LATE SUMMER 2011

Linn/Benton/Lincoln County Farm Service Agency

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

Linn/Benton/Lincoln Staff

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2011 FSA County Committee COC Nomination Deadline

County committees (COC) play a crucial role in helping the county office staff implement the Farm Bill. Due to the important services that COC members provide, producers are encouraged to participate in the FSA county committee election process by nominating an eligible candidate by the Aug. 1, 2011, deadline.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The form and other valuable information about FSA county committee elections are available online at: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_commiteeelectform.pdf

FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms. Committees consist of three to five members who are elected by eligible local producers.

Are YOU in Compliance?

- Before you tile or clear land:

If you plan to tile, fill, level or clear land it is important that you check with FSA well in advance. Any of these actions could put you in violation, and make you ineligible for all USDA benefits. Come to our office first to complete an AD-1026 form and indicate what you plan to do. NRCS will then make an evaluation, and give you guidance on what you may do and still remain in compliance.

Important points: (1) this type of violation makes you ineligible for the calendar year it is done; (2) you can be affected if your landlord is doing these,

- Planting fruits & vegetables (even for seed) could affect your payments:

If you participate in the DCP/ACRE program, planting fruits and vegetables (FAVs), even for seed, *on base acres* is prohibited. If FAVs are planted on base acres, this would be a violation that would either terminate the DCP/ACRE contract for the year or result in an acre-for-acre payment reduction, depending on if the specific farm has a history of FAV plantings. So, **before** you plant FAVs, check with our office to see if this would affect your payments.

- HEL determinations are needed on fields with annual crops

If you will be planting wheat or another annual crop for 2012, highly erodible determinations are required on those fields. The determinations, if already made, can be found on your tract maps beneath the field number and acres. HEL = highly erodible, NHEL = not highly erodible. If you're not sure that a determination has been made, contact our office. If the land is highly erodible a conservation system is required. NRCS can help you with this.

Compliance Spot Checks

Compliance spot checks will be conducted on 2011 crops. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, etc. for review, a nationwide selection of producers is employed. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program, etc. For more information about the spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact your local Farm Service Agency office for additional clarification.

NAP Coverage - Deadlines & Details

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available. NAP and/or Crop Insurance coverage on all crops is required for additional crop disaster programs.

Application Closing Dates: (list may include insurable crops)

Oct. 1	Asparagus, garlic, mint, hops, meadow foam, sugar beet, triticale grain
Nov. 20	Apples, apricots, blueberries, cane berries, chestnuts, cherries, cranberries, grapes, hazelnuts, honey, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, prunes, strawberries, walnuts
Nov. 30	All forage and grazing crops except oats. All grasses and legumes for seed.
Mar. 15	Beans, broccoli, cantaloupe, cauliflower, corn, cucumber, lentils, mustard, oats, peas, potatoes, pumpkin, safflower, sunflower, squash, tomato, watermelon
May 15	Buckwheat

Producers who already have coverage on 2011 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2012, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop(s).

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee. **Service fees are $250 per crop pay type, not to exceed $750 per county, not to exceed $2,250 per producer.**

RMA Crop Insurance

Risk Management Agency (RMA) oversees the crop insurance program designed:

- To help producers when they need it the most;
- To provide a safety net compatible with international trade commitments;
- To create products and services that are market driven;
- To harness the strengths of both the public and private sectors; and
- To reflect the diversity of the farm sector in its outreach activities and programs.

For details, visit http://www.rma.usda.gov/.

Oregon Sales Closing Dates: (can vary, so producers should consult a crop insurance agent to discuss their options)

September 30	Alfalfa Seed
September 30	Apiculture
September 30**	Barley
September 30	Forage Production
September 30**	Mint
September 30	Pasture, Rangeland, Forage
September 30	Wheat
March 15	Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite (new insured's only as cancellation date is January 31)
March 15	Barley
March 15	Canola
March 15	Corn
March 15	Dry Beans
March 15	Dry Peas
March 15	Green Peas
March 15	Mint
March 15	Mustard
March 15	Oats
March 15	Potatoes
March 15	Processing Beans
March 15	Sugar Beets
March 15	Sweet Corn

**Acreage insured under the winter coverage option.

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

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

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Disaster Assistance

The Farm Service Agency would like to remind crop and livestock producers throughout states that have recently experienced severe damage from heavy rains, flooding, wildfires and tornadoes that FSA programs are available to assist with recovery.

FSA administers several important programs that help producers recover from disaster damage and livestock deaths. Among the key programs available to address impacts from disasters are the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP), the Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program. Fact sheets for all of these programs can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov; click on Newsroom, then Fact Sheets.

