



NEWSLETTER



September 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

Dallas FSA Office Closure due to Polk County FSA Consolidation

The Dallas Farm Service Agency (FSA) location at 580 Main Street, Suite D, is currently in the process of moving to combine with the Marion County FSA office in Salem. The Dallas office will remain open now through September 20th. After the 20th, we will be moving to the Salem location and begin work there on October 1st. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. Below is the office information for both offices depending on what timeframe you would be contacting us:

Polk County FSA (Through 9/20/12)

580 Main Street, Ste D, Dallas, OR 97338
Ph: 503-623-2396 x2 Fax: 503-623-6335
Email: Janelle.Huserik@or.usda.gov

Marion-Polk FSA (Beginning 10/1/12)

650 Hawthorne Ave SE, Ste 130, Salem, OR 97301
Ph: 503-399-5741 x2 Fax: 503-399-5799
Email: Janelle.Huserik@or.usda.gov

It is best to call the office prior to visiting within this time of transition.

Records for all producers who have worked with the Polk County FSA Office will be moved to the combined office in Salem, unless a transfer has been requested and completed to a contiguous county FSA office. You will continue to receive GovDelivery newsletters and bulletins from the combined Marion-Polk FSA.

The Polk County Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) will remain at the current location of 580 Main Street, Suite A, Dallas, OR 97338.

Upcoming Calendar Reminders

- **Sept. 18:** Deadline for submitting comment on Pesticide Use (See "Request for Comment")
- **Sept. 20:** Last day for Dallas office location to be open (See "Dallas FSA Office Closure...")
- **Oct. 1:** Crop Insurance Sales Closing Date, Including Wheat (See "Fall Federal Crop Insurance...")
- **Oct. 8:** Office closed due to Columbus Day
- **Nov. 12:** Office closed due to Veterans' Day
- **Nov. 15:** Acreage reporting deadline for apiculture and PRF (see "Revised Acreage Reporting...")
- **Nov. 20:** NAP application for coverage deadline for orchard crops and honey (see "NAP Deadlines")
- **Nov. 22:** Office closed due to Thanksgiving Day
- **Nov. 30:** NAP application for coverage deadline for forage & grazing crops (except oats), grasses & legumes for seed (see "NAP Deadlines")
- **Dec. 17:** Acreage reporting deadline for perennial forage, fall seeded grains and mint (see "Revised Acreage Reporting...")
- **Dec. 25:** Office closed due to Christmas Day

Preventing Fraud

The FSA supports the Risk Management Agency in the prevention of fraud, waste and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will continue to refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse directly to RMA.

Producers can report suspected cases to the FSA office, RMA, or the Office of the Inspector General.

**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.

Request for Comment: Petition to begin rulemaking to regulate pesticide use

The State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) seeks public comment on a petition submitted to the Oregon Environmental Quality Commission on Aug. 9, 2012 by Northwest Environmental Advocates. Comments may be submitted via email or U.S. postal mail and must be received by **6 p.m. PDT on Sept. 18, 2012.**

DEQ will hold a public hearing in Portland, OR from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday Sept. 12, 2012. The hearing will be held at DEQ Headquarters, Room EQC-A (10th floor), 811 SW 6th Ave., Portland, OR.

Email your comments to:
waterqualitystandards@deq.state.or.us

U.S. postal mail:
Attn: Debra Sturdevant
DEQ Water Quality Division
811 SW 6th Ave.
Portland, OR 97204.

For details, please go to:
<http://www.deq.state.or.us/news/eventdisplay.asp?eventID=1753>

Changes to Form 1099-G and 1099-MISC for FSA Producers and Vendors

Calendar year 2012 brings several changes to the way FSA reports a producer's farm program payments to the producer and to IRS. In past years, IRS Forms 1099-G would be issued to show all program payments received from the Farm Service Agency, regardless of the amount.

Starting with calendar year 2012, producers whose total reportable payments from FSA are less than \$600 will not receive IRS Form 1099-G (Report of Payments to Producers).

Additionally, producers who receive payments from more than one county will only receive one Form 1099-G if the total of all payments from all counties is \$600 or more.

Producers who receive less than \$600 in combined payments should consult a tax advisor to determine if these payments must be reported on their tax return.

If the payments were subject to voluntary withholdings or subject to backup (involuntary) withholdings a Form 1099-G will be issued regardless of the total amount of the payments.

The same changes will apply to producers and vendors who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA.

Revised Acreage Reporting Deadlines for 2013 Crops

The deadline to report 2013 crop acreage is being revised to the dates shown below for Oregon. Previously, the deadline for reporting most crops has been June 30th. **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.

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

**If your crop planting is past the deadline, you must report within 15 calendar days of your planting date.*

Marketing Assistance Loans

IMPORTANT: Due to the office move the computer system that processes Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL's) will be down for about one week prior to the actual move. It is estimated this downtime will occur the week of September 17, 2012. Please be aware the MAL application process could take longer because of this and plan accordingly if you want to apply.

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity, whichever is earlier. Beneficial interest means a) retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity, b) being responsible for loss or damage to the commodity and c) possessing title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility also stipulates compliance with the following requirements: conservation and wetland protection; beneficial interest; acreage reporting and minimum grade and quality standards set by the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, exist in a storable condition and be merchantable 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.

Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE programs to be eligible for commodity loans.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions such as assessing liquidated damages, calling in the loan and denial of future commodity and 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.

