



NEWSLETTER



Spring 2011

Polk County FSA Office

**Janelle Huserik, County
Executive Director**
580 Main Street, Ste. D
Dallas, OR

503-623-2396 x2 phone
503-623-6335 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/or

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

Polk County Staff

Janelle Huserik, County
Executive Director

Laurie Johnson, Program
Technician

Bev Schmidt, Program
Technician

Salem Farm Loan Staff

Donna Sprengle, Farm
Loan Manager

Lora Surmeyer, Farm
Loan Program Technician

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Kirk Fast! Kirk was elected to represent farmers from LAA #1 on the county committee. Kirk was elected to his first consecutive term. The election results for Local Administrative Area 1 are:

Kirk Fast — Elected to the Polk County
Committee (COC),
Kathy Hadley — 1st alternate to COC,
Larry Burger — 2nd alternate to COC

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 2011 organizational meeting in January and determined that Tom Crawford will serve as the county committee chairperson and Donal MacCarthy will serve as vice-chairperson.

SURE – 2009 and Later

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. SURE sign up for crop year 2009 losses runs from Jan. 10 to July 29, 2011. Deadlines for 2010 and 2011 crop years will be announced later.

To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP), except for grazed acreage. This requirement does not apply for crops that are not of economic significance or where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10% of the value of the crop coverage.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged,

Ranchers are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

The following conditions are required to trigger SURE payments:

- at least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition. (A crop of economic significance is a crop that has contributed or would have contributed at least 5% or more of the total expected revenue from all crops on the farm.)
- producers in counties declared disaster counties by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties, or those who show proof of an individual loss of at least 50% are eligible to receive SURE payments for crop production or crop quality losses.

Payments are calculated considering whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.

Note that due to the need to wait for end of year market price data to make SURE final calculations; SURE assistance payments lag the crop year's end by one full year.

If you would like additional clarification call or stop by your local FSA office.

2011 DCP Signup

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2011. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2011 DCP contract.

USDA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2011, eligible producers may request partial direct payments as an advance on the total amount.

CRP Signup 41 Announced

The next general signup for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will begin on March 14, 2011, and continue through April 15, 2011.

Through CRP, eligible landowners receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible farmland. Land can be enrolled for a period of up to 15 years. Land currently not enrolled in CRP may be offered in this signup provided all eligibility requirements are met. Additionally, current CRP participants with contracts expiring this fall may make new contract offers.

FSA will evaluate and rank eligible CRP offers using an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) that shows the environmental benefits to be gained from enrolling the land in CRP. Decisions on the EBI cutoff will be made after the sign-up ends and after analyzing the EBI data of all the offers. Contracts awarded are scheduled to become effective Oct. 1, 2011.

ACRE

The optional ACRE Program provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. The June 1, 2011, signup deadline is mandatory for all participants. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.

A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity.

The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may not exceed the total base on the farm. In exchange for participating in ACRE, in addition to not receiving counter-cyclical payments, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20%, and marketing loan rates are reduced by 30%.

The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.

Conservation Loan Program

The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with funding to implement NRCS approved conservation measures on their land. The loan limit for a direct CL is \$300,000 and \$1,119,000 for a guaranteed CL.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will work with applicants to develop a conservation plan containing approved conservation practices. Examples of some conservation practices are: water conservation structures, forest cover, permanent pastures, manure digesters and other installations.

For more information on a potential Conservation Loan, call your local FSA office and make an appointment with your farm loan officer.

2011 Crop Acreage Reporting

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs.

All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments. Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Prevented planting is to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date. Reports of failed acreage 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.

The certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted.

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The producer certification deadline is June 30, 2011.

The FSA County Committee may accept late-filed acreage reports. However, late-filed acreage reports shall require an on-farm visit to verify the crop's physical existence, use, and acreage. A measurement service fee of \$46.00 per farm shall be assessed for the first hour. Any additional time shall be assessed at a rate of \$8.00 for every ½ hour thereafter.

Please visit or call to make an appointment with your FSA office to obtain your maps to complete your 2011 crop acreage reporting.

REMINDER

Please contact your local FSA office for additional program information!

-OR-

Visit us online at:

www.fsa.usda.gov

Emergency Loan Program

The Emergency Loan Program provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses resulting from natural disaster events approved for a specific area and a specific purpose through a USDA Secretarial Disaster Designation.

Currently, a designation is approved for Linn, Lane, Benton, Polk and Marion County producers with damage caused by the excessive rain, flooding and below normal temperatures occurring from April through June, 2010.

The deadline to apply for a loan resulting from this designation is August 29, 2011. Production losses resulting from this specified disaster must be at least 30 percent. Applicants must show repayment ability and must be unable to receive credit from commercial sources.

Reporting NAP Crop Losses

Producers are reminded to file a timely Notice of Loss (form CCC-576) for each weather related event or adverse natural occurrence that causes damage to or a loss of your NAP crop or commodity.

For low yield claims, the Notice of Loss must be filed by the earlier of the following:

- 15 calendar days after the damaging weather or disaster occurrence or date damage to the specific crop acreage is apparent to the producer.
- 15 calendar days after the normal harvest date.

For preventive planting claims, the Notice of Loss must be filed within 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

Notices of Loss must be filed at your NAP administrative county office. Contact your local FSA office if you have questions about the NAP program or the Notice of Loss process.

Asparagus Loss Assistance Program

A substantial increase in asparagus imports over the last several years resulted in reduced revenue for U.S. asparagus producers. The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 authorizes Commodity Credit Corporation to provide up to \$15 million in direct payments to asparagus producers for revenue losses as the result of crop year 2004 through 2007 imports.

To be eligible for ALAP benefits producers must have produced and marketed asparagus in commercial quantities in the U.S. during both crop years 2003 and 2007. Producers must certify to their total share of production quantities of fresh or processed asparagus for the 2003 crop.

To apply, producers must submit an application (form CCC-895) along with supporting documentation by April 8, 2010. Applications received by mail after the application date must be postmarked no later than April 8, 2011 to be considered timely filed. Additional producer eligibility requirements apply.

Livestock Indemnity Program

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides financial assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from natural disaster. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, certain diseases, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold. Eligible losses must have occurred before Oct. 1, 2011. Note that drought is not a qualifying event.

Producers seeking assistance under the LIP program must file a notice of loss (form FSA-914) within 30 days after the livestock deaths are apparent. Applications for payment must be submitted no later than October 30, 2011.

Polk County FSA Office
 580 Main Street, Suite D
 Dallas, OR 97338-1911



PRESORTED STANDARD
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 CITY, STATE
 PERMIT #XXX

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Selected Interest Rates for February 2011	
Farm Operating - Direct	2.250%
Farm Ownership – Direct	4.750%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Conservation Loan	4.750%
Emergency	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility – 7yr.	2.75%
– 10 yr.	3.375%
– 12 yr.	3.625%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.250%

Dates to Remember	
Month of March	Women’s History Month
March – August	Native American Powwows
April 15	CRP Signup 41 Deadline
April 25	Earth Day/ Arbor Day
May 5	Cinco de Mayo
Month of May	Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month
May 30	Memorial Day – Office Closed
June 1	2011 DCP & ACRE Signup Deadline

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.