



# MALHEUR COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY



December 2011

## **Malheur County FSA Office**

2925 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Ontario, OR 97914  
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F: (541) 889-4304  
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wes.jennings@or.usda.gov

## **County Committee Members**

Fred Eiguren, Chair  
Dan Corn, Vice-Chair  
Gary Davis, Member  
Brian Kameshige, Advisor

## **Office Staff**

Wes Jennings, CED  
Jon Mills, FLM  
Maria Lopez, FLO  
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.

## **Get GovDelivery eNews:**

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[www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe).

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.

County Committee ballots will still be mailed to all eligible producers. Once you subscribe, you will receive a message with the option to select from other USDA subscriptions also. GovDelivery will not share your email address with anyone for commercial or any other purposes.

To unsubscribe to GovDelivery at any time, please email [wes.jennings@or.usda.gov](mailto:wes.jennings@or.usda.gov).

## **County Committee (COC) Election Results:**

Congratulations to Fred Eiguren! Fred was elected to represent producers from Local Administrative Area (LAA) #1 on the Malheur County Committee. Fred was elected to his 2<sup>nd</sup> term on the COC.

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

## **County Committee Organizational Meeting:**

The committee members held their organizational meeting on December 12, 2011 to determine the organization of the COC. The structure of the Malheur COC for the 2012 calendar year will be as follows:

Fred Eiguren, COC Chairman

Dan Corn, COC Vice-Chairman

Gary Davis, COC Member

Brian Kameshige, COC Advisor

Malheur COC will hold their next Regular COC meetings at 1:00 P.M. the second Tuesday of February.

## Reservoir Levels as of

December 12, 2011:

**Owyhee: 67%**

**481327/715000**

**Warm Springs: 59%**

**99912/169639**

**Beulah: 41%**

**24548/59900**

**Bully Creek: 50%**

**11782/23676**

**Unity: 29%**

**7258/25200**

**Phillips: 51%**

**36913/73000**

**Thief Valley: 102%**

**13582/13307**

\*According to BOR web-site:  
[www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/owytea.html](http://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/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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

## 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 has been established.

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.

For additional information on this and other settlement issues contact:

### **Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process:**

[www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov) or  
1-888-508-4429

### **Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation:**

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

### **Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement:**

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

## IRS Form 1099-G:

Producers receive CCC-1099-Gs annually detailing payments from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The annual report of program payments on the CCC-1099-G is a service intended to help FSA customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the producers' responsibility to report income to the IRS.

FSA staff cannot interpret IRS regulations or advise producers about which payments to report on their income tax returns. However, county office staff can review payments for accuracy of data.

# 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.

## 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.

## Direct Deposit:

As of Jan 1, 1999, all payments issued by the county FSA office will be by direct deposit (electronic funds transfer) to a pre-designated checking or savings account with your financial institution. Forms are available at the FSA office to sign up for direct deposit if you haven't yet. For those already signed up, it is important that you notify the county office anytime there is a change in your account number or financial institution. If we are not notified timely, future payments may be delayed.

## 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.

## Dates to Remember:

**December 26, 2011:** Office Closed (Christmas Day)

**January 2, 2012:** Office Closed (New Year's Day)

**January 23, 2012:** 2012 DCP Enrollment begins.

**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)

**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](mailto:wes.jennings@or.usda.gov) or [jon.mills@or.usda.gov](mailto:jon.mills@or.usda.gov).

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Ontario, OR 97914

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## Special Accommodations:

"The Federal Equal Credit Opportunity Act prohibits creditors from discriminating against credit applicants on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, age (provided the applicant has the capacity to enter a binding contract); because all or part of the applicant's income derives from any public assistance program; or because the applicant has in good faith exercised any right under the Consumer Credit Protection Act. The Federal agency that administers compliance with this law is the Federal Trade Commission, Equal Credit Opportunity, Washington, D.C. 20580.

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."