

MARION COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY NEWS BITS

May 2009

Marion County FSA Committee:

Lori Pavlicek, Chairperson

John Beitel, Vice-Chairperson

Gary Butler, Regular Member

Martin Nguyen – CED (martin.nguyen@or.usda.gov)

REGULAR MEETING DATE – 2nd Thursday of the Month, most months



Marion County FSA Office

650 Hawthorne Avenue SE, Suite 130

Salem, Oregon 97301-5894

Phone: (503)399-5741

FAX (503)399-5799

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OR FSA - <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/or/or.htm>

USDA - <http://www.usda.gov>

FSA - <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/default.asp>

NRCS - <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>

FCIC - <http://www.act.fcic.usda.gov/>

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Dates to Note:

June 15, 2009 - County Committee Election Nomination Period Opens For LAA #2

June 30, 2009 - Crop Acreage Certification Signup Deadline

July 3, 2009 - Office Closed, Independence Day (Holiday Observed)

August 3, 2009 - County Committee Nomination Filing Deadline

August 14, 2009 - 2009 DCP Signup Deadline

New Marion County Executive Director

Beginning May 26, 2009, Martin Nguyen became the Executive Director of the Marion County FSA Office. Martin grew up in Yamhill County and during college began working for Farm Service Agency digitizing farm and acreage information for our changeover from the 2 foot square photos to working with digital photography on the computer. After college Martin became a County Office Trainee, and then became a County Executive Director in Umatilla County, and most recently in Sherman County prior to coming to Marion County. Martin is excited to get back to the Willamette Valley and looks forward to working with the people here.

DCP and ACRE Signup Extended

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been extended until August 14, 2009. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications. Signup for the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) option is also available through August 14, 2009. *(Please see the back page for additional information about the ACRE program.)*

FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market process. For 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. In some states, FSA is already issuing advance direct payments. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service will save you time, reduce paperwork and speed up contract processing at FSA offices. It is available to anyone eligible to participate in the DCP Program. To access this on-line service, you must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

Deadline to Certify Your Crop Acreage for 2009

June 30, 2009 is the deadline to certify the crop acreages on your farm(s). Acreage reports (FSA-578's) filed after June 30, 2009 shall be considered "late-filed." Operators wanting to file an acreage report after June 30, 2009 shall be assessed a fee of \$46 per FSA farm and be subject to an on-the-farm spot-check. Spot-checks do require physical evidence of the crop or crop residue, a verification of the crop's use, and ability to determine the acreage for each crop on that farm.

You may certify your crop acreage once you have all crops intended for 2009 harvest planted on your farm(s). It has been important, historically, to certify acreage to qualify for program participation. Please make sure you have received your envelope containing the photos for certifying where your crops are planted. If you have not received your acreage certification packet from our office, or if you have questions, please contact Debbie Pothetes about DCP, ACRE and crop acreage certifications at (503) 399-5741 ext. 111, or at debbie.pothetes@or.usda.gov

2009 County Committee Elections for Local Administrative Area (LAA) #2

County Committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA at the local level. Farmers and Ranchers who serve on County Committees assist with the decisions necessary to administer the programs within their respected counties. To hold office as a County Committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria. These are: (1) participate or cooperate in a program administered by the FSA, (2) be eligible to vote in a County Committee election, and (3) reside within the LAA in which the person is a candidate. Furthermore, the nominee must not have been: (1) removed or disqualified from the office as a County Committee member, (2) removed for a cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement, or any other felony, or (3) dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

The 2009 County Committee election is for LAA #2 this year. LAA #2 is defined as the area of the county south of Highway 213 and north of Highway 22 from the Willamette River east to the county boundary with Jefferson and Wasco County. The nomination period begins June 15, 2009. Interested persons are asked to complete the attached FSA-699A and return it to the Marion County FSA Office. The last day to turn in nominations is August 3, 2009. Please stop by or contact us if you have any additional questions.

Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) Program

The 2008 Farm Bill reauthorizes the MILC Program through September 30, 2012, with some program changes such as, the payment rate and per-operation poundage limits are modified, and a "feed cost adjuster" has been introduced. Also new, are some provision changes for payment eligibility and Adjusted Gross Income (AGI).

