



NEWSLETTER



November 1, 2011

Lane County Farm Service Agency

780 Bailey Hill Rd Ste 5
Eugene OR 97402-5451

541.465.6443 X2 Phone
541.465.6483 Fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/OR

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

Lane County Staff

Jean A Larkin, X101
County Executive Director
Jean.larkin@or.usda.gov

Patti S Anderson, X100
Patti.anderson@or.usda.gov

Phillip R Morton, X105
Phillip.morton@or.usda.gov

Lane County Committee

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

Farm Loan Staff

33630 McFarland Rd
Tangent OR 97389
541.967.5925 X2 Phone
541.928.9345 Fax

Donna Sprengle, X105
Farm Loan Manager
Donna.sprengle@or.usda.gov
v

Scott Nieman, X109
Scott.nieman@or.usda.gov
Stuart Butsch, X104
Stuart.butsch@or.usda.gov
Patty Curtis, 106
Patty.curtis@or.usda.gov

County Committee Elections

Ballots will be mailed to known eligible voters the first week of November. You will be voting to fill Local Administrative Area (LAA) 3 which includes 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. If your primary ag 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.

Deadline to return your ballot is December 5, 2011. Ballots will be counted at the 9:00 am December 8 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.

HARRY MCINTIRE, who lives on Kenady Lane south of Cottage Grove, has been a tree farmer for over 40 years. He is a retired forester from Weyerhaeuser.

DARREL SPIESSCHAERT lives on Briggs Hill Road south of Crow where he has a tree farm and raises cattle and horses. Darrel is a retired forester from the Oregon Dept of Forestry.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

CREP is a jointly funded program by FSA 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, and providing a mechanism for farmers to help meet water quality requirements established by federal and state laws.

FSA provides participants with annual rental payments for the life of the contract and cost sharing on practice installation. There are also incentive payments based on the cost of establishing the practice. CREP targets the use of Riparian Buffers, Wetland Restoration, Wildlife Habitat Buffers, and Wetland Buffers to meet the objective of the program.

e- Newsletters and e-Updates through GovDelivery!!

The Farm Service Agency is providing more cost-effective and resource-conserving options to deliver news, deadlines, and bulletins. You have the option to receive information instantly and electronically from your state or local FSA office directly to your farm or ranch. Several states already have GovDelivery for news releases.

Take a look at your current state and county options for electronic delivery by visiting the FSA home page at: www.fsa.usda.gov

→Signup for Updates, click on GO

Once you enroll in GovDelivery, you can select electronic subscriptions via e-mail. Contact your FSA office and watch for more news and opportunities to sign up to receive your news quicker and at a lesser cost via e-mail.

OSU Lane County Extension Happenings

December 8, 2011
Core Pesticide training,
4 hours of Core or
pesticide training.
LCC campus, Bldg #19.
Call 541.344.5859 or go
to our Farms and Garden
web site:
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/lane/farms> to
register.

February 8 & 9, 2012
PNW Short Course –
Entomology and Plant
Pathology, 12 hours of
pesticide credit.
LCC campus, Bldg #19
Call 541.344.5859 or go
to our web site.

People who have wanted
to take the Master
Gardener class but work
during the day... here is
a golden opportunity for
you! We will be holding
the Master Gardener
classes in the evenings!
You can either just take
the classes or actually
become a Master
Gardener! Call
541.344.5859.

Ross H. Penhallegon
Commercial Horticulture
Home Horticulture
783 Grant Street
Eugene OR 97402-1709



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. 2012 Crop Sales closing dates:

November 20, 2011 Apples, apricots, blueberries, caneberrries, chestnuts, cherries, cranberries, grapes, hazelnuts, honey, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, prunes, strawberries, walnuts.

November 30, 2011 All forage and grazing crops except oats. All grasses and legumes for seed.

March 15, 2012 Beans, broccoli, camelina, cantaloupe, cauliflower, corn, cucumber, lentils, mustard, oats, peas, potatoes, pumpkin, safflower, sunflower, squash, tomato, watermelon

May 15, 2012 Buckwheat

Beginning & Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises with financing through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm not more that 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local FSA office.

Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP)

ELAP provides compensation to eligible producers of livestock, honey bees and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other loss conditions, including losses caused by blizzards or wildfires. ELAP is for losses that are not covered by Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), or Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE).

Eligible producers under ELAP may receive assistance for losses that occur on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011, during the calendar year in which the loss occurs. Eligible losses include feed losses, physical losses and additional costs incurred in providing feed to eligible livestock.

