



January 2012

**Polk County
FSA Office**

Janelle Huserik
County Executive Director
janelle.huserik@or.usda.gov

580 Main Street Suite D
Dallas, OR 97338

Phone: (503) 623-2396 Ext.2
Fax: (503) 623-6338

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

Polk County Staff

Beverly Schmidt
Program Technician
beverly.schmidt@or.usda.gov

Nancy Thompson
Farm Loan Manager
(Salem, OR FSA office)
nancy.thompson@or.usda.gov

Our farm loan staff can be contacted at (503) 399-5741 Ext.2

County Committee:
Donal MacCarthy, Chairperson

Kirk Fast, Vice Chairperson

Michael Atherton, Member

Sandy Moritz, Advisor

Oregon FSA Website:
www.fsa.usda.gov/or

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Michael Atherton! Michael was elected to represent farmers from West Polk County on the county committee. Michael was elected to his first consecutive term. There were no alternates selected for Local Administrative Area #3.

FSA appreciates all of the eligible 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 and determined the following positions of the county committee:

- Donal MacCarthy: Chairperson
- Kirk Fast: Vice Chairperson
- Michael Atherton: Voting Member
- Sandy Moritz: Minority Advisor

2012 DCP/ACRE Sign-up

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment will begin Jan. 23, 2012 and will end June 1, 2012.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

1) All producers planting on **DCP base** acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.

2) Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1st in DCP/ACRE **must** be reported to your local FSA office. This includes: Ownership changes; Producer changes (Individuals and Entities); Change in crop shares arrangements.

Important Note: Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012.

2012 Crop Reporting

If you have fall or perennial crops planted, call our office for an appointment to do your 2012 crop report. You do not have to wait to complete all of your plantings. Take the time to get this done now before you get even busier with spring work.

OREGON FARM SERVICE AGENCY SCHEDULES PUBLIC MEETING FOR POLK COUNTY FARMERS & RANCHERS

Dear Producer:

The Oregon Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Office Management Team will hold a public meeting on Friday, January 27, 2012 at 9:00 am at the Polk County Fairgrounds in the Main Room of the Main Building located at 520 S. Pacific Hwy. West, Rickreall, Oregon 97371.

This will be the only public meeting held to take public comment on USDA's proposed office consolidation plan in which the Polk County FSA office is being considered for consolidation. Producers can also provide written comment by emailing Lynn.Voigt@or.usda.gov or sending written comment to Lynn E. Voigt, State Executive Director, Farm Service Agency, Oregon State FSA Office, 7620 SW Mohawk Street, Tualatin, OR 97062-8121 no later than February 6, 2012. All public comments will be taken into full consideration prior to development or implementation of a final consolidation plan.

This action is being undertaken as a result of budget and staff reductions to FSA. This means that FSA cannot maintain every existing county office location and continue to provide producers the best possible customer service.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact the Oregon State FSA office at (503) 692-6830, extension 238, Don.Howard@or.usda.gov or Federal Relay Service at 1-866-377-8642 by January 24, 2012.

**NOTICE
TO HISPANIC
AND/OR
WOMEN
FARMERS OR
RANCHERS
COMPENSATION
FOR CLAIMS OF
DISCRIMINATION**

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

To register your name to receive a claims packet, call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or visit: www.farmerclaims.gov

The claims package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Provisions

For 2012, there are now four qualifying levels for AGI provisions as follows:

1) **\$500,000 Nonfarm Income** – if a person or legal entity has AGI nonfarm income that exceeds, \$500,000, the person or legal entity is ineligible for all commodity program payments and benefits.

2) **\$750,000 Farm Income** – if a person or legal entity has AGI farm income that exceeds \$750,000, the person or legal entity is ineligible for DCP direct payments only.

3) **\$1,000,000 Nonfarm Income** – if a person or legal entity has AGI nonfarm income that exceeds \$1,000,000, the person or legal entity is ineligible for all conservation program benefits unless at least 66.66% of total AGI is average adjusted gross farm income.

4) **\$1,000,000 Total Farm and Nonfarm Income** – if a person or legal entity has AGI farm and nonfarm income that exceeds \$1,000,000, the person or legal entity is ineligible for 2012 direct payments under DCP.

Form CCC 931 must be completed to authorize the AGI certification process in conjunction with the IRS. The average AGI is based on the average adjusted gross income for the three taxable years preceding the most immediately preceding complete taxable year. For the 2012 program year, the three taxable years for AGI would include 2008, 2009 and 2010.

Direct Attribution

For 2009 and subsequent crop years, payments will be limited by direct attribution rather than by “person.” Under direct attribution, payments made to individuals remain unchanged. However, payments to legal entities such as corporations, limited partnerships, limited liability corporations and other similar entities are limited by attributing the payment to an individual based on his or her direct and indirect interest in the entity.