What Is ACRE?

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is a new program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill. The ACRE program signup began April 27, 2009, and for 2009 runs through August 14, 2009. The ACRE Election provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price.

Producers who elect the ACRE program for a farm also agrees to:

- Forgo counter-cyclical payments;
- Accept a 20-percent reduction of the direct payments; and
- Accept a 30-percent reduction in loan rates for all commodities produced on the farm

Commodities eligible for ACRE payments are wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, peanuts, soybeans, sunflower seed, canola flaxseed, safflower, mustard seed, rapeseed, sesame seed, crambe, dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas and large chickpeas.

Created to give producers an option in lieu of traditional counter-cyclical payments, producers may elect and enroll in ACRE for the 2009 crop year even if they have already accepted advance direct payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program. To elect ACRE for a farm, producers must complete Form CCC-509 ACRE, which irrevocably elects ACRE for the farm through crop year 2012. Form CCC-509, the contract to participate in ACRE, must then be completed each year the producer intends to participate and receive benefits.

FSA-669A

(04-17-09)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

The County FSA Committee election will be held on the first Monday of December. Ballots will be mailed to voters not less than 4 weeks before the election.

This form allows individuals to nominate themselves or any other person as a candidate. If additional forms are needed, this one may be copied or may be obtained at the County FSA Office or obtained electronically at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov>. Each form submitted must be:

- A. Limited to one nominee.
- B. Signed and dated by the nominee in Item 4. Nominee must sign if willing to have his/her name placed on the ballot and agrees to serve if elected.

Note: Name shown on ballot will appear exactly the same as in Agency records.

- C. Delivered to the County FSA Office or postmarked no later than August 3.

The County FSA Committee is responsible for reviewing each form to determine the eligibility of nominees. A person who files this form and is found ineligible will be so notified and have an opportunity to file a challenge.

Persons nominated should actively participate in the operation of a farm or ranch and be well qualified for committee work. A producer is eligible to be a County FSA committee member if the producer resides in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) in which the election is to be held and is eligible to vote.

Federal regulations may prohibit County FSA Committee members from holding certain positions in some farm, commodity, and political organizations if such positions pose a conflict of interest with FSA duties. The positions include functional offices such as president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer; and positions on boards or executive committees. Conflict of interest restrictions also apply to employees, operators, managers, and majority owners of tobacco warehouses. Questions concerning eligibility should be directed to the County FSA Office.

A candidate has the option to request that all voted ballots for an individual county committee election be returned to the respective State Office in lieu of being returned to the county office. This request must be in writing and submitted to the local County Executive Director prior to the announced end of the nomination period.

The duties of County FSA Committee members include:

- A. Administering farm program activities conducted by the County FSA Office.
- B. Informing farmers of the purpose and provisions of the FSA programs.
- C. Keeping the State FSA Committee informed of LAA conditions.
- D. Monitoring changes in farm programs.
- E. Participating in county meetings as necessary.
- F. Performing other duties as assigned by the State FSA Committee

FSA-669A (04-17-09)	U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency
<h2 style="margin: 0;">NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION</h2>	

1. NAME OF NOMINEE <i>(Type or print Nominee's Full Name)</i>	TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE	
3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION <i>I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.</i>	5. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE <i>(MM-DD-YYYY)</i> 6A. COUNTY 6B. LAA NO. 7. STATE
4A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE	4B. DATE <i>(MM-DD-YYYY)</i>
DATE OF ELECTION IS 1st MONDAY OF DECEMBER OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR	

8. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE

VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES: The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.

ETHNICITY <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> America Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	GENDER <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
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INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM

- Complete the form as follows:
- ITEM 1** Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be:
 - A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election.
 - B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member.
 - C. Willing to serve if elected.
 - ITEM 2** Enter the nominee's current address.
 - ITEM 3** The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.
 - ITEM 4** The nominee must sign and date.
 - ITEM 8** Completing this item is voluntary.

ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 3.

NOTE: *The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a) and the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, as amended. The authority for requesting the following information is 7 CFR Part 7. The information will be used to obtain nominees for County FSA Committee.*

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.