

December 23, 2013



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## Table of Contents:

- [LANE COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION NOW UNDERWAY](#)
- [2014 ACREAGE REPORTING DATES UPDATED](#)
- [INCREASED GUARANTEED LOAN LIMIT](#)
- [MICROLOAN PROGRAM](#)
- [BEGINNING FARMER LOANS](#)

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## Lane County Oregon FSA Updates

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### Lane County FSA Office

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#### County Executive Director:

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#### Program Technician:

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#### Farm Loan Manager:

Tangent Service Center  
Donna Sprenkle, X105  
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Phone: 541.967.5925

#### Next County Committee Meeting:

January 22, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

#### DATES TO REMEMBER:

Dec 25 Christmas, Closed  
Jan 1 New Years, Closed  
Jan 15 Acre Reports due

### LANE COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION NOW UNDERWAY

The County Committee Election ballots that were mailed to producers on Nov. 4 were incorrectly printed with the producer's name and address on the back of the ballot. County committee elections must use a secret ballot so the misprinted ballots cannot be used. Please destroy or recycle the misprinted ballot. If you have already voted, your ballot was destroyed unopened.

**New ballots were mailed to producers the week of December 16, 2013.** These ballots indicate that they are the corrected ballot in several places, including on the outside of the mailing, on the ballot and on the outside of the return envelope.

**The corrected ballot must be returned to the Lane County FSA Office or postmarked by January 17, 2014.** Ballots will be counted at a public County Committee meeting on January 22, 2014 beginning at 9:00 am in the Lane County FSA Office. All newly elected county committee members will take office February 18, 2014. All county committee members whose term expires on Dec. 31, 2013, will have their term extended to January 31, 2014.

County committee members are an important component of the operations of FSA and provide a link between the agricultural community and USDA. Farmers and ranchers elected to county committees help deliver FSA programs at the local level, applying their knowledge and judgment to make decisions on commodity price support programs; conservation programs; incentive indemnity and disaster programs for some commodities; emergency programs and eligibility. FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws.

To be an eligible voter, farmers and ranchers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm may also be eligible to vote.

Jan 17 Signed Ballots due  
Jan 20 MLK Day, Closed  
Jan 22 Election Ballot Count

The candidate in this year's election in Local Administrative Area 2 (NE Lane Co):

**Gary A. Smith** is nominated in LAA 2, Lane County, to serve as a committee member. Smith resides on Hill Road north of Springfield. He operates Smith & Sons Ranch LLC with his wife and sons which is a cow-calf operation. He is an active member of the Lane County Livestock Association and Mohawk Watershed.

More information on county committees can be found on the FSA website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections) or at a local USDA Service Center.

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## 2014 ACREAGE REPORTING DATES UPDATED

***Producers now have until January 15, 2014, to report crops that have a November 15, 2013, or December 15, 2013, reporting deadline without paying a late-file fee.***

The Risk Management Agency (RMA) did not grant a waiver so producers need to consult their crop insurance agent for deadlines for insured crops.

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit the Lane County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

**December 15 deadline extended to January 15, 2014 for the following crops:**

fall seeded **wheat** and barley; **mint**; perennial forage (**hay or pasture**, except seed) established or fall planted alfalfa seed; fall canola; onions, planted 8/15-9/15

**January 15 is the deadline to report the following established or fall planted crops:**

apples, apricots, blueberries, cherries, cranberries, grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears, and plums

Producers failing to report crops timely are required to pay for a farm visit, \$46 minimum. All crops must be planted before they are reported to FSA.

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

Additionally, producers can purchase both NAP and RMA coverage for 2014 annual forage crops. NAP coverage will not be available for 2015 annual forage crops.

**Late file fees will be assessed for 2013 crops reported after September 15, 2013, and 2014 crops reported after January 15, 2014. Minimum fee is \$46.00 per farm visit.**

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## INCREASED GUARANTEED LOAN LIMIT

The Farm Service Agency maximum loan limit for the Guaranteed Loan Program has increased to \$1,355,000 effective Oct. 1, 2013. The limit is adjusted annually based on data compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The lending limit is adjusted every year according to an inflation index. The maximum combined guaranteed and direct farm loan indebtedness will also increase to \$1,655,000.

As a reminder, the one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed Farm Ownership and operating loans is 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan.

Lane County producers should contact Donna Sprenkle, Farm Loan Manager, at the Tangent FSA Office with questions about farm loans.

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## MICROLOAN PROGRAM

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan (ML) program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and small family farm operations.

FSA offers applicants a Microloan designed to help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application process built to fit the needs of new and smaller producers. This loan program will also be useful to specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program.

Individuals who are interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available should contact the farm loan staff at the Tangent FSA office to set up an appointment with a loan official.

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## BEGINNING FARMER LOANS

FSA assists beginning farmers to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- § Has operated a farm for not more than 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 the Tangent FSA Office. You may also visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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