

LANE COUNTY - FARM SERVICE AGENCY

780 Bailey Hill Rd Suite 5
Eugene OR 97402-5451

COUNTY COMMITTEE

Pam Detering, Chairperson
Andy Petersen, Vice-Chair
Harry McIntire, Member

Farm Loan Manager, located in Tangent Service Center



OFFICE STAFF

Jean A Larkin, CED X101
Patti S Anderson, PT X104
Phillip R Morton, PT X105

Pat Joerger, 541.967.5925, X109

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Hours: Mon-Fri, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm **Publish Date: October 25, 2006**

COUNTY COMMITTEE (COC) ELECTION

This year's election will determine the representative for the Junction City, North & West Eugene, and Highway 36 to Deadwood areas of Lane County.

Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters by November 3rd. Voted and signed ballots must be returned to our office by December 4th. Ballots will be counted on December 7th.

Remember to **VOTE FOR ONLY ONE** choice and **SIGN THE BALLOT RETURN ENVELOPE** where indicated. To assist you in voting, the following are brief biographies of this year's candidates from your area. Both nominees have indicated they are willing to serve if elected.

CALEB CRUMRINE has farmed in the Junction City area for thirteen + years. He grows grass seed, grain, and peppermint. Caleb is a graduate of OSU and is a member of the Farm Bureau.

PAM DETERING who resides on Ferguson Road west of Junction City, co-operates Rock'n D Ranch. They grow grass seed, grain, hay and raise Angus cattle and bulls. Pam has spent her entire life on a ranch and is a member of both the Oregon and National Cattlemen's Association and the Western States Angus Association.

2007 DCP CONTRACTS

Signup for the 2007 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment (DCP) program began October 1st and runs through June 1, 2007. New contracts (CCC-509 form) must be signed each year. Contracts are not considered valid enrollments until all operators and owners who share in the crop have signed the CCC-509.

Other forms that must be filed include: CCC-502, Farm Operating Plan; CCC-526, Average Adjusted Gross Income Certification; AD-1026, Certification of Highly Erodible and Wetland Compliance; FSA-578, Report of Acreage; Cash Lease Certification or leases.

Advance payments have been reduced to 22% of the calculated payment (was 40% and 50% in prior years) and can be made as early as December 1, 2006. Final payments will be made in October 2007.

Call Phil (Ext 105) to make an appointment to start the process.

NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

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 weather events. Cost is \$100 per crop not to exceed \$300 per county. **Application closing dates** for 2007 crops:

- 11/22/06 ALL fruit crops, honey
- 3/15/07 All spring planted crops not mentioned
- 5/31/07 Buckwheat

eGov is available on-line: Producers have the ability to apply for program assistance, via their home computers. Interested producers must first obtain a Level 2 clearance before using this system. You can register online at www.egov.usda.gov or you can visit our office to obtain the required Level 2 authority. Once this is done, your ID verified by the FSA office, and your account activated, you can go on-line to do USDA business. Level 2 authority will allow you access to: LDP programs, DCP programs, Farm Loan Programs, Financial Services, and your personal Customer Payment Statements.

2007 EQIP DEADLINE

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is now accepting applications for the 2007 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). EQIP is a voluntary conservation program through which farmers and ranchers may receive financial assistance to help install or implement a variety of structural and management practices.

DEADLINE is November 15, 2006. Please call Tom Burnham (Ext 108) or Emily Fife (Ext 125), 465-6443.

FSA SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

Proper signatures on FSA contracts, applications and forms must be submitted before the document will be considered as filed. All entities, including trusts, corporations, partnership, estates, etc. must provide evidence of signature authority stipulating those individuals who are authorized to represent the entity.

Examples of acceptable evidence include trust agreements, corporate charters or resolutions, partnership agreements and court order of appointment. Spouses can sign for one another on most program documents unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office. An FSA-211. Power of Attorney, may be filed to delegate signature authority for FSA program purposes to another individual.

When signing for an entity, the person with signing authority should always sign "by" or "for" indicating their authority to sign.

Such as: ABC Farm Inc, by John Doe, Secretary
Jim Smith, partner for XYZ Ptn
Jane Doe, by John Doe, Spouse

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

FSA provides direct and guarantee loan assistance for beginning farmers. An applicant is considered a beginning farmer if they have not operated a farm for more than 10 years.

Youth loans are also available for members of 4-H and FFA groups, ages 10 through 20 who want to start any income production enterprise recommended by their leader or teacher. For further information, contact Pat Joerger in the Tangent Service Center, 541.967.5925 Ext 109.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and were applicable, sex, martial status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- November 3 Ballots mailed to eligible voters
- November 10 Veteran's Day Office Closed
- November 20 NAP closing date for perennial fruit, nuts and honey
- November 23 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed
- December 4 Election ballots due in our office
- December 7 Ballots counted



NOVEMBER OBSERVANCE: AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKAN NATIVE HERITAGE MONTH

PAYMENT LIMITATION REFRESHER

Payment limitations include Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program, \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments; Conservation Reserve Program, \$50,000; Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, \$100,000; and \$75,000 per crop year for Loan Deficiency Payments.