There are two parts to the ELAP application process:

1. A notice of loss
2. Application for payment

An application for payment cannot be filed without a notice of loss.

There are no late filed provisions for ELAP. Producers with eligible losses must timely file an acreage report on grazing land acres, honey bee colonies and farm-raised fish pond acres.

Eligible physical losses of honey bees and honey bee hives due to adverse weather or loss conditions are eligible under ELAP. Producers will be required to provide documentation of beginning and ending inventory of honey bee colonies when claiming a physical loss of honey bees or hives.

Additional ELAP information is available at FSA offices or on line, www.fsa.usda.gov.

Farm Loan Program Limits

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans have a maximum limit of \$1,214,000 starting on Oct. 1, 2011. .

The one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans has increased from 1 percent to 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan, for loans obligated after Oct. 1, 2011.

To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

Hispanic and Women Farmers

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established.

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.

For additional information contact:

Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims

Process:

www.farmerclaims.gov or call 1-888-508-4429.

Pigford – The Black Farmers

Discrimination

Litigation:

www.blackfarmcase.com or call 1-866-950-5547.

Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement:

www.IndianFarmClass.com or call 1-888-233-5506.

Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) Program

The FSFL program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new 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. New 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 Dept.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. Final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the approved total loan amount.

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.

Commodities eligible for FSFL 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 (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

For more information about FSFL visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

2011 Final DCP Payments

Almost all 2011 Final DCP payments have been issued during October. Please check your designated bank account; call Phil (Ext 105) if you haven't received your payment(s).

Farm Safety

Flowing grain in a storage bin or gravity-flow wagon is like quicksand, it can kill quickly. It takes less than five seconds for a person caught in flowing grain to be trapped.

The mechanical aspects of grain handling equipment, also presents a real danger. Augers, power take offs and other moving parts can grab people or clothing.

These hazards, along with pinch points and missing shields, are dangerous enough for adults; not to mention children. It is always advisable to keep children a safe distance from operating farm equipment.

Always use extra caution when backing or maneuvering farm machinery. Ensure everyone is visibly clear and accounted for before machinery is engaged.

FSA wants all farmers to have a productive crop year, and that begins with putting safety first.

Adjusted Gross Income Certification & Verification

A new form (CCC-931) has been developed to assist producers to certify Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) compliance and consent to verification by the IRS to maintain eligibility for 2009, 2010 and 2011 program benefits.

A separate form is required for each year. These forms must be filed with the FSA office. FSA will send the original to IRS for verification.

The CCC-931 form authorizes IRS to verify for FSA whether a payment recipient's AGI meets the eligibility requirements for FSA programs.

Producers who fail to file these forms before Sept 2011 will receive a notice from the National Office stating that the producer is ineligible for 2009, 2010 or 2011 payments as applicable. If you receive this notice, contact your FSA office immediately for assistance.

2012 DCP Sign-Up

Enrollment for the 2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) begins January 23 and continues through June 1, 2012. Producers can make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or they can visit the FSA office to complete their 2012 DCP contract.

Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. No advance payments will be issued under the 2012 program.

2010 SURE Opening November 14

It has just been announced that signup for 2010 SURE will begin on November 14, 2011. The Supplemental Revenue Program (SURE) is designed to offset production losses because of natural disasters. In order to qualify you must have:

- A 10% loss on one crop of economic significance.
- A portion of your farm located in a county that has been designated a natural disaster.
- Have crop insurance on all crops of economic significance or qualify for a waiver.

Payment is calculated on the level of crop insurance purchased minus your actual production. Your FSA office should receive your production information for 2010 from the Risk Management Agency. This means if you provided your insurance company with your information it should be available to FSA.

Rural 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. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- United States citizenship (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
Inability to obtain a loan from other sources
- 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 and provide adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms.

Selected Interest Rates for October 2011	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	1.750%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.250%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility 7 year	1.5%
Farm Storage Facility 10 year	2.125%
Farm Storage Facility 12 year	2.375%
Commodity Loans	1.125%

November is <u>National American Indian Heritage</u>	
Dates to Remember	
Nov 11	Office closed, Veteran's Day
Nov 20	NAP closing for fruit & nut crops
Nov 24	Office closed, Thanksgiving Day
Nov 30	NAP closing for grass, legume, forage
Dec 5	COC Election Ballots must be returned
Dec 8	COC meeting & Ballot count
Dec 26	Office closed, Christmas
Jan 2	HAPPY NEW YEAR!! Office closed

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