



# NEWSLETTER



Winter 2012



## Marion County FSA Office

650 Hawthorne Ave SE  
Suite 130  
Salem, OR 97301

503-399-5741 Phone  
503-399-5799 Fax  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/OR](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/OR)

### Hours

Monday - Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### Marion County Staff

Martin Nguyen  
County Executive  
Director

Nancy Thompson  
Farm Loan Manager

Scott Nieman  
Farm Loan Officer

Lora Surmeyer  
Program Technician

Debbie Pothetes  
Program Technician

### County Committee

Molly McCargar  
Gary Butler  
John Beitel

### Website

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

## 2011 County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Molly McCargar! Molly was elected to represent farmers from Aurora, Brooks, Donald, Keizer, Hubbard, Gervais, Mt Angel, Silverton (North of Hwy 213), St Paul, and Woodburn on the county committee. Molly was elected to her first term.

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.

## Get GovDelivery eNews

Receive free e-mail updates and in some regions even newsletters now by visiting: [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.

## 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.

- Ownership, producer (Individuals and Entities), or crop shares arrangements changes on the farm after enrolling in DCP/ACRE beyond June 1<sup>st</sup> may affect your contract payments and **must** be reported to your local FSA office. No changes are allowed after Sept. 30, 2012.

Due to reduced staffing and budget levels this year we are unable to provide you with sign-up information through regular mail. Producers are encouraged to contact the Marion County FSA office and set an appointment for DCP sign-up and acreage reporting maps this year.

Please contact Debbie or Martin to make an appointment this year for DCP sign-up and acreage reporting. Please call us at 503-399-5741 x 2 to schedule an appointment or email us at [debbie.pothetes@or.usda.gov](mailto:debbie.pothetes@or.usda.gov) or [martin.nguyen@or.usda.gov](mailto:martin.nguyen@or.usda.gov).

## Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

The sign-up for 2010 losses in the SURE program runs through **June 1, 2012**. The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop year 2010. SURE is available to eligible producers with qualifying losses on:

- Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties, that have incurred crop production or quality losses, or both, and includes all crops grown by a producer nationwide, except grazed crops.
- Any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production on the farm because of disaster-related conditions is 50 percent or less than normal production of the farm.

**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.

## 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.

## Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency 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, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee 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 have a maximum limit of \$1,214,000.

The one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed loans has increased from 1 percent to 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan, for loans obligated after October 1, 2011.

To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

## LDPs for Unshorn Lamb Pelts

Eligible producers have until Jan. 31, 2012, to apply for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) for unshorn pelts produced during the 2011 crop year.

Eligible producers must have beneficial interest in the pelts, owned the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter. Producers must also comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands they operate or have interest in.

To qualify for payment, pelts must have

been produced by an eligible producer from live unshorn lambs of domestic origin in the United States.

## Disaster Assistance Programs

FSA disaster assistance programs include:

- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

To be eligible for the SURE, TAP and ELAP programs, producers must have purchased catastrophic risk protection insurance for all insurable crops, and NAP coverage for non-insurable crops. Sign-up ends Jan. 30, 2012, for LFP, LIP, and ELAP. Producers have 90 days from the time a loss is apparent to file an application for TAP.

Farm-Raised Fish means all fish being produced for sale by an eligible producer. In the case of honey, the term "farm" means all bees and beehives in all counties that are intended to be harvested for a honey crop by the eligible producer.

Producers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are not required to purchase the catastrophic insurance or NAP.

## 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.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of a group.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.



## Commodity Loans

Commodity loans, also referred to as Marketing Assistance Loans, are available to producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time of application. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for a loan — even if you regain beneficial interest.

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 on certification.



### Maintaining Grain Quality

Bins are ideally designed to hold a level volume of grain. When bins are overfilled and grain is heaped up, airflow is hindered and the chance of spoilage increases.

Producers who take out marketing assistance loans and use the farm-stored grain as collateral should remember that they are responsible for maintaining the quality of the grain through the term of the loan.

### Unauthorized Grain Disposition

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe and a producer's name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call FSA before you haul or use any grain under a commodity loan.

## Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

## 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

## 2012 Crop Reporting

If you have fall or perennial crops planted, call our office for an appointment to do your 2012 crop report. Take the time to get this done now before you get even busier with spring work.

## Farm Record Changes

If you are operating more or less land for 2012, or if there are any changes in your farming operation, contact us so we can update your farm records. One example would be changing land ownership from an individual to a revocable living trust.



Marion County FSA Office  
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 Salem, OR 97301



Selected Interest Rates for January 2012	
Farm Operating – Direct	1.500%
Farm Ownership – Direct	3.500%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency	3.750%
	1.375%
Farm Storage Facility	to 2.500
Commodity Loans	1.125%

Dates to Remember	
Jan. 16	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Office Closed)
Jan. 23	2012 DCP Enrollment begins
Jan. 30	Sign-up ends Jan. 30, 2012, for LFP, LIP, and ELAP.
Jan. 31	Deadline to apply for Unshorn Lamb Pelts Loan Deficiency Payment
Feb. 20	President’s Day (Office Closed)
Mar. 15	NAP Application Deadline for Spring Crops (beans, broccoli, camelina, cantaloupe, cauliflower, cucumber, lentils, mustard, pumpkin, safflower, sunflower, squash, tomato, watermelon)

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