Sign Up for FSA 'Fence Post' for Daily Updates

The Farm Service Agency Fence Post is an online newsletter that is updated on an almost daily basis. It contains articles of interest on the agency's programs and departments, as well as success stories from the field. To access Fence Post visit <http://fsa.blogs.govdelivery.com/>.

On this website, producers can sign up for Fence Post updates by putting an email address in box that says "Get Email Updates" and then navigating to the publication's sign up check box.

Actively Engaged

FSA wants to remind producers about the eligibility rules that require program applicants to be 'actively engaged' in farming. These eligibility rules apply to payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program administered by FSA.

To be eligible, the stockholder or a member of a legal entity **must** normally make contributions of active personal labor and/or active personal management on the farming operation. The contributions are to be performed on regular basis, must be identifiable and separate from the contributions of others.

The exception to this rule occurs only if both of the following apply:

- At least half of the interest in the legal entity is held by stockholders or members who are providing active personal labor or active personal management and;
- The total direct payments received, both directly and indirectly, by the legal entity and each of the members doesn't exceed \$40,000.

Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) Deadlines

NAP provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to normal disasters.

The following crops have a NAP application closing date of:

- **October 1, 2012:** Asparagus, garlic, mint, hops, meadowfoam, sugarbeet, triticale grain
- **November 20, 2012:** Apricots, blueberries, caneberries, chestnuts, cherries, cranberries, hazelnuts, honey, nectarines, peaches, plums, prunes, strawberries, walnuts
- **November 30, 2012:** All forage and grazing crops except oats. All grasses and legumes for seed.
- **March 15, 2013:** Beans, broccoli, camelina, cantaloupe, cauliflower, corn, cucumber, lentils, mustard, oats, peas, potatoes, pumpkin, safflower, sunflower, squash, tomato, watermelon
- **May 15, 2013:** Buckwheat

**Some of the above crops may be insurable through Federal Crop Insurance. If so, then they are not eligible for a NAP policy.*

In order to meet eligibility requirements for NAP, crops must be noninsurable, commercially-produced agricultural commodity crops for which the catastrophic risk protection level of crop insurance is not available. If the Risk Management Agency (RMA) offers coverage for a crop in the county, then NAP coverage is not available for that crop.

In the event of a natural disaster, NAP covers the amount of loss greater than 50 percent of the expected production based on the approved yield and reported acreage.

Eligible producers can apply for coverage using form CCC-471, Application for Coverage. Producers must file the application and service fee by the deadlines listed above. The service fee is the lesser of \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to

exceed a total of \$1,875 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

Fall Federal Crop Insurance Sales Closing Dates Near

Spokane, Wash., September 10, 2012 ----

USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) continues to see producer's confidence in the Multi-Peril Crop Insurance (MPCI) program for Idaho, Oregon and Washington crops.

"While producers are winding-down their current wheat harvest, we want to remind Pacific Northwest farmers that the sales closing deadline for their 2013 fall crops is just a few short weeks away," said Dave Paul, Director of RMA Spokane Regional Office.

October 1st Sales Closing Dates:

- **Mint with Winter Coverage**
- **Forage Production** (Klamath and Malheur counties, Oregon)
- **Forage (Alfalfa) Seed Pilot**
- **Fall Planted Barley with Winter Coverage** (in selected counties)
- **Fall Planted Dry Peas/Lentils with Winter Coverage** (in selected counties)
- **Wheat**

Current policyholders and uninsured growers must make all of their decisions on crop insurance coverage, especially which crops to insure and what level and type of coverage to buy before the sales closing date. If there is no coverage filed in a county for a specific crop under the traditional MPCI program, producers can ask a crop insurance agent whether they are eligible for coverage under a written agreement

Producers are encouraged to visit their crop insurance agent soon to learn specific details for the 2013 crop year. Federal crop insurance program policies are sold and delivered solely through private insurance companies and agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers in the United States or on the RMA Web site at <http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents/>.

FSA Farm Loans

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, contact your nearest FSA office for details about direct and guaranteed loans.

Ask your current lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your current 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 farm ownership and operating loans is 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan.

To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff to schedule an appointment at (503) 399-5741 x2.

Highly Erodible Land Initiative

The Highly Erodible Land Initiative sign-up under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) began on July 23, 2012. The purpose of this initiative is to protect up to 750,000 acres of the nation's most highly erodible croplands. Producers may enroll at their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office. Enrollment will continue until the 750,000 acre limit has been met.

CRP is a voluntary program designed to help farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers protect their environmentally sensitive land. Through this Highly Erodible Land Initiative, eligible landowners receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource

conserving covers on eligible cropland and maintain it for a period of 10 years. Croplands with an erodibility index of 20 or greater are eligible for enrollment.

For more information producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office or visit FSA's website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/crp

Electronic Services Available

With Internet access, program participants can access many services from home 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and receive both approvals and direct deposit payments within 48 hours.

To participate in these electronic services, you must meet all program eligibility requirements. Online services have stringent security measures to protect your private information.

To utilize electronic services a producer needs an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires an e-mail address and filling out an online registration form at www.eauth.usda.gov/ followed by a visit to the county office for identity verification.

If you have more questions, or would like assistance establishing your account, just contact your local USDA Service Center and talk with our trained FSA personnel.

Selected Interest Rates for September 2012

Farm Operating - Direct: 1.125%

Farm Ownership - Direct: 3.00%

Farm Ownership - Down Payment: 1.50%

Emergency Loan: 2.125%

Commodity Loans 1996-Present: 1.125%

Farm Storage Facility Loans: 1.125% - 1.875%