

December 2013



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## Marion-Polk County FSA Updates

*The Salem FSA office continues to take appointments for any 2014 crops planted at this time to ensure timely filing of crop acreage reports, and also to report any farm record changes. Also, the new County Committee election ballots are scheduled to be mailed late this week, so check your mailbox. Please see the articles below for details about deadlines and other information that may pertain to you. We hope you all have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year through this holiday season!*

Thanks,  
Janelle Huserik, CED

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### Marion-Polk County FSA Office Dates to Remember

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

Phone: 503-399-5741x2  
Fax: 503-399-5799

**County Executive Director:**  
Janelle Huserik

**Program Technicians:**  
Debbie Pothetes  
Beverly Schmidt

**Farm Loan Manager:**  
Scott Nieman  
Phone: 503-399-5741x113

- **December 16, 2013:** Acreage Reporting Deadline
- **December 20, 2013:** New COC Election Ballots to be mailed
- **December 25, 2013:** Office Closed; Christmas Holiday
- **January 1, 2014:** Office Closed; New Year's Holiday
- **January 15, 2014:** Acreage Reporting Deadline
- **January 17, 2014:** COC Election Ballots deadline returned to office or postmarked
- **January 22, 2014:** COC Meeting and Election Ballot Counting
- **January 31, 2014:** Deadline to apply for LDP unshorn pelts for 2013 crop year
- **January 31, 2014:** Marion SWCD Director Applications Due (see article)

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### LDP's for Unshorn Lamb Pelts

Eligible producers have until Jan. 31, 2014, to apply for Loan Deficiency

**Next County Committee Meeting:** January 22, 2014 at 8:30 AM

Payments (LDP) for unshorn pelts produced during the 2013 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.

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## 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 members of 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 the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

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

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## FSA Advises Producers to Anticipate Payment Reductions Due to Mandated Sequester

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is reminding farmers and ranchers who participate in FSA programs to plan accordingly in FY2014 for automatic spending reductions known as sequestration. The Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA) mandates that federal agencies implement automatic, annual reductions to discretionary and mandatory spending limits. For mandatory programs, the sequestration rate for FY2014 is 7.2%. Accordingly, FSA is implementing sequestration for the following programs:

- Dairy Indemnity Payment Program;
- Marketing Assistance Loans;
- Loan Deficiency Payments;
- Sugar Loans;
- Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program;
- Tobacco Transition Payment Program;
- 2013 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payments;
- 2013 Average Crop Revenue Election Program;
- 2011 and 2012 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program;
- Storage, handling; and Economic Adjustment Assistance for upland cotton

Conservation Reserve Program payments are specifically exempt by statute from sequestration, thus these payments will not be reduced.

These sequester percentages reflect current law estimates; however with the continuing budget uncertainty, Congress still may adjust the exact percentage reduction. Today's announcement intends to help producers plan for the impact of sequestration cuts in FY2014.

At this time, FSA is required to implement the sequester reductions. Due to the expiration of the Farm Bill on September 30, FSA does not have the flexibility to cover these payment reductions in the same manner as in FY13. FSA will provide notification as early as practicable on the specific payment reductions.

For information about FSA programs, visit your county USDA Service Center or go to [www.fsa.usda.gov/](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/).

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## **FSA Announces the Resumption of 2013 Crop Commodity Loan Disbursements**

The Farm Service Agency has resumed processing and disbursement of 2013 crop commodity loans. Crop year 2013 commodity loan-making was suspended Oct. 1, 2013, to make changes necessary to accommodate the automatic funding reductions known as sequester.

The commodity loan programs provide interim financing to producers for agricultural commodities stored after harvest and then sold throughout the year. Producers requesting 2013 crop commodity loans on their harvested commodities now will have a 5.1 percent reduction to the loan amount upon its disbursement, due to the sequestration. Commodity loans issued by marketing associations and loan servicing agents are also subject to the sequestration reduction.

During the period that loan-making was suspended, producers were still able to submit loan applications to their county FSA offices, marketing associations and loan servicing agents. The processing and disbursement of these applications will begin immediately.

For further information about commodity marketing loans, farmers may contact their local FSA office or go online to [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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## **A Message from Marion SWCD: Director Vacancies**

Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has two Director vacancies on their board, Zone 2 and At Large #2. Interested individuals will temporarily serve through December 31, 2014. For more information, including the requirements and a director application, please visit the District's website at [www.marionswcd.net](http://www.marionswcd.net) or call Jane Keppinger, District Manager at 503-391-9927. Applications will be accepted through January 31, 2014 and may be emailed, dropped off or mailed to the District office.

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