



# NEWSLETTER



## SUMMER 2011

### Linn/Benton/Lincoln County FSA Office

**Janelle Huserik, Temporary  
County Executive Director**  
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Tangent, OR 97389

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541-928-9345 fax  
www.fsa.usda.gov/or

**Office Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### Linn/Benton/Lincoln County Staff

Kathy Naegeli, Farm Loan  
Manager

Scott Nieman, Farm Loan  
Officer

Patti Curtis, Farm Loan  
Program Technician

Michelle Ham, Program  
Technician

Michelle "MJ" Nycz, Program  
Technician

Stuart Butsch, Career Intern  
Program Trainee

### DCP Sign-up EXTENDED and Acreage Reporting DUE 6/30!

DCP Sign-up's standard deadline is June 1<sup>st</sup>. For 2011, producers are being allowed to submit their DCP application until August 1, 2011. Please contact the office to confirm you are enrolled for 2011!

Acreage reporting still maintains a deadline of June 30, 2011. Whether you have completed the planting of your crops or not, contact the office ASAP to ensure timely filing and to avoid late-file fees.

### Welcome to the new CED!

Congratulations to Heather Yocom who is the new County Executive Director (CED) in Linn/Benton/Lincoln County Office. Heather will begin in Tangent on Monday, June 20, 2011.

**Heather** graduated from Eastern Oregon University in 2010. She is a sixth generation Oregonian, with agriculture running deep in her roots. She was born and raised on a cattle ranch in Morrow County. Heather has been a County Operations Trainee for Oregon FSA since 2010, and was recently selected by the Linn/Benton/Lincoln County Committee. The County Office would like to welcome Heather!

### Emergency Assistance for 2010 & 2011 Losses

More than \$8 million in disaster assistance will be issued to livestock, honeybee and farm-raised fish producers that suffered losses in 2010 because of disease, adverse weather or other conditions. The aid will come from the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP).

ELAP sign-up for 2011 losses is also under way. Producers with 2011 losses must file an ELAP application no later than Jan. 30, 2012. They also must file a notice of loss within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent to the producer or by Oct. 31, 2011, whichever is earlier. ELAP benefits related to 2011 losses are expected to be issued in early 2012.

### Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) Records

Production records for individual crops need to be filed at the FSA office to establish an approved Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) yield. Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable and need to show crop disposition. We recommend producers submit production records as soon as harvest is complete. **All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date, June 30.**

### Notice of Loss Filing for Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP)

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing the Notice of Loss is required for ALL CROPS INCLUDING GRASSES.

For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 (notice of loss) in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.



## Budget constraints and reducing costs

In efforts to reduce costs, producers are being asked to provide current email addresses, FAX numbers and phone numbers.

Producers may call, email or FAX their contact information, or provide it when they visit their local FSA office.

It is more important than ever that all producers provide valid contact information.

Contacts will be initiated through phone and other electronic means to help curtail mailing expenses. Program reminders and announcements will be initiated through electronic newsletters and local press.

## 2011 FSA County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established, large or small. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the producers and to represent all constituents. This means wherever possible, minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for these underrepresented groups.

County committees provide local input on commodity price support loans and payments, conservation programs, incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities, emergency programs and payment eligibility.

FSA county committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decision and operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal rules, regulations and laws.

### Election Period

June 15, 2011 – COC nomination period begins.

Aug. 1, 2011 - COC nomination forms (FSA-669A) due at the local USDA Service Center

Nov. 4, 2011 – COC ballots mailed to eligible voters

Dec. 5, 2011 - Last day to return completed COC ballots to the USDA Service Center

Jan. 2, 2012 - Newly elected COC members take office

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria as follows:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election

- Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate

Candidates must not have been:

- Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

For more information about county committee elections, contact the county office staff.

### Nominations

Nominees must complete and sign form FSA-669A available at USDA Service Centers and online at:

[http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/fsa\\_0669a\\_commiteelectform.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa_0669a_commiteelectform.pdf)

Nomination forms for the 2011 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on August 1, 2011.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy.

