



## **Polk County News**

Polk County FSA Office  
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Ron Quiring, Chairman  
Adam Loop, Vice Chair  
Tom Crawford, COC Member  
Sandy Moritz, Minority Advisor

Janelle VanDyke, CED – Ext 105  
Laurie Johnson, PT – Ext 102  
Beverly Schmidt, PT – Ext 100

Sharilyn Millette, Loan Mgr.  
Kathey Naegeli, Loan Officer  
Farm Loan employees are in  
Marion FSA Office 503-399-5741 ext 2

April 2009

### **Dates to Remember**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| May 1, 2009                            | 2010 RMA Nursery crop Deadline, contact your crop insurance agent  |
| May 15, 2009                           | Deadline to sign up for GRP (see article below)  |
| May 18, 2009                           | Deadline to pay a buy-in fee for 2008 disaster assistance programs (see article below)   |
| <b>May 25, 2009</b>                    | <b>Office Closed</b> , Observing Memorial Day  |
| <b>June 30, 2009</b>                   | <b>Acres Reporting (FSA-578) Deadline for ALL FSA Participants (see article below)</b>   |
| June 30, 2009                          | 2008 NAP Actual Production History (APH) Deadline<br>*Within 15 Days of damage becoming apparent—File NAP Notice of Loss                   |
| <b>July 3, 2009</b>                    | <b>Office Closed</b> , Observing Independence Day  |
| August 14, 2009                        | Deadline to add DCP pulse crop base acres (see article below)<br>DCP & ACRE Sign Up Deadline—No late filing provisions (see article below) |
| Ongoing – March 1 thru July 15         | Primary Nesting Season   |
| Ongoing – First Thursday of each month | Polk COC meeting will be held at the Ag Service Center. (Subject to change, please call ahead to confirm meeting time.)                    |

### **New Polk County Executive Director**

As of March 30<sup>th</sup>, Jim Worledge is no longer doing shared management with the Polk County FSA Office. He will be working in the Tillamook County FSA Office full time. Meanwhile, Polk County has hired a full time County Executive Director, Janelle VanDyke.

Janelle has a solid background in agriculture as she grew up working on a very diverse family farm in Cornelius, Oregon. She continued her agriculture background through FFA, and a bachelor's degree in Agriculture Business Management. Janelle completed a year-long training with FSA to prepare her for this position, and she looks forward to working with those in the community.

### **Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) Signup Information**

Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) signup for Oregon is scheduled for April 20-May 15, 2009. Both easement and multi-year contracts will be offered. NRCS will administer the easements and FSA will administer the multi-year rental agreements. Rental rates for the multi-year contracts will remain the same as those set in 2003 (Polk—\$16.00), and easement rates will be set by NRCS based on a Geographical Area Rate Cap (GARC).

Applicants must indicate whether they are interested in either an easement or a rental contract. Applicants will be selected based on a ranking system, and selection is set for June 1, 2009. Those applicants selected will need to complete a contract with Farm Service Agency. Based on the funds available there will not be a large number of contracts funded. However, we will be taking applications from all interested producers. Please do not delay! Call the Polk FSA office at 503-623-2396 ext 2 to set up your appointment as soon as possible.

## **Buy-In Waiver Extension for Disaster Assistance Programs**

Producers have an opportunity to become eligible for several programs if they suffered 2008 agricultural losses due to a natural disaster. Producers who did not obtain crop insurance or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for 2008 can pay a buy-in fee through May 18, 2009, to become eligible for 2008 disaster assistance programs authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. **Producers who have not already taken the necessary steps (if you aren't sure, call the office)** to become eligible for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP), and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) are required to complete the following steps by May 18, 2009: Pay a \$100 "buy-in" fee per crop. The maximum fee is \$300 per county, per producer, not to exceed \$900 for multi-county producers. Contact the FSA Office for more information.

## **Acreage Reporting**

Producers are reminded that acreage reports (FSA-578's) are due June 30, 2009. The Polk FSA office is currently taking appointments for acreage reporting. **All producers** who participate in USDA programs (CRP, NAP, DCP, etc.) or have Federal Crop Insurance Coverage (FCIC) are required to submit an acreage report by the reporting deadline.

**REMEMBER:** even if you have reported your crops by map, you must **sign the FSA-578** Acreage report by June 30<sup>th</sup> to meet the deadline.

Failure to meet the June 30 deadline will require a late-file fee of at least \$46 for an onsite measurement service to be performed on the farm or the producer will be out of compliance for USDA programs and benefits.

Please contact the Polk FSA Office at 503-623-2396 ext. 2 to make an appointment.

## **Adding DCP Pulse Crop Acres**

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 provides that eligible pulse crop acres may be added as base acres. To qualify, you must have raised one of the following crops between the crop years 1998-2001:

- ❖ dry peas (green, yellow, Austrian, Umatilla, or wrinkled)
- ❖ lentils
- ❖ large chickpeas (Kabuli garbanzo beans)
- ❖ small chickpeas (Desi garbanzo beans).

Pulse crop base acres will only be eligible for counter-cyclical payments under DCP or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) payments for 2009 through 2012 crop years. Direct payment rates were **not** established for pulse crops; therefore, direct payments are **not** authorized for pulse crops for 2009 through 2012 crop years. The addition of pulse crop base acres to the tract (a) may increase the total base acres on the farm, and (b) can increase the eligible payment acres for the farm if the farm participates in the ACRE Program.

**Late-filed acreage reports** of pulse crops planted and prevented planted acreage from 1998 through 2001 crop years will be accepted. For more information, please contact the Polk County Office. The deadline to elect pulse crop base acres is August 14, 2009.