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.

IRS Form 1099-G

Producers annually receive their CCC-1099-G forms detailing payments producers have received from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The annual report of program payments on the CCC-1099-G form is a service intended to help our customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the producers’ responsibilities to report income to IRS.

FSA staff cannot interpret IRS regulations or advise producers about which payments to report on their income tax returns. However, county office staff can review payments for accuracy.

Appeal Process

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options your can pursue if you disagree.

Generally, program participants have three choices — an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency.

Payment Limitations

Several FSA programs are subject to payment limitation provisions. Violation of any of these provisions may subject the producer to loss of payment and possible prosecution.

The following are current FSA program payment limitations:

PROGRAM	LIMIT
DCP Program	\$40,000
DCP CC/ACRE	\$65,000
CRP	\$50,000
SURE, LIP, LFP, ELAP	\$100,000
NAP	\$100,000
LDP, Market Gain	No Limit



Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available. Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans have a maximum limit of \$1,214,000.

The one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed loans has increased from 1 percent to 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan, for loans obligated after October 1, 2011.

To find out more about FSA loan programs, see contact information on page 1.

Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

For more clarification on spousal signature authority, feel free to contact your local FSA office.

Maintaining Grain Quality

Bins are ideally designed to hold a level volume of grain. When bins are over-filled and grain is heaped up, airflow is hindered and the chance of spoilage increases.

Producers who take out marketing assistance loans and use the farm-stored grain as collateral should remember that they are responsible for maintaining the quality of the grain through the term of the loan.



Disaster Assistance Programs

FSA disaster assistance programs include:

- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

To be eligible for the SURE, TAP and ELAP programs, producers must have purchased catastrophic risk protection insurance for all insurable crops, and NAP coverage for non-insurable crops. Sign-up ends Jan. 30, 2012, for LFP, LIP, and ELAP. Producers have 90 days from the time a loss is apparent to file an application for TAP.

Farm-Raised Fish means all fish being produced for sale by an eligible producer. In the case of honey, the term "farm" means all bees and beehives in all counties that are intended to be harvested for a honey crop by the eligible producer.

Producers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are not required to purchase the catastrophic insurance or NAP.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 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.

The information required by the Secretary of Ag must be reported on form FSA-153. Copies of this form may be obtained from this office or on-line at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFileServices/eForms/FSA153.PDF>

Payment Eligibility

Note that specific eligibility criteria exist for the DCP and ACRE programs. Contact your nearest county FSA Office for further information regarding these and other provisions: 1) actively engaged, 2) cash-rent tenant rule and 3) foreign persons.



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**



How to Sign Up for GovDelivery — Free Service / Quicker Information

Producers, owners and others interested in keeping up to date with important FSA program deadlines and information are strongly encouraged to sign up for GovDelivery. This new instant communication system allows newsletters, deadline reminders and bulletins to be sent right to your email address. Here are the simple steps to sign up.

- 1) To subscribe to updates, go to www.fsa.usda.gov
- 2) On the right side of the page under STAY CONNECTED, enter your email address in the box SIGN UP FOR UPDATES.
- 3) Click GO.
- 4) Under SUBSCRIPTION TOPICS, click the plus symbol (+) next to UPDATES BY STATE AND COUNTY.
- 5) Click the plus symbol (+) next to OREGON.
- 6) Click the check box next to “OREGON STATE OFFICE NEWSLETTER AND UPDATES.”
- 7) Click the check box next to the COUNTY OR COUNTIES you wish to subscribe to.
- 8) Scroll to the bottom of the page and click SUBMIT. A subscription notification will be sent to your email address.
- 9) If you do not receive an email notification, check your junk mail folder and mark the email as “not junk” to ensure proper delivery of future emails.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The noninsured crop disaster assistance program (NAP) is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop’s application closing date.

Production records for all crops must be reported to FSA no later than the acreage reporting date for the crop for the following year. FSA requires that any production reported in a loss year be verifiable according to Agency specifications. NAP Losses must be reported within 15 days of loss.

Selected Interest Rates - Jan. 2012	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	1.50%
Farm Ownership - Direct	3.50%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility	1.375 - 2.25%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.25%

Dates to Remember	
January 16	Office Closed; Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan. 23-June 1	2012 DCP/ACRE sign-up
January 30	Sign-up ends for LFP, LIP and ELAP
January 31	2011 LDP Wool and Unshorn Lamb Pelts deadline
February	Black History Month Observance
February 20	Office Closed: Washington’s Birthday
June 1	2010 SURE sign-up ends
June 30	Crop Acreage Reporting deadline

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual’s income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.