



SERVICE CENTER

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Morrow County FSA

PO Box 786

Heppner, OR 97836

541-676-9011 x 2 (phone)

541-676-9624 (fax)

Hours

Monday—Friday

8:00 am—4:30 pm

County Committee

Chair: Todd Lindsay—LAA 2

Vice Chair: Tim Rust—LAA 1

Member: Anne Morter—LAA 3

Staff

Lorrie Fox

Adam Doherty

Bobbette Lovgren

Director

Darcy Vial

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FSA UPDATES

Morrow County FSA Hires New CED

Darcy Vial has just joined the FSA team in Morrow County, as the new CED.

Darcy grew up in the Willamette Valley, and graduated from Oregon State University in 2006 with degrees in Animal Science and General Agriculture.

Prior to coming to Morrow County, Darcy trained in the Oregon FSA COT (County Operations Trainee) program since September 2007. She has trained

in the Wasco, Lane, Baker and Harney County offices.

Darcy says:

“I am excited to be living and working in Morrow County, and excited to meet the producers we serve and learn about their operations.

Please feel free to stop in to the office at any time—my door is always open!”



**Darcy Vial
Morrow County FSA CED**

CRP News — Critical Feed Use

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) participants with certain established vegetative cover may voluntarily have their CRP contract modified by CCC to utilize certain land enrolled in CRP for critical feed use, including haying and grazing. To ensure protection of the resources, critical feed use is not authorized during the primary bird nesting or brood-rearing seasons. The more environmentally sensitive land will not be eligible for haying and grazing and must be left undisturbed. This modification for critical feed use is only available in 2008 after the primary nesting season ends. (July 16—Nov. 10, 2008 is the authorized haying and grazing period in Oregon.)

Participants who request a voluntary modification to the CRP contract to allow critical feed use must also obtain a modified conservation plan for haying and grazing management in accordance with NRCS Field Office Technical Guide haying and grazing standards. The modified plan will provide for haying or grazing in a manner that is consistent with the conservation goals of the CRP to reduce soil erosion and enhance water quality and wildlife habitat.

No payment reduction will be assessed on contracts being utilized for this critical feed use. Producers will be required to pay a fee of \$75 for the modification of each CRP contract. S

Signup begins June 2, 2008. Contact the Morrow FSA Office at (541) 676-9011 x 2 to schedule an appointment.

Dates to Remember:

June 2—Signup Begins

July 16—1st day to graze/hay

Nov. 10—All haying/grazing must be completed

Notes:

Cannot graze/hay within 120' of a stream or permanent water body

Can sign up anytime between June 2—Nov. 10

Morrow County Committee Elections



Nominations due by:
August 1, 2008

One of FSA's responsibilities is to hold County Committee elections in an open manner that ensures accountability. County FSA Offices will provide local organizations representing socially disadvantaged groups with detailed information about the COC election process. FSA is reaching out to agricultural communities to get equitable representation on their county committees.

Morrow County is served by three COC members—One member from North Morrow County (LAA 1), one member from Southeast Morrow County (LAA 2) and one member from Southwest Morrow County (LAA 3). Each member serves a three year term. Each year, one LAA holds an election. This year, LAA 2, served by Todd Lindsay will elect their representative. A County Committee Election Fact Sheet and Nomination form will be mailed soon to each producer in Southeast Morrow County.

Groups representing socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, will be actively solicited for COC election candidates, and encouraged to fill out a nomination form (**FSA-669A**). Under represented farmers and ranchers are encouraged to step up and participate in their county's COC election process.

COC election fact sheets can be found online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under the News & Events tab on the FSA homepage.

June 30, 2008

Acreage Reports Due

Certification: Report Crop Acres

File an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, to prevent loss of benefits for a variety of FSA programs.

All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from: Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP), marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and Non-insured

Assistance Program (NAP).

Crop reports on form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. Producers are required to file reports by June 30, 2008.

Prevented Planted crops need to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

Failed Acreage reports must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

Contact the office if you haven't already come in to certify your acreage.

Farm Bill Update

After voting to override the President's veto, the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, (commonly known as the Farm Bill) was passed on May 23, 2008.

In the following weeks, the national office in

Washington D.C. will be working to interpret the Farm Bill and the programs that it will provide to American farmers and ranchers.

After the Farm Bill is interpreted, and national training has occurred, the Morrow County FSA staff will receive training and further information.

