



MALHEUR COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Newsletter Date

July 2008

Malheur County FSA Office

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County Committee Members

Christie Amick, Chairperson
Roger Findley, Vice-Chair
Scott Cruickshank, Member
Brian Kameshige, Advisor

Office Staff

Wes Jennings, CED
Jon Mills, FLM
Maria Lopez, FLO
Kyle Pottala, FLO
Denise Bishop, PT
Darlene Brandt, PT
Carla Dillon, PT
Maria Lujan, PT
Lori Yokom, PT

Office Hours

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

DCP Sign-ups have begun:

Sign-ups began on June 25, 2008 for the 2008 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP). Contracts are available at the Malheur County Service Center and sign-ups will continue until September 30, 2008.

USDA computes DCP payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. For 2008, eligible producers may request to receive an advance payment of 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. USDA will issue advance direct payments as soon as practical after enrollment. Final direct payments will be issued after Oct. 1, 2008.

Counter-cyclical payments vary depending on market prices, and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price (which takes into account the direct payment rate, market price and loan rate).

A producer on a farm will not receive DCP payments if the sum of the base acres of covered commodities on the farm is 10 acres or less. However, this provision does not apply if the farm is wholly owned by either a socially disadvantaged or limited resource farmer or rancher. If the farm is owned by a legal entity, such as a corporation, each shareholder, partner, or member of the entity must be a socially disadvantaged or limited resource farmer or rancher.

Again, participants must submit the **completed DCP contract by September 30, 2008**. Applications filed after this date will not be approved. Please contact the office at (541) 889-9689 ext. 2 to make an appointment.

Farm Reconstitutions:

Farms are made up of groups of tracts or fields 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. The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1, 2008** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

Proper Signature Authority:

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office. Acceptable signatures for general partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, estates, and trusts shall consist of an indicator "by" or "for" the individual's name, individual's name and capacity, or individual's name, capacity, and name of entity.

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Report Crop Losses:

Producers who have suffered crop losses due to weather should report those losses to the FSA office within 15 days of the disaster event or if the crop will not be carried to harvest. **This is a requirement for producers who have NAP coverage.** Reporting crop losses is also recommended for other producers so an accurate appraisal of damage can be performed. This information is essential for documentation of losses in the event of a disaster program.

Crop Reporting Deadline Extended:

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Marketing Assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

The certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The producer certification **deadline has been extended to August 15, 2008.**

CRP & NAP Certification:

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Prevented Planting:

Prevented planting is to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

Failed Acreage:

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

2005-2007 Quality Loss Crop Disaster Signup:

Signup for quality losses under the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) began on June 23, 2008. The CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered losses to their 2005-2007 crops from natural disasters and related conditions. Producers who incurred qualifying quantity or quality losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 may receive benefits for only one of these years. However, producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple crops as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers must have suffered quality losses of at least 25 percent to be eligible for CDP Quality Loss.

For more information please contact Darlene at (541) 889-9689 ext. 2.

FSA Direct Loan Limits Increase:

With enactment of the new Farm Bill on May 22, 2008, the maximum direct loan amount that FSA is authorized to make under its Operating Loan (OL) program and Farm Ownership (FO) program has been increased from \$200,000 to \$300,000. This is welcome news for FSA farm loan customers, and helps the Agency's loan programs keep pace with rising operating costs and the cost of farm and ranch land.

Although direct Farm Ownership loan funds are somewhat limited until the beginning of the new fiscal year on October 1, 2008, direct Operating Loan funds remain available. If you have any questions about these expanded direct loan limits or the availability of loan funds be sure to contact our county office.

Beginning Farmer/Rancher Down-payment Loan Program Expanded:

FSA's direct Down-payment Loan Program for beginning farmers received a significant expansion in the new Farm Bill. In addition being available to help qualified beginning farmers and ranchers purchase farmland, this unique FSA loan program is now available to help women and minority farmers and ranchers as well. The maximum FSA loan possible under the program has been increased to \$225,000, and the previous purchase price limitation has been removed.

The interest rate under this expanded direct loan program can now be as low as 1.5 %, and the loan can have a term of up to 20 years. The loan can be secured with a second mortgage, behind the first mortgage of another lender willing to help in financing the purchase of the property, with or without an FSA loan guarantee. The minimum cash down-payment required of the loan applicant under this expanded loan program is 5% of the purchase price. For more information on this expanded loan program, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to assist.

Important Dates:

August 1, 2008: Last day to file nomination form

August 15, 2008: Acreage Reporting Deadline

September 16, 2008: Disaster Eligibility "Buy-in" Deadline

September 30, 2008: Deadline to enroll in DCP

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

Nominations for County Committee:

Candidate nominations for the FSA county committee election will be accepted **June 15 through Aug. 1, 2008**. Producers who are residents in LAA 1 holding the election and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates.

The nomination form, FSA-669A, is available at the county office or may be downloaded:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>

**Malheur County FSA Office
2925 SW 6th Ave. Suite 3
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Special Accommodations:

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communications of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington D.C., 20250, or call 1-800-245-6340 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer. Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please contact Wes Jennings at (541) 889-9689 ext. 2.