



MALHEUR COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY



March 2012

Malheur County FSA Office

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Tammy Chamberlain, FLOT
Denise Bishop, PT
Carla Dillon, PT
Maria Lujan, PT
Lori Yokom, PT

Office Hours

Monday through Friday
8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

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Producers can now enroll in this new GovDelivery system for notices, newsletters and electronic reminders. FSA, like many other organizations, is working smarter and more efficiently by moving to electronic notifications to conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars.

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MILC Requirements Reminder:

Dairy producers must meet program requirements to maintain program eligibility. MILC participants must notify their local FSA office of any operation changes, such as a change in producer, shares, address or bank routing number.

Dairy producers applying for MILC payment must meet adjusted gross income (AGI) requirements by completing, "*CCC-931 - AGI Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information*."

For MILC enrollment, dairy producers must fill out, "*CCC-580 - Milk Income Loss Contract*" and select a start-month for payments. Current dairies in MILC can make changes to their start-month with certain restrictions.

Any start-month changes must be made on or before the 14th of the month before the selected MILC production start-month. The change must also be made before requesting payment and before the original MILC production start-month has passed.

Changes to the dairy operation start-month must be designated on "*CCC-580M - Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) Modification*."

Reservoir Levels as of

March 10, 2012:

Owyhee: 79%

563747/715000

Warm Springs: 71%

119613/169639

Beulah: 68%

40155/59900

Bully Creek: 73%

17202/23676

Unity: 54%

13605/25200

Phillips: 56%

41005/73000

Thief Valley: 103%

13652/13307

*According to BOR web-site:
www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/owytea.html

Farm Loans:

Loan applications are being accepted for farm operating and ownership purposes. Operating loans include annual operating expenses, farm equipment and livestock purchases, and refinancing related debt. Ownership loans include the purchase or enlargement of a farm, or the construction and/or repair of buildings.

FSA provides Direct and Guarantee loan assistance for Beginning Farmers and Socially Disadvantaged producers as well. Youth loans are available for 4-H and FFA members' ages 10 through 20 who want to start any income producing enterprise recommended by their leader.

CRP General Sign-up:

There will be a four-week Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general signup which will begin on March 12, 2012 and end on April 6, 2012.

CRP is a voluntary program available to agricultural producers to help them use environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion and develop wildlife habitat. In return participants receive rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years. Producers with expiring contracts and producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP. Producers also are encouraged to look into CRP's other enrollment opportunities offered on a continuous, non-competitive, signup basis.

For more information on CRP and other FSA programs, visit a local FSA service center or go online at www.fsa.usda.gov.

2012 DCP/ACRE Sign-up:

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment begins Jan. 23, 2012 and ends June 1, 2012.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- All producers planting on **DCP base** acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.
- Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1st in DCP/ACRE **must** be reported to your local FSA office such as: Ownership changes, Producer changes (Individuals and Entities, Change in crop shares arrangements).

*No changes are allowed after Sept. 30, 2012.

New Continuous CRP Initiative:

FSA has announced a new conservation initiative to protect up to 750,000 acres of the nation's most highly erodible croplands. This initiative will assist producers with targeting their most highly erodible cropland (land with an erodibility index of 20 or greater) by enabling them to plant wildlife-friendly, long-term cover through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Producers can enroll land on a continuous basis beginning this summer at their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office. With the use of soil survey and geographic information system data, local FSA staff can quickly determine a producer's eligibility for the initiative.

Producers are encouraged to contact the local FSA office or visit FSA's website at www.fsa.usda.gov/crp for additional information regarding CRP.

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 is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Customer Statement:

Producers with an USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account will be able to access their farm data via their Customer Statement. The Customer Statement puts a range of USDA services and programs into a single report that's available online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

It allows USDA customers to view their participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation programs; information on farm loans, conservation plan and land unit information.

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers:

FSA assists 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 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 USDA Service Center. You may visit www.fsa.usda.gov

Reasonable Accommodations:

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the FSA County Office staff, and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are necessary.

Dates to Remember:

March 15, 2012: Deadline for NAP Coverage on spring planted crops (beans, broccoli, camelina, cantaloupe, cauliflower, corn, cucumbers, lentils, mustard, oats, peas, potatoes, pumpkins, safflower, sunflower, squash, tomato, watermelon)

April 6, 2012: Deadline for the general CRP sign-up

June 1, 2012: **DCP/Acre Deadline and Deadline to submit forms to IRS for AGI compliance.**

June 30, 2012: **Acreage Reporting Deadline**

Within 15 days: Notice of Loss (FSA-576) must be filed within 15 days of loss or when the loss became apparent.

Attention Agricultural group members and leaders: Would you like FSA to come to your meeting and talk about what FSA has to offer to you? If so contact Wes Jennings or Jon Mills at 541-889-9689 extension 2 or by email at wes.jennings@or.usda.gov or jon.mills@or.usda.gov.

**Malheur County FSA Office
2925 SW 6th Ave. Suite 3
Ontario, OR 97914**

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Special Accommodations:

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USDA regulations prohibit discrimination in USDA programs because of your race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, disability; or because all or part of your income is derived from any public assistance program; or because you have filed a program complaint, participated in any program complaint proceeding, or opposed a prohibited practice.

If you believe that you have been discriminated against for any of the reasons stated above, you may file a complaint with the Director, Office of Adjudication and Compliance, United States Department of Agriculture, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20250-9410."