We know that everyone will have questions about the new Farm Bill, and what it means for each producer. As soon as the Morrow FSA office receives training, we will pass the information along to producers through mailings and local meetings.

Watch for more information to come!



FSA Direct Loans Increase

With enactment of the new Farm Bill, the maximum direct loan amount that FSA is authorized to make under its Operating Loan (OL) program and Farm Ownership (FO) program has been increased from \$200,000 to \$300,000. This is welcome news for FSA farm loan customers, and helps the Agency's loan programs keep pace with rising operating costs and the cost of farm and ranch land.

Although direct Farm Ownership loan funds are somewhat limited until the beginning of the new fiscal year on October 1, 2008, direct Operating Loan funds remain available. If you have any questions about

**Pendleton
FSA Farm
Loan staff
541-278-8049**

office.

FSA's direct Downpayment Loan Program for beginning farmers received a significant expansion in the new Farm Bill. In addition being available to help qualified beginning farmers and ranchers purchase farmland, this unique FSA loan program is now available to help women and minority farmers and ranchers as well. The maximum FSA loan possible under the program has been

these expanded direct loan limits or the availability of loan funds be sure to contact the Pendleton

increased to \$225,000, and the previous purchase price limitation has been removed.

The interest rate under this expanded direct loan program can now be as low as 1.5 %, and the loan can have a term of up to 20 years. The loan can be secured with a second mortgage, behind the first mortgage of another lender willing to help in financing the purchase of the property, with or without an FSA loan guarantee. The minimum cash downpayment required of the loan applicant under this expanded loan program is 5% of the purchase price.



*Did you suffer
a QUALITY
loss to your
insured crops
in 2005, 2006
or 2007?*

Crop Disaster Program

FSA is currently accepting applications for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP). Producers may be eligible for benefits if they suffered QUANTITY or QUALITY losses to their crops from natural disaster and related conditions that occurred in 2005, 2006 or 2007. Producers may choose only one year to receive benefits.

Producers must have had multi-peril crop insurance or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of the loss to be eligible for CDP benefits.

FSA staff received training June 2-3 for the quality loss program.

If you believe you suffered a QUALITY loss program to your insured crop, please contact Darcy Vial in the FSA office to schedule an appointment. (541) 676-9011 x 105

Sign-ups for CDP Quality will begin after June 20, 2008.

Sign-ups for CDP Quantity are ongoing.

Livestock Program Deadlines

July 18, 2008 has been announced as the deadline to apply for the 2005—2007 Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP).

LCP compensates livestock producers for grazing or stored feed losses resulting from natural disasters.

LIP compensates producers for livestock deaths that were a result of a natural disaster.

Producers in primary or contiguous counties with declared disasters are eligible.

Livestock must be owned or cash-leased, and have been located in Morrow County on the beginning

date of the disaster and maintained for commercial use.

If you have any questions, or would like to set up an appointment, please call the office at (541) 676-9011 x. 2



**Livestock Program Signup
Deadline
July 18, 2008**

USDA – FARM SERVICE AGENCY
MORROW COUNTY OFFICE
PO BOX 786
HEPPNER, OR 97836

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Dates to Remember:

June 30	Certification Deadline
June 30	NAP Producers: Deadline for 2007 Crop Production Records
July 4	Office Closed—Independence Day
July 15	End of Primary Nesting Season
July 16	Start of CRP Critical Feed Use
July 18	LCP/LIP Application Deadline
August 1	LAA Nominations Due for LAA #2
August 31	NAP Deadline for Beets, Cabbage, Canola, Carrots, Flowers, Greens, Herbs (except Peppermint), Onions, and Radishes. This also applies to any fall planted crops not listed.

*Within 15 Days of damage becoming apparent—File NAP Notice of Loss



Have a Safe and Happy 4th of July

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

eGov is available on-line: Producers have the ability to apply for program assistance via their home computers. Interested producers must first obtain a level 2 clearance before using this system. You can register online at www.egov.usda.gov or you can visit our office to obtain the required Level 2 authority. Once this is done, your ID is verified by the FSA office, and your account is activated, you can go on-line to do USDA business. Level 2 authority will allow you access to: Loan Deficiency Program, Direct & Counter Cyclical Payment Program, Farm Loan Program, Financial Services, and your personal Customer Payment Statements.