account to process the transaction. If you do **not** have sufficient funds, we may initiate the transaction again.

How will this transaction appear on my account statement?

The transfer of funds will be reflected on your account statement. The transaction may be recorded in a different place on your statement than where your checks normally appear, such as under "other withdrawals" or "other transactions".

What are my rights if there is a problem with the transaction?

You have protections under Federal law for an unauthorized electronic fund transfer from your account. You should contact your financial institution immediately if you believe that the transaction reported on your account statement was not properly authorized or is otherwise incorrect.



Hispanic Heritage Month observed Sept 15 - Oct 15

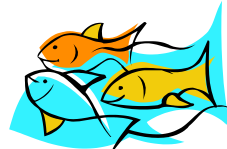
CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP) Call Patti w/ questions 541.465.6443 x100

CREP is a jointly funded program by the federal government and the State of Oregon. Program objectives include: reducing sediment and nutrient pollution from Ag lands, stabilizing stream banks with adequate vegetation, reducing water temperatures, improving habitat for fish species, and providing assistance for farmers to help meet water quality requirements established by federal and state laws.

The program targets the use of Riparian Buffers, Wetland Restoration, Wildlife Habitat Buffers, and Wetland Buffers to meet the objective of the program. Ag landowners can enroll eligible riparian lands into a 10 to 15-year CREP Contract. CREP is a continuous sign-up program and are not ranked.

In addition to paying annual rental payments for the land enrolled, the participant will also receive:

- A one-time Sign-up Incentive Payment of \$10 per full year of contract for each acre enrolled for 10 yrs
- Cost share of 50% of eligible expenses from FSA
- Cost share of 25% of eligible expenses from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
- A one-time Practice Incentive Payment, 40% of the eligible expenses of the installation of the completed practice
- And for those participants who enroll 50% of a 5 mile section of stream, a one-time payment equal to 4 times the annual base rental rate per acre for each participant.



PAYMENTS FOR 2010 CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP) AND DIRECT & COUNTER-CYCLICAL PAYMENT (DCP) PROGRAM WILL BE MADE IN OCTOBER. CHECK YOUR DIRECT DEPOSIT ACCOUNT TO VERIFY PAYMENT.

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

FSA Financial Services Web Site – www.fsa.usda.gov/fmi Register to use today!

FSA Financial Services website allows producers to generate reports that show both current and historical financial information. Registered producers may view summary and detail info about payments, collections, outstanding debt (excluding loans), and CCC-1099-G's. Other services are available. Access the website listed for full details and how to register, or give our office a call.

NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (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.

October 1, 2010 Asparagus, garlic, mint, hops, meadowfoam, sugarbeet, triticale grain

November 20, 2010 Apples, apricots, blueberries, caneberries, chestnuts, cherries, cranberries, grapes, hazelnuts, honey, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, prunes, strawberries, walnuts

November 30, 2010 All forage and grazing crops except oats. All grasses and legumes for seed

March 15, 2011 Beans, broccoli, camelina, cantaloupe, cauliflower, corn, cucumber, lentils, mustard, oats, peas, potatoes, pumpkin, safflower, sunflower, squash, tomato, watermelon

May 15, 2011 Buckwheat

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.

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. **Sales closing date: 1/31/11.**

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: 1/31/11 current policy holders, 3/15/11 new applications.**

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

Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. Maximum loan amount is \$5000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements: Be a citizen of the United States or a legal resident alien; Be 10 years to 21 years of age; Live in a rural area or in a town of 50,000 people or fewer; Must obtain a written recommendation and consent from a parent or guardian if the applicant has not reached the age of majority under state law; Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements; Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above; Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor; The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.



Contact the Farm Loan staff in the Tangent Service Center (contact info in the newsletter header) with questions and for help preparing and processing the application forms.

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LANE COUNTY OFFICE
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

REVOCABLE TRUSTS may use the Social Security number (SS#) during the lifetime of the grantor and while the grantor is serving as the trustee of the trust. However, on appointment of a third party as trustee or successor trustee the trust will be required to apply for and use a new Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN). The TIN may be requested online from the IRS at www.irs.gov

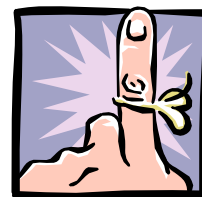
PAYMENT PROCESS - Local FSA offices no longer issue checks or direct deposits to producer accounts. This process is now completed by the national processing site in St Louis MO. Your payment statements will come from that site. Those who still receive payment by paper check will find an additional 5-7 day delay.

Remember to keep us informed as to account and banking institution routing number changes. This will keep your payments flowing in a timely manner. If you have changed accounts or banks you will need to file a new direct deposit form.

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.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

Oct 1, Nov 20 & 30	NAP crop policy purchase deadlines
October 11	Office closed, Columbus Day Holiday
October 14, 9:00 am	County Committee meeting, call to confirm meeting is being held
November 11	Office closed, Veterans Day Holiday
November 25	Office closed, Thanksgiving Holiday
January 31, 2011	Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) deadline for 2010 wool, mohair, pelts
Ongoing	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) enrollment



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