



January 2007

Oregon County News

**Oregon County
USDA Service Center**

Oregon County FSA
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417-778-6719 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/**

Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Howard Dethrow
Dwight Holmes
Jerry Strain

Staff
Jim Kyle, District Director
Dennis Johnson, CED
Martha Henderson, PT
Bonnie Williams, PT

Jared Weydert,
Farm Loan Manager

Annual DCP Enrollment

To participate in DCP, producers are required to **designate shares and sign the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program Contract (CCC-509) on a yearly basis.** The annual DCP sign-up period runs from October 1 to June 1 of the applicable program year. To be considered enrolled timely; the CCC-509 must be submitted by June 1 of the applicable program year. In cases where a farm is reconstituted, all resulting farms will need to enroll (signatures obtained) if the producers intend to participate. CCC-509s with signatures obtained after June 1, but by September 30, will be accepted, but the farm will be assessed a late-filed sign-up fee of \$100. All supporting documentation, such as CCC-502, AD-1026, and CCC-526, must be submitted before payments can be issued. Annual acreage reports indicating uses of all cropland on a farm must be filed by the applicable established reporting dates. Acreage reports filed after the applicable final reporting date may be accepted if all requirements are met and a late-filed fee is paid.

DCP payments are calculated by taking 85 percent of the base acres, multiplied by the farm yield, times the applicable payment rate, times the producer share. Producers may receive an advance of the direct payment, beginning on December 1 of the program year. Final direct payments will be made on or after October 1 following the contract period. Counter-cyclical payments may also be authorized for one or more covered commodities, depending on the projected and actual market prices. Producers may elect to receive up to two counter-cyclical payments per year: (1) the first partial payment, if any, is available after the first six months of the marketing year, and (2) final payment, if any, is made af-

ter the end of the marketing year for each eligible crop. Producers who do not elect to take the first advance payments will receive the entire counter-cyclical payment at the end of the marketing year. The amount of a counter-cyclical payment is dependent upon the average of the actual prices received by farmers during the marketing year.

Continuous CRP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program is a private lands environmental improvement program that allows participants the opportunity to enroll acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources.

The Continuous CRP program is a voluntary enrollment program. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment.

To be eligible for enrollment in the Continuous CRP, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. Provided the eligibility requirements are met, FSA will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year.

For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments or local Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) availability, please contact your local FSA office or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/crpcont03.htm>.



Loans for Beginning Farmers, Socially Disadvantaged

FSA is authorized to assist beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person whom:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average farm size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed. Socially disadvantaged groups are Hispanics, American Indians, African Americans, Asians, Pacific Islanders and women.

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Jerry Strain! Jerry was elected to represent farmers from Highland, Big Apple and Thayer townships making up Local Administrative Area 2 on the county committee. Jerry was elected to his first consecutive 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.

The committee members held their organizational meeting January 4th. It was determined that Howard Dethrow would serve as county committee chairperson and Russell D. Holmes vice-chairperson.



Leaving the Oregon County Committee, fulfilling 24 years of service was Leon Wales. Leon served 20 years on the County Committee and 4 years prior to the Community Committee. He had served his term limit. Leon was commended for his work with the Farm Service Agency with a plaque present by Howard Dethrow, Chairperson to the COC for 2007.

Farmer's Choice of Administrative County

Until recently, the County Administrative office for program participants was basically the county office in which the principal farm operator resided. Now a change in a farm's administrative county may be permitted without completing a farm combination in the receiving county if the producer documents that the changed administrative County Office is significantly more convenient. The county must be an adjoining or contiguous county to where the farm is physically located. Changing an administrative County Office because of convenience is a **one time selection (for the current operator)** and **will not** be used to evade program rules.

Those who use the convenience method will still be able to vote for county committee candidates running for county committee in their original county's Local Administrative Area, however they will not be permitted to be a candidate for that county's committee.

A farm transfer can be initiated by the farm's operator or owner or the receiving or transferring county committee. All owners and operator must sign a FSA-179, **TRANSFER OF FARM RECORDS BETWEEN COUNTIES.**



Foreign Buyers Notification



The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., we have a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information.

Visit our Web site http://www.fsa.usda.gov/**

March 15 NAP Closing Date

March 15 is the deadline date for producers to apply for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, or NAP, coverage using Form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, and pay the service fee at the county office. The application and service fee must be filed by March 15th the application closing date for 2007 spring seed crops along with vegetables.

The service fee is \$100 per crop per county or \$300 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$900 per producer with farming interest in multiple counties. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of service fees.

To qualify, a producer must be a landowner, tenant or sharecropper who shares in the risk of producing an eligible crop.

Youth Loans

Remember FSA makes operating loans to individual rural youths age 10 through 20 to establish and operate income producing projects. These projects must be of modest size and be initiated, developed, carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H Clubs, FFA, or a similar organization or with a vocational teacher or county extension agent. The project must be an organized and supervised program of work. It must be planned and operated with the assistance of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. Contact your local FSA office for more details.



Loans for Socially Disadvantaged

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) can make and guarantee loans to socially disadvantaged applicants to buy and operate family size farms and ranches. Funds specifically for these loans are reserved each year. A socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Hispanics,

1st Annual Natural Resource and Forage Conference

Sponsored by the
Howell County Soil & Water Conservation District
Saturday 8:30 to 3:00 February 17th
West Plains Civic Center

Conference agenda will include secessions covering:

- Warm season grass management
- Bermuda grass establishment/management
- Goats on pasture: grazing management strategies
- Equine pasture management
- Stockpiled tall fescue for winter grazing
- Forestry Management
- Brush and weed control for pasture fields
- Quail and small game management
- Rural Watershed management issues

Pre-registration prior to February 12th is \$10.00 per person or \$15.00 per couple. Registration at the door is \$15.00 per person or \$20.00 per couple. Registration includes **noon meal and information packet** covering all the days' secessions. To register contact the Howell County Soil & Water Conservation District, 3210 Hoover Drive, West Plains or phone **256-7117 ext. 3**

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