



NEWSLETTER



October 2012

Malheur County FSA Office

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Office Staff

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Tammy Chamberlain, FLO
Denise Bishop, PT
Maria Lujan, PT
Lori Yokom, PT

Office Hours

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

2013 Reporting of Fall Seeded Crops:

The annual, timely and accurate reporting of acres 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. FSA has re-aligned their acreage reporting deadlines to more closely match crop insurance reporting deadlines. Starting with the 2013 crop year, the following crop reporting deadlines are in place for ALL counties in Oregon:

August 15, 2012: Cabbage (planted 6/11-8/10)

November 15, 2012: Apiculture or PRF (Pasture, Rangeland, Forage): This deadline would be for any producer that purchases either an Apiculture or PRF insurance policy through a private insurance company.

December 15, 2012: Fall planted alfalfa seed, perennial forage (alfalfa, grass, hay, rangeland, etc.) fall mint, onions (planted 8/15-9-15), fall barley, fall canola, fall wheat and all other fall-seeded small grains.

January 2, 2013: Honey (The total number of Hives must be reported to the FSA office and any change in the overall numbers of hives to the operation must be reported within 30 days of the change.)

January 15, 2013: Apples, blueberries, cherries, cranberries, apricots, peaches, nectarines, grapes, pears and plums.

May 15, 2013: Cabbage (planted 3/12-4/20)

July 15, 2013: Spring planted alfalfa seed, spring barley, cabbage (planted 4/21-6/10), spring canola, corn, dry beans, dry peas, green peas, spring mint, mustard, oats, onions (planted 2/15-5/15), potatoes, processing beans, sugar beets, sweet corn, spring wheat, CRP, CREP, and all other crops that are not listed.

Failed Acreage and Prevented Planting:

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

The office is now ready to take your 2013 acreage reports, and we encourage all producers who have fall planted crops to come in and certify as soon as they are done planting. To make an appointment to certify your acreage (producers with fall and spring planted crops will have to come into the office twice), contact the office at (541) 889-9689 ext. 2.

Reservoir Levels as of

October 11, 2012:

Owyhee: 31%

22237/715000

Warm Springs: 25%

42218/169639

Beulah: 4%

2394/59900

Bully Creek: 5%

1226/23676

Unity: 8%

2044/25200

Phillips: 35%

25312/73000

Thief Valley: 2%

294/13307

*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.

2012 DCP Final Payments:

DCP payments for 2012 will be issued after Oct. 1, 2012. These payments will be deposited directly into participating producers' bank accounts.

If there are any unearned payments, Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically subtract those amounts from the October Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program payments.

USDA Announces Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period Now Open:

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced that Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims between September 24, 2012 and March 25, 2013.

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied their applications for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000.

As announced in February 2011, the voluntary claims process will make available at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

The Department will continue reaching out to potential Hispanic and female claimants, around the country to get the word out to individuals who may be eligible for this program so they have the opportunity to participate.

Call center representatives can be reached at 1-888-508-4429. Claimants must register for a claims package (by calling the number or visiting the website) and the claims package will be mailed to claimants. All those interested in learning more or receiving information about the claims process and claims packages are encouraged to attend meetings in your communities about the claims process and contact the website or claims telephone number.

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov

Phone: 1-888-508-4429

Claims Period: September 24, 2012 - March 25, 2013.

Independent legal services companies will administer the claims process and adjudicate the claims. Although there are no filing fees to participate and a lawyer is not required to participate in the claims process, persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

Farm Safety:

Flowing grain in a storage bin or gravity-flow wagon is like quicksand — it can kill quickly. It takes less than five seconds for a person caught in flowing grain to be trapped.

The mechanical aspects of grain handling equipment also presents a real danger. Augers, power take offs, and other moving parts can grab people or clothing.

These hazards, along with pinch points and missing shields, are dangerous enough for adults; not to mention children. It is always advisable to keep children a safe distance from operating farm equipment. Always use extra caution when backing or maneuvering farm machinery. Ensure everyone is visibly clear and accounted for before machinery is engaged.

FSA wants all farmers to have a productive crop year and that begins with putting safety first.

Increased Guaranteed Loan Limit:

The Farm Service Agency has announced that the loan limit for the Guaranteed Loan Program will increase to \$1,302,000 on Oct. 1, 2012. The limit is adjusted annually based on data compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The lending limit increases every year according to an inflation index. The maximum combined guaranteed and direct farm loan indebtedness will also increase to \$1,602,000.

As a reminder, the one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed Farm Ownership and Operating loans is 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan.

Producers should contact their local FSA County Offices with questions about farm loans.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program:

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the U.S. Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities.

For more information about FSFL visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

Rural Youth Loans:

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms.

Marketing Assistance Loans:

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity 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; beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may result in liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans.

IRS 1099 Changes:

Calendar year 2012 has brought changes to the way FSA reports farm program payments to the producer and to the IRS.

In past years, IRS Forms 1099-G would be issued to show all program payments received from the Farm Service Agency, regardless of the amount.

Starting with calendar year 2012, producers whose total reportable payments from FSA are less than \$600 will not receive IRS Form 1099-G. Also, producers who receive payments from more than one county will only receive one Form 1099-G if the total of all payments from all counties is \$600 or more.

The same changes will apply to producers and vendors who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA.

Dates to Remember:

November 12, 2012: Office Closed (Veteran's Day)

November 22, 2012: Office Closed (Thanksgiving)

November 30, 2012: Deadline for NAP Coverage on all forage and grazing crops except oats. All grasses and legumes for seed.

December 25, 2012: Office Closed (Christmas Day)

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.

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