We encourage all who have suffered a disaster due to the recent severe weather conditions to read the fact sheets and visit their local FSA county office so they get a quick start in the recovery process.

Successor-In-Interest

Many FSA programs will allow payments to be made to heirs or successors when a program participant passes away. Additionally, contracts in programs such as CRP must be revised to reflect the successor(s) to a deceased participant's interest.

In the event of an FSA program participant's death, it is important that FSA be notified. Entities and joint operations that participate in FSA programs also need to notify FSA if a shareholder or member passes away. FSA benefits are reported to IRS and maintaining current, accurate records about participants is vital to ensuring that those payments are reported correctly.

FSA Farm Loans

FSA 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 Guaranteed Loan** if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or 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** can reach a maximum indebtedness of $1,119,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for Socially Disadvantaged Applicants (SDA).

Socially disadvantaged applicants are from groups whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as a member of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

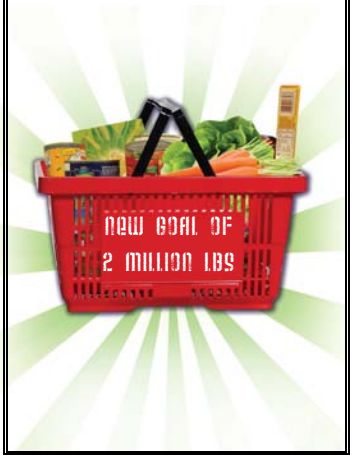
If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact their local FSA office for details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

FOOD DRIVE!

Feds, Farmers, and Friends Feed Families

Children and families are in great need of donated food this summer. USDA employees, farmers, and friends are joining together to combat hunger at USDA office throughout the country; and the government's goal is to collect 2 million pounds of food nationwide.

Now through August 31, 2011, please bring in your non-perishable items and place them in one of the donation boxes. To coordinate large donations, feel free to contact your local FSA office. For details, visit www.FedsFeedFamilies.gov



Adjusted Gross Income

USDA and the Internal Revenue Service have an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent will be required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to USDA. This process is to ensure that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are $500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; $750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and $1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs. Participants in CCC programs subject to AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) to the IRS to avoid interruption of program benefits. These forms may be obtained from FSA and NRCS offices.

Marketing Assistance Loans

A 9-month Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) takes title to the commodity. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets CCC minimum grade and quality standards.

For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan. Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans. The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

Farm Safety

Summer is an exciting and hectic time on (Linn/Benton/Lincoln) farms. **Be careful**. (Linn/Benton/Lincoln) FSA employees care about our customers.

Remember to: Walk around machinery and check shields and guards; make sure the PTO's master shield is in place; make sure Slow Moving Vehicle signs are on machinery.

If you are taking medicine, take it at the appropriate time and eat on schedule.

If you are working in grain bins know that flowing grain can kill, and it can kill quickly. It takes less than five seconds for a person caught in flowing grain to be trapped. Try not to work alone in bins or confined spaces, and if that's not possible let someone know where you are by checking in regularly by cell phone.

The American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) offers the following safety tips for farmers:

1. Educate yourself on farm equipment. Read and follow instructions according to the equipment's manuals about safety.
2. Conduct regular equipment inspections.
3. Don't wear loose clothing while entering confined spaces such as grain bins, silos and hoppers as this can prevent entanglements.
4. Install Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS) on tractors.
5. Use seat belts while operating tractors with a ROPS. Do not allow additional passengers on the tractor with you.
6. While operating tractors and other farm equipment, be very cautious on rural roadways.
7. Use protective gear when operating machinery: Be familiar with hazardous chemicals. Take extra precaution when handling chemicals such as anhydrous ammonia, carbon dioxide, methane gas and hydrogen sulfide.
8. Consistently educate your family and co-workers about safety practices, especially children.

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USDA United States Department of Agriculture

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Foreign Landowner Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Selected Interest Rates for July 2011	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	2.375%
Direct Farm Ownership & Conservation	4.750%
Limited Resource	5.000%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans - 7 year	2.375%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%

Dates to Remember	
1 Aug	COC Nomination Due in County Office
	DCP Sign Up ends
	Reconstitutions Request Deadline
31 Aug	NAP and RMA Sales Closing Date
1 Sept	2010 ACRE Certification Deadline
5 Sept	Office Closed - Labor Day Holiday
10 Oct	Office Closed - Columbus Day Holiday
4 Nov	COC Ballots mailed
Ongoing	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

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