## **DCP Sign-Up Extended**

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program for farms with commodity crop base acres has been extended until August 14, 2009. The extended deadline is mandatory for all participants; FSA will not accept any late-filed applications.

Producers who are eligible for the DCP Program will also be eligible to enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program. The enrollment period for the ACRE Program has begun April 27, 2009 and will continue until August 14, 2009. You may first enroll in the DCP Program, receive advance direct payments and then later modify your enrollment to the ACRE program or you may wait and elect to enroll in DCP and/or ACRE at the same time. **Don't miss the August 14th deadline!**

## **2009 Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program**

The Farm Service Agency announced today that signups for the ACRE program will begin April 27, 2009.

ACRE is a provision of the 2008 Farm Bill. Producers have until August 14, 2009 to make their decision for the 2009 crop. The FSA office will not accept any late applications. Producers who elect the ACRE program for a farm agree to:

- ❖ Forgo counter-cyclical payments;
- ❖ Accept a 20% reduction of direct payments; and
- ❖ Accept a 30% reduction in loan rates for all commodities produced on the farm.

Commodities eligible for ACRE payments are wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, rice, peanuts, soybeans, sunflower seed, canola, flaxseed, safflower, mustard seed, rapeseed, sesame seed, crambe, dry peas, lentils, and chickpeas.

Producers may elect and enroll in ACRE for the 2009 crop year even if they have already accepted advance direct payments under the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP). To elect a farm for ACRE, all producers/owners on a farm must complete the CCC-509 ACRE which irrevocably elects the farm into the ACRE program through crop year 2012. A producer may not elect into ACRE in 2009, but go into the program in 2010, 2011 or 2012, however once a farm is elected into ACRE it remains in the program through crop year 2012. ACRE payments are only made on base acres which actually grow one of the commodities listed above, if all triggers are met.

### **Farm Loans Available**

Loan applications are being accepted for farm operating and ownership purposes. Operating loans include annual operating expenses, farm equipment and livestock purchases, and refinancing related debt. Ownership loans include the purchase or enlargement of a farm, or the construction and/or repair of buildings. Loan guarantees are available to lenders where FSA provides up to a 90% guarantee of loss on the principal of a farm loan. The loan purposes are similar to FSA's Direct Loans, except refinancing real estate debt is also eligible under the Guarantee Program.

FSA's ability to partner with commercial lenders provides for useful tools in meeting your credit needs. FSA can provide for just a portion of your credit needs i.e. a tractor purchase, etc. when we work in consultation with your commercial lender.

FSA provides Direct and Guarantee loan assistance for Beginning Farmers and Socially Disadvantaged producers as well. An applicant is considered a Beginning Farmer if they have not operated a farm for more than 10 years. Youth loans are available for 4-H and FFA members' ages 10 through 20 who want to start any income producing enterprise recommended by their leader. **More Farm Loan Program Questions? Contact the FLP Staff in Salem at 503-399-5741 Ext. 2.**

### **Highly Erodible and Wetland Provisions of the USDA**

To earn and remain eligible for program benefits you must comply with USDA's Highly Erodible and Wetland (HELC/WC) Provisions. Under these provisions you may:

- ❖ NOT plant annually tilled crops on highly erodible fields unless actively applying a conservation plan.
- ❖ NOT plant annually tilled crops on wetland converted after December 23, 1985.
- ❖ NOT convert wetlands by draining, dredging, filling, leveling, or by any other means that would allow the planting of any crop, pasture, annually tilled crop, or other such crops.
- ❖ NOT to use proceeds from any FSA loan received after December 23, 1985 that will contribute to the conversion of a wetland to produce an annually tilled crop, or contribute to the excessive erosion of highly erodible land.

These provisions apply to **all land** for which you are the operator and/or owner. The operator of a farm is considered in control of the farming operations of the farm and therefore, shall also be included as a person determined responsible for HELC/WC violations, even if the landowner performed the violating activity.

A converted wetland violation stays with the land (affecting current and future owners and operators) until the wetland is restored or mitigated before January 1 of the subsequent crop year.

Dallas Service Center  
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### **Keep Your Records Current**

Contact FSA when changes occur to your farm operation. This includes farm operator, owner, and address changes. It is important to inform FSA of any changes in the management or operational structure of your farming operation. If you have **formed or dissolved** a partnership, corporation, trust, limited liability companies, or any other similar entity, it is critical that you inform FSA prior to enrollment to assure proper program eligibility.

### **Attention: Agricultural group members and leaders**

Do you want FSA to come to your meeting and talk about what FSA has to offer you? If so contact Janelle VanDyke at 503-623-2396 extension 105 or by email at [janelle.vandyke@or.usda.gov](mailto:janelle.vandyke@or.usda.gov)

Do you wish to receive the newsletter by email? Please contact Janelle at 503-623-2396 extension 105 or by email at [janelle.vandyke@or.usda.gov](mailto:janelle.vandyke@or.usda.gov) and you will be emailed the newsletter.

Do you no longer wish to receive this newsletter? Please call 503-623-2396 extension 2. If you leave a message please provide us with the full name on the mailing label and your phone number. Or email [janelle.vandyke@or.usda.gov](mailto:janelle.vandyke@or.usda.gov)

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to visit the USDA Polk County Service Center should contact Janelle VanDyke at (503) 623-2396 extension 2, or email [janelle.vandyke@or.usda.gov](mailto:janelle.vandyke@or.usda.gov).

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