Some of the basic items the county office staff and County Committee is looking at when making determinations:

“Person” Determinations A “person” for payment limitation purposes may be many things, including an individual; a limited liability partnership; a limited liability company; a corporation; a joint stock company; an association; a limited stock company; a limited partnership; an irrevocable trust; a revocable trust together with the grantor of the trust; an estate; a charitable organization; and a state, political subdivision or agency thereof. For an individual or entity to be considered a separate “person,” the individual or entity must have a separate and distinct interest in the land or crop involved, exercise separate responsibility for this interest and maintain funds or accounts separate from that of any other individual or entity for this interest.

Status Date The status of an individual or entity on April 1 of the applicable program year is the basis for determining the number of “persons” for payment limitation purposes for that year. Actions taken by an individual or entity after that date to increase the number of “persons” will not be recognized for the current program.

Actively Engaged in Farming A producer must be considered “actively engaged in farming” to be eligible for payments and benefits under some programs. Generally, in order to be considered “actively engaged in farming,” the producer must provide significant contributions to the farming operation, which are commensurate to the claimed share of the farming operation and the contributions must be at risk.

General Rules A producer must make a significant contribution of capital, land, and/or equipment to the farming operation as well as a significant contribution of active personal labor and/or active personal management. “Active personal labor” and “active personal management” are labor and management that are actually performed by the individual in question. The contribution of active personal management must be critical to the profitability of the farming operation, taking into consideration the individual or entity’s commensurate share in the farming operation.

Cash-Rent Tenant Rule A cash-rent tenant will be ineligible to receive payment on the cash-rented land unless the tenant makes a significant contribution of active personal labor, or, if labor is not provided, a significant contribution of management together with a significant contribution of equipment to the farming operation.

Permitted Entities No person may receive payments subject to these rules from more than three entities in which the person holds substantial beneficial interest, generally 10 percent or more. If an individual receives payments as an individual, the individual may not also receive payment from more than two entities that receive payment as a separate “person.” If an individual does not receive payment as an individual, the individual may not receive payment from more than three entities that receive payment as a separate “person.”

Notification All entities earning payment subject to these rules must report to their local FSA committee the name, address and Social Security number of each individual who owns, either directly or indirectly, any interest in such entity. The entity also is required to inform all members of the entity of the rules regarding payment eligibility and permitted entities. A contract to participate in the applicable programs will not be considered complete until this information is provided.

Adjusted Gross Income An individual or entity shall not be eligible to receive certain program benefits during a crop, program or fiscal year if **both** of the following apply:

- the average adjusted gross income (AGI) for the three tax years immediately preceding the year for which benefits are requested exceeds \$ 2.5 million
- less than 75% of the average AGI is derived from farming, ranching or forestry operations

Farm Service Agency program benefits subject to limitation will not be disbursed until:

- all required forms for the specific situation are provided
- necessary payment limitation and payment eligibility determinations are made

Producers are responsible for keeping the Farm Service Agency timely informed of any changes in their farming operation that may affect the payment limitation determinations.

**USDA – FARM SERVICE AGENCY
LANE COUNTY OFFICE
780 BAILEY HILL RD STE 5
EUGENE OR 97402-5451**

**PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
EUGENE OR
PERMIT #531**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

WETLAND AND HIGHLY ERODIBLE COMPLIANCE

If you plan on cleaning a ditch, tiling a field or clearing trees and/or brush PLEASE call to check if the field or non-cropland area has a wetland and/or highly erodible determination on file. This step will save you a lot of stress by knowing up front if your proposed actions could possibly jeopardize your program eligibility with USDA. Following is an overview of the rules.

WHAT IS CONVERTING A WETLAND?

The 1985 Act provided that planting on a converted wetland was a violation that would cause ineligibility for USDA benefits. The 1990 Act amended the 1985 Act and states that a person who converts a wetland after November 28, 1990, shall be ineligible for USDA benefits.

Definition: **Converted Wetland** is wetland that has been drained, dredged, filled, leveled, or otherwise manipulated, including any activity that results in impairing or reducing the flow, circulation, or reach of water, for the purpose of or to have the effect of making possible the production of an agricultural commodity without further application of the manipulations if:

- such production would not have been possible without this action
- before such action, this land was wetland or farmed wetland and was **not** HEL.

WHAT IS HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND COMPLIANCE?

The 1985 Act, as amended, provides that, unless exempt, persons who produce an agriculture commodity on a field on which Highly Erodible Land (HEL) is predominate shall be ineligible for benefits under certain programs administered by USDA/FSA unless the producer has a conservation plan in place with NRCS and is actively following that plan.

Definitions:

Agricultural Commodity: Is any crop planted and produced by annual tilling of the soil.

Highly Erodible Field: A field where HEL is predominant. 33.33 percent or more of the total field acreage is identified as soil map units which are highly erodible.

Conservation Plan: Applies to highly erodible cropland and describes the conservation system applicable to the highly erodible cropland, land use, tillage systems, and conservation treatment measures and schedules. Plan is approved by the local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Natural Resources & Conservation Service (NRCS).



