



June 2012

## Polk County FSA Office

580 Main St Ste D  
Dallas, OR 97338

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

### Hours

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

## Polk County Staff

Janelle Huserik,  
County Executive  
Director

Beverly Schmidt,  
Program Technician

## Polk County Committee

Donal MacCarthy,  
Chair

Kirk Fast, Vice Chair

Michael Atherton,  
Member

Sandy Moritz, Advisor

## County Committee Nominations

County committee nominations are open from June 15, 2012 through August 1, 2012.

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers. Every eligible producer should participate in these elections to strengthen the link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County committee members are a critical component in the delivery of FSA services and programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with key decisions on programs in their counties and work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

Operating within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws, FSA county committees apply their local knowledge to make key program administration decisions.

For more information just contact your local FSA office.

## Payment Limitations

Producers planning to participate in 2012 programs are required to complete and submit the **CCC-931** form. If changes have been made in farming operations from the prior year, the following forms may also need to be filed for payment eligibility and payment limitation purposes: **CCC-901** and **CCC-902**.

### Contributions:

All partners, stockholders or members with an ownership interest in the legal entity must make a contribution\*, whether compensated or **not** compensated, for active--

- personal labor,
- personal management,
- or a combination of active personal labor and active personal management to the farming operation;

\*NOTE: There are exceptions for spouses.

Additional information on payment limitation is available at FSA county offices or online at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

## Crop Reporting - Reminders

This annual requirement to report 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 FSA 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 programs. The certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The producer certification deadline for your 2012 crop report to be signed is **June 30<sup>th</sup>**.

**CRP & NAP Certification:** Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. Crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must be reported.

**Prevented Planting:** Prevented planting is to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date. Failure to report prevented planting acreage could result in loss of benefits for the SURE program or possibly other disaster assistance programs.

**Failed Acreage:** 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.

## DCP Sign-up through Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> FSA accepting late-filed enrollments

DCP Sign-up has a deadline of June 1<sup>st</sup> to be timely filed. Procedure allows producers to submit their 2012 DCP application until **August 1, 2012** for County Committee review and approval. No late-file fees or penalties apply. Please contact the office to confirm you are enrolled for 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](http://www.farmerclaims.gov)

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



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to start, continue and expand agriculture production. Loans are available for operational needs or to help purchase or improve farms and ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for socially disadvantaged applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is an individual who has been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as a member of one of the groups described.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

## FSA Signature Policy

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, contact the local FSA office.

## Sodbusting

Farmers and ranchers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in Farm Service Agency programs.

Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an **AD-1026**, indicating the area to be brought into production.

If Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates that the area will be highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage before bringing land into production.

## Marketing Assistance Loans

Marketing Assistance Loans are commodity loans available to producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest (retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity, maintaining responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity, and maintaining title to the commodity) in the crop through the time of application. Once beneficial interest is lost, the commodity is ineligible for a loan.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; reporting use of cropland acreage on the farm and ensuring that the commodity meets CCC minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, and exist in a storable and merchantable condition for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans.

The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

Eligible commodities include: wheat, field corn (including silage), barley, oats, honey, flax seed, mustard seed, rape seed, safflower, soybeans, sunflower seed, crambe and whole dry peas (smooth green, smooth yellow, wrinkled, winter field, mixed dry & miscellaneous.)

## GovDelivery – Free Reminders

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving into paperless operation to save your tax payer dollars. Producers can now enroll in the new **GovDelivery** system to receive instant electronic deadline reminders, bulletins and newsletters direct to your email address. Now you don't have to wait for a printed newsletter only occasionally sent through the mail.

Producers can subscribe to receive free e-mail updates by visiting this free enrollment website: [www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe). You can also call your local Farm Service Agency office. Give it a try right now. All you need is an email address for yourself or a family member where you can receive the useful email updates.

## Compliance Check Methods

Compliance review and spot checks will again be performed during the 2012 crop year. This year, farms, contracts, deficiency loans and more will be selected for various reviews from a nationwide database of producers to achieve a valid statistical sampling of participating producers. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in the Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program and other programs.

State and county offices will view and print their producer spot check lists as posted on a designated website. If an entity is selected from the national database is no longer farming or participating in programs during the 2012 crop year, a notation shall be made on the spot check list. For more information about the new spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact your local office for additional clarification.

## Special Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

## Beginning and Limited Resource Loans

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

- Has operated a farm for less 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 median size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed.

