Fall 2011

Polk County FSA Office

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

Polk County Staff

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2011 ELAP and LIP Sign Up

Sign up deadlines are approaching for FSA's Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Fact sheets for these programs can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov; click on NEWSROOM, then FACT SHEETS.

Producers who have suffered a disaster due to the recent severe weather conditions should read the fact sheets and visit their local FSA office to get a quick start on the recovery process.

Both ELAP and LIP Sign-ups require a Notice of Loss filed by the earliest of either:

- 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent to the participant or
- October 31, 2011

An application for payment must be received no later than January 30.

Emergency Farm Loans

The Farm Service Agency provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production losses and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine.

Loan Uses

Emergency loan funds may be used to:

- Restore or replace essential property;
- Pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year;
- Pay essential family living expenses;
- Reorganize the farming operation; and
- Refinance certain debts.

Further information and applications for the loan programs described are available at local FSA county offices.

NAP Loss Filing

For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 (Notice of Loss) in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. The CCC-576 is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

2012 DCP Signup Begins

Enrollment for the 2012 direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) will begin in October and continue through June 1, 2012. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website; access at www.eauth.egov.usda.gov . Or, producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2012 DCP contract.

USDA computes 2012 DCP payments using 85 percent of the commodity base acres; **no** advance direct payment will be disbursed.

Hispanic & Women Farmers/ Black/Native American

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established.

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.

For additional information contact:

Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process: www.farmerclaims.gov
or call 1-888-508-4429

Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation:
www.blackfarmercase.com
or call 1-866-950-5547

Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement:
www.IndianFarmClass.com
or call 1-888-233-5506

Biomass Crop Program

In Oregon up to 7,000 acres of hybrid poplar and 1,000 acres of camelina will be accepted into the Farm Service Agency's Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) Project Areas 6 and 9 for rental payments based on a soil rental rate plus a 50% incentive.

Enrollment is now open until Sept. 16 and to qualify, producers must first secure a contract with project sponsor ZeaChem, Inc. for poplar or Beaver Biodiesel for processing of the camelina into biofuel. .

Created in the 2008 Farm Bill, the BCAP effort is designed to advance domestic energy security, reduce pollution and spur rural economic development and job creation.

Counties eligible for this second phase of BCAP enrollment in Oregon include Jefferson, Klamath, Morrow (poplar only), Umatilla, Union and Wasco. **The Willamette Valley is not eligible for BCAP.** For more BCAP information, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/bcap or contact your county office.

eNewsletters and eUpdates through GovDelivery!

The Farm Service Agency is providing more cost-effective and resource-conserving options to deliver news, deadlines and bulletins. You have the option to receive information instantly and electronically from your state or local FSA office directly to your farm or ranch. Several states already have GovDelivery for news releases.

Take a look at your current state and county options for electronic delivery by visiting the FSA home page at www.fsa.usda.gov

Email Updates

Click on the small **E-MAIL UPDATES** icon and once you enroll in GovDelivery, you can select electronic subscriptions via e-mail. For more information contact your FSA state office and watch for more news and opportunities to sign up to receive your news quicker and at less cost via e-mail.

Continuous CRP

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

Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment.

To be eligible, 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, please contact your local FSA office.

2011 & 2012 SURE ELIGIBILITY

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program compensates for production and/or quality losses during times of disaster.

Crops are not required to be harvested on or before September 30, 2011 to maintain SURE eligibility. A loss claim will only trigger after FSA determines that the loss was because of disaster occurring on or before September 30, 2011. Losses that result from disasters that occur after September 30, 2011 will not be eligible for SURE benefits.

The sign-up period for 2011 and 2012 SURE will not begin until after the national average market prices are determined for each respective crop year, which is normally one year after the applicable crop year. For crop year 2010 applications a signup will be offered sometime this fall. Contact your local FSA office for more information.

Rural Youth Loans

FSA makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. Loans may not exceed $5000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- United States citizenship (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- 10 to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms. The FSA staff can help you with questions you may have about a particular program.

Report All Farm Changes

If you have bought land, sold land or have had rental changes, make sure these are reported to FSA as soon as possible after the changes occur. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide FSA with evidence of the change such as a recorded deed, land contract or real estate tax bill. Landowners and operators must also inform FSA of any cropland changes to the farm. Conversion of cropland to non cropland, a non-agricultural use such as buildings, parking lots, lawns, etc., must be reported to FSA to insure program eligibility.

CHANGE IN FARM LOAN PROGRAM STAFF

Starting in October, there will be some changes in the Farm Loan Program staff serving the Willamette Valley and northwest Oregon.

- Nancy Thompson, presently Farm Loan Manger in the Hillsboro FSA Office, will become the Farm Loan Manger in the Salem FSA Office, directly serving producers in Marion & Polk Counties.
- Donna Sprenkle, presently Farm Loan Manager in the Salem Office, will become the Farm Loan Manger in the Tangent FSA Office, directly serving producers in Linn, Benton, Lincoln, Lane Counties, as well as Jefferson, Crook, & Deschutes Counties.
- Suzanne Hayes, presently Farm Loan Officer in the Hillsboro FSA Office will remain in Hillsboro, directly serving producers in Washington, Columbia, Tillamook, Clatsop, Multnomah, Clackamas & Yamhill Counties, with Nancy Thompson providing supervision and oversight.

We appreciate your patience as we make these staffing changes. It is our desire to continue to provide the best possible service.

RMA CROP INSURANCE & NAP SALES CLOSING DATE REMINDER

Check with your local service center, or, consult with a crop insurance agency at http://www.rma.usda.gov for options

CLOSING DATE	CROP
September 30	Alfalfa Seed, Apiculture, Barley*, Forage Production, Mint*, Pasture, Rangeland, Wheat
October 1	Asparagus, Garlic, Hops, Meadow Foam, Sugar Beet, Triticale, Vetch,
November 20	Apples, Apricots, Blueberries, Cane Berries, Chestnuts, Cherries, Cranberries, Grapes, Hazelnuts, Honey, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Plums, Prunes, Strawberries, Walnuts
November 30	All forage and grazing crops except oats. All grasses and legumes for seed.
January 31	Adjusted Gross Revenue and Continuous Adjusted Gross Revenue Lite
March 15	Adjusted Gross Revenue Lite - For newly insured
March 15	Barley, Beans, Broccoli, Cantaloupe, Canola, Cauliflower, Corn, Cucumber, Dry Beans, Lentils, Mint, Mustard, Oats, Dry Peas, Green Peas, Potatoes, Processed Beans, Pumpkin, Safflower, Sugar Beets, Sunflower, Squash, Sweet Corn, Tomato, Watermelon
May 15	Buckwheat

*Acreage insured under winter coverage option

**See attached list of Crop Coverage by County

Selected Interest Rates for September 2011	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	2.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.625%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency (Actual Loss)	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility – 7 year loan term	1.875%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%

Dates to Remember	
Sep.15-Oct.15	Hispanic Heritage Month
Oct.	Disability Employment Awareness
Oct. 10	Office Closed-Columbus Day
Nov.	American Heritage Month
Nov. 11	Office Closed-Veteran's Day
Nov. 24	Office Closed-Thanksgiving Day
Dec. 5	Election Ballots Returned/Postmarked
Dec. 26	Office Closed-Christmas Day

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.