

May 2014



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## Marion-Polk County FSA Updates

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### Marion-Polk County FSA Office

650 Hawthorne Ave SE Ste 130  
Salem, OR 97301-5894

Phone: 503-399-5741  
Fax: 1-888-858-8382

**County Executive Director:**  
Janelle Huserik, x114

**Farm Loan Manager:**  
Scott Nieman, x113

**Farm Loan Officer:**  
Stuart Butsch, x115

**Program Technicians:**  
Bev Schmidt, x100  
Debbie Pothetes, x111  
Lora Surmeyer, Farm Loans,  
x116

**Next County Committee Meeting:** September 17 at  
8:30 am

### 2014 Acreage Reporting Deadline Approaching

With the 2014 Farm Bill passed, and anticipation of 2014 programs being released later this year, it is important to timely complete the Acreage Reporting requirement now. We understand that many of you are unsure if you would like to continue to participate, but we encourage you to timely file your acreage report in order to alleviate late-file fees or program eligibility issues in the future. After spring and summer plantings, producers should certify their 2014 acreage by **July 15, 2014**.

To schedule an appointment please contact the office at 503-399-5741 extension 2 or email [Debbie.pothetes@or.usda.gov](mailto:Debbie.pothetes@or.usda.gov) or [Beverly.schmidt@or.usda.gov](mailto:Beverly.schmidt@or.usda.gov).

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### Dairy Indemnity Payment Program

The 2014 Farm Bill authorized the extension of the Dairy Indemnity Payment Program (DIPP) through September 30, 2018. DIPP provides payments to dairy producers and manufacturers of dairy products when they are directed to remove their raw milk or products from the market because of contamination.

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## **GovDelivery Customers are NOT Impacted by the Heartbleed Bug**

GovDelivery customer subscriptions are not affected by the heartbleed bug.

This bug has caused major security concerns among users of cloud technology. The Heartbleed bug refers to a flaw in an encryption tool used on the Internet that can expose data that is meant to be hidden.

Your GovDelivery account and information is safe. Nothing in the GovDelivery network architecture is affected by this bug.

You can find out more about the Heartbleed bug at <http://heartbleed.com/>

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## **Guaranteed Loan Program**

The Farm Service Agency loan limit for the Guaranteed Loan Program is \$1,355,000. The limit is adjusted annually based on data compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The maximum combined guaranteed and direct farm loan indebtedness is \$1,655,000.

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.

### **Guaranteed Loan Eligibility**

Changes to FSA regulations have removed Guaranteed Operating Loan term limits. Previous and current guaranteed loan borrowers who were not eligible for further guaranteed loans due to the previous 15 year eligibility term limit may now be eligible for further guaranteed loans through their commercial lender.

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## **Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Compliance**

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, they must be compliant with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions. Farmers with HEL determined soils must apply tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements as specified in their conservation plan.

Producers should notify FSA prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to ensure compliance. If you intend to clear any trees to create new cropland, these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure any work will not jeopardize your eligibility for benefits.

Landowners and operators can complete form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is necessary.

For more information on Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation provisions, contact a FSA County Office or visit the FSA website at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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## Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program Sign-Up Period for 2012 Crop Losses Begins

Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that sign-up begins today for 2012 crop losses under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program. The program, established by the 2008 Farm Bill, provides for one final period of eligibility for producers suffering crop losses caused by natural disasters occurring through Sept. 30, 2011, for crops intended for 2012 harvest.

To be eligible for SURE, a farm or ranch must have at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance resulting from a disaster occurring on or before Sept. 30, 2011. A crop of economic significance contributes at least five percent of the expected revenue for a producer's farm. Additionally, the crop must also meet the following eligibility criteria:

- > The crop must be considered a 2012 crop which means, in general, that the crop was intended for harvest in 2012;
- > For insured crops, the coverage period must have begun on or before Sept. 30, 2011;
- > For crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Assistance Program, the coverage period must have begun on or before Sept. 30, 2011.
- > The final planting date, according to the specific coverage for the crop, must have been on or before Sept. 30, 2011.

Note: A producer who only plants fall seeded or spring seeded crops with a final planting date on Oct. 1, 2011 or later) cannot meet the above eligibility criteria and will not be eligible for the 2012 SURE program.

- > A policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program for all economically significant crops;
- > Been physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Secretary of Agriculture under a Secretarial Disaster Designation. Without a Secretarial Disaster Designation, individual producers may be eligible if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster. A "farm" for SURE purposes means the entirety of all crop acreage in all counties that a producer planted or intended to be planted for harvest for normal commercial sale or on-farm livestock feeding, including native and improved grassland intended for haying.

Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program coverage.

Farmers and ranchers interested in signing up must do so before the Aug. 29, 2014, deadline.

For more information on the 2012 SURE program, visit any USDA Service Center or online at [www.fsa.usda.gov/sure](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sure).

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USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).

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