Additional program information, loan applications and other materials are available at the local USDA Service Center or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) and [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)

## Banking Changes? Let FSA Know to Prevent Payment Delays

If you changed banks and did not notify FSA, your payment could be delayed. Because payments are electronically transferred into your bank account, changes to your account and routing numbers need to be shared with FSA immediately. Also on FSA loans, to continue to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank.

Changes can include the type of account, bank mergers, new routing number or account numbers. Your county FSA office can help you avoid these problems if you will contact them in advance of any banking changes.

## Controlled Substances

Individuals convicted under federal or state law of any planting, cultivating, growing, producing, harvesting or storing a controlled substance are ineligible for program payments and benefits. If convicted of one of these offenses, a current program participant shall be ineligible during that crop year and the four succeeding crop years for Direct and Counter-Cyclical payments, price support loans, loan deficiency payments, market loan gains, storage payments, farm facility loans, Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program payments or disaster payments.

Program participants convicted of any federal or state offense consisting of the *distribution (trafficking) of a controlled substance* shall, at the discretion of the court, be ineligible for any or all program payments and benefits (a) For up to 5 years after the first conviction, (b) For up to 10 years after the second conviction, or (c) Permanently for a third or subsequent conviction.

Program participants with a federal or state conviction for the *possession of a controlled substance* shall be ineligible, at the discretion of the court, for any or all program benefits for (a) up to one year upon the first conviction, or (b) up to five years after a second or subsequent conviction.

## Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

NAP provides financial assistance to eligible producers affected by natural disasters on non-insurable crop losses. The closing date to purchase NAP for the following crops is **August 31<sup>st</sup>**: beets, cabbage, canola, carrots, Christmas trees, flowers, greens, herbs (except mint), onions, and radish.

If you participate in NAP, your crop production evidence must be submitted each year **by June 30<sup>th</sup>**. Please turn in your 2011 production (or previous production as well if you haven't been "keeping up").

## USDA Secretary Instructs FSA to Proceed with Office Consolidation Plan

The proposal to consolidate the Polk County FSA office with the Marion County FSA Office was approved by USDA Secretary Thomas A. Vilsack. The FSA County Office in Polk County will be officially closed on or about September 30, 2012. Polk County FSA participant's farm records will automatically transfer to Marion-Polk County FSA Office in Salem, Oregon. However, participants can expect to receive a letter notifying them of the closure, and the option to request transferring farm records to another adjacent county office. Please adhere to the timeframe specified within the letter.

### Revised Acreage Reporting Deadlines Beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>

As of July 1, 2012, the deadline to report crop acreage is being revised to the dates in the table below for Oregon. Previously, the deadline for reporting most crops has been June 30<sup>th</sup>. Please be aware that you may need to meet multiple reporting deadlines if you raise multiple crops. Due to these changes, our office will not be able to contact individual producers about their deadlines as it will be dependent upon what you plant. You are responsible for reporting by your crop's deadline.

Apples, Blueberries, Cherries, Cranberries, Fresh Apricots, Fresh Freestone Peaches, Fresh Nectarines, Grapes, Pears, Plums	January 15
Cabbage (Planted 3/12-4/20)	May 15
Spring Alfalfa Seed, Spring Barley, Cabbage (Planted 4/21-6/10), Spring Canola, Corn, Dry Beans, Dry Peas, Green Peas, Spring Mint, Mustard, Oats, Onions (Planted 2/15-5/15), Potatoes, Processing Beans, Sugar Beets, Sweet Corn, Spring Wheat, <b>and all other crops</b>	July 15
Cabbage (Planted 6/11-8/10)	August 15
Apiculture, PRF (perennial rangeland forage)	November 15
Fall Alfalfa Seed, Fall Barley, Fall Canola, Perennial Forage, Fall Mint, Onions (Planted 8/15-9/15), Fall Wheat, and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains	December 15

Selected Interest Rates for June	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	1.50%
Farm Ownership - Direct	3.625%
Limited Resource	5.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility – 7 year	1.250%
Farm Storage Facility – 10 year	1.875%
Farm Storage Facility – 12 year	2.125%
Sugar Storage Facility	2.375%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%

Dates to Remember	
June 15	COC Nomination Period Opens
June 30	2012 Acreage Reporting Deadline
	NAP Production Reporting Deadline
July 4	Office Closed - Independence Day
Aug. 1	Last Day to file COC nomination form
	DCP Late Sign-up Deadline
Aug. 31	NAP purchase deadline