### Who Can Vote

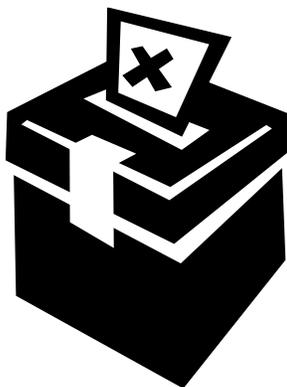
Agricultural producers of legal voting age (18 years) may be eligible to vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm may also be eligible to vote. More information about voting eligibility is available from your local FSA office.

### SURE

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster through Sept. 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP). Grazed acreage is not eligible for the NAP program.

Crop insurance or NAP coverage is no longer required for crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10 percent of the value of the coverage. See the local FSA office for details.

## Nominate & Vote!



**NOTICE  
TO HISPANIC  
AND/OR  
WOMEN  
FARMERS OR  
RANCHERS  
COMPENSATION  
FOR CLAIMS OF  
DISCRIMINATION**

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.

To register your name to receive a claims packet, call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or visit: [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov)

The claims package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## Farm Storage Facility Loans

The Farm Storage Facility Loan program allows producers to build cold storage facilities to store their fresh fruits and vegetables. To be eligible, cold storage facilities must have a useful life of 15 years and include:

- New structures suitable for a cold storage facility;
- New walk-in, prefabricated, permanently-installed coolers suitable for storing fresh fruits and vegetables;
- New permanently affixed cooling, circulating and monitoring equipment;
- Electrical equipment integral to the proper operation of a cold storage facility;
- An addition or modification to an existing storage facility.

USDA will not make cold storage facility loans for portable structures, portable handling and cooling equipment, used or pre-owned structures, cooling equipment or structures deemed unsuitable.

The maximum loan amount for a Farm Storage Facility loan is \$500,000 per loan, which requires a down payment of at least 15 percent. Applications must be approved before construction can begin. Loan terms of seven, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan.

For more information on this program or other FSA farm programs please contact the local FSA county office or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

## Farm Reconstitutions

At FSA, 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. If multiple owners and/or operators do not agree about program participation and want to separate acres by programs, for example to enter only a segment of property into the new ACRE program, then producers should inquire about a reconstitution of the farm at the local FSA office.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. NOTE: to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by August 1, 2011 for farms enrolled in specific programs.

## Beginning Farmer or Limited Resource Loans

FSA has a program to assist beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups 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.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed.

Additional program information is available at the local USDA Service Center or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) and [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov).

## 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 is being established.

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you during certain time periods between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

For additional information on this claims process and other settlement issues contact:

**Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process:**  
[www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov) or 1-888-508-4429

**Pigford - Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation**

[www.blackfarmerscase.com](http://www.blackfarmerscase.com) or 1-866-950-5547

**Keepseagle - Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement**

[www.IndianFarmClass.com](http://www.IndianFarmClass.com) or 1-888-233-5506

Linn/Benton/Lincoln County FSA Office  
 33630 McFarland Rd  
 Tangent, OR 97389-9627



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### Did Your Bank Change?

If you have changed banks and not notified FSA, your payment could be delayed. Payments are now electronically transferred into your bank account. If we are not aware of changes to your account and have incorrect routing numbers, there could be problems. For FSA to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in producer's account such as type of account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

Selected Interest Rates for June 2011	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Direct Farm Operating Loans	2.625%
Direct Farm Ownership and Conservation Loans	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans-7 yr	2.625%
Farm Storage Facility Loans-10yr	3.250%
Farm Storage Facility Loans-12yr	3.500%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.250%

Dates to Remember	
June 30	Deadline for Acreage Reports & NAP Production Records
July 4	Office Closed –Independence Day
August 1	Deadline for Reconstitutions- Farm Record Changes
	DCP Sign Up ends
	COC nominations due to County Office
Sept 4	Office Closed – Labor Day
Oct 10	Office Closed – Columbus Day
Nov 4	COC Ballots mailed
Dec 5	COC Ballots due back to County Office
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program

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