



Polk County News - October 2009



Polk County FSA Office
 580 Main Street Suite D
 Dallas, OR 97338
 Telephone: 503-623-2396 Ext. 2
 Fax: 503-623-6335
 Website: www.fsa.usda.gov/or/
 Email: janelle.huserik@or.usda.gov

Office Staff:
 Janelle Huserik, CED – ext.105
 Laurie Johnson, PT – ext. 102
 Beverly Schmidt, PT – ext. 100

Farm Loan Staff:
 Salem FSA Office 503-399-5741 x2
 Sharilyn Millette, Loan Manager

Polk County Committee:
 Ron Quiring, Chairman
 Adam Loop, Vice Chairman
 Tom Crawford, Member
 Sandy Moritz, Minority Advisor

Dates To Remember

Soon!	Contact us for 2010 DCP/ACRE Signup (Want Money Quicker? apply for advance direct payments)
10/1/2009	NAP deadline: asparagus, garlic, mint, hops, meadow foam, triticale grain (See "NAP Coverage" page 2)
10/12/2009	Columbus Day – Office Closed
11/11/2009	Veterans Day – Office Closed
11/20/2009	NAP deadline: apricots, cane berries, chestnuts, cherries, hazelnuts, honey, nectarines, peaches, plums, prunes, strawberries, walnuts (See "NAP Coverage" on page 2)
11/26/2009	Thanksgiving Day – Office Closed
11/30/2009	NAP deadline: all grasses and legumes for seed (See "NAP Coverage" on page 2)
12/7/2009	Last day to return ballots for COC Elections (See "County Committee" on page 1)
12/14/2009	Application Deadline for LFP and ELAP (see "Crop Insurance Requirements" on page 2)
Ongoing	Within 15 Days of damage becoming apparent—File NAP Notice of Loss (See "NAP Coverage" on page 2)
	CREP and Continuous CRP Sign-up
TBA	SURE Crop Disaster Program Sign-Ups (see "Crop Insurance Requirements" on page 2)

County Committee - Nominating Closed, Voting Starts Nov. 6

Nominees for the LAA-2 position (south of Hwy 22, east of Hwy 223) on the Polk County Committee (COC) has been set. Nominated to replace Ron Quiring (current COC Chairman) on the committee is Donal MacCarthy of Monmouth. Outgoing Chairman, Ron Quiring, has served three consecutive 3-year terms on the COC, and is ineligible to run again without a 1-term break in service. His commitment to agriculture and service to producers in the area is greatly appreciated.



Dec. 7th Deadline!

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning Nov. 6, and must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Dec. 7, or postmarked by midnight Dec. 7, 2009. Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm can also vote. No one can be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

Need Cash Flow? Ask About Our Marketing Assistance Loans!

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 earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and 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 requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and 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 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.

Crop Insurance Requirements – Will You be Eligible for Programs?

With the passage of the 2008 Farm Bill, crop insurance is now required to be eligible to participate in some FSA programs. In the past, producers would be eligible for Crop Disaster Programs because of an eligible production loss on their crops. Now, a Disaster Trust Fund was established which funded disaster related programs. This includes:

- **SURE: the Supplemental Revenue Assurance Program.** The SURE program compensates producers for revenue losses on their farm. For the purpose of the program the farm includes all acreage farmed in all counties. Either the entire farm must suffer a 50% loss in revenue for the year or one of the counties that the producer participates in must have a Secretarial Disaster Declaration for the year. Payment is calculated based upon the level of coverage or buy up that the producer has purchased. The higher the level of protection, the higher the payment.
- **LFP: the Livestock Forage Program.** The Livestock Forage Program compensates producers for forage losses due to drought and other conditions. To be eligible for payment the insured pasture must be located in a county with a drought designated as a D2 or higher by the US Drought Monitor. Applications must be received prior to December 14, 2009.



Dec. 14th Deadline!



- and -

- **ELAP: the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm Raised Fish (ELAP).** The Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm Raised Fish (ELAP) program compensates producers for losses due to adverse weather or other loss conditions that are not covered under LIP, SURE or LFP. The ELAP program will compensate producers for feed losses or physical losses not covered under the programs. This is not an annual program and is only available at the discretion of the Secretary of Agriculture. Applications must be received prior to December 14, 2009.



All three programs require that producers purchase insurance coverage in the form of NAP or other crop insurance for the year of the application for their crops. Insurance must be purchased by the closing date for the applicable crop. For non-insurable crops, contact FSA for coverage under NAP (see "NAP Coverage" below). For other crops contact your crop insurance agent.

NAP Coverage - Deadlines & Details



The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available. NAP and Crop Insurance coverage on all crops is required for additional crop disaster programs.

Application Closing Dates, 2010 and later Crop Years for Polk County: (list may include insurable crops)

October 1	Asparagus, garlic, mint, hops, meadow foam, sugar beet, triticale grain
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.
March 15	Beans, broccoli, cantaloupe, cauliflower, corn, cucumber, lentils, mustard, oats, peas, potatoes, pumpkin, safflower, sunflower, squash, tomato, watermelon
May 15	Buckwheat

Producers who already have coverage on 2009 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2010, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee. **Service fees are \$250 per crop pay type / \$750 per county / \$2250 per producer.**

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.

New Payment Method



Producers will now receive all payment statements from the National Finance Center (NFC). The County FSA Office provides the direct deposit and program payment information to NFC. NFC then processes the payment to your bank account. As a result, there is a 1 day delay in receipt via direct deposit, the potential for all payments to be offset for Federal debt, and the description on the bank statement will read "FSA TREAS 310".

Are YOU in Compliance? To maintain program eligibility...

➤ Check with our office before you tile or clear land

If you are planning to tile, fill, level or clear land it is very important that you check with our office well in advance of doing these activities. Any of these actions could put you in violation of highly erodible land conservation (HELC) and wetland conservation (WC) provisions which would then make you ineligible for all USDA benefits. Come to our office first to complete an AD-1026 form and indicate what you plan to do. NRCS will then make a wetland determination, if necessary, and give you guidance on what you may do and still remain in compliance.



Important points to keep in mind: 1) this type of violation makes you ineligible for the calendar year in which it is done, so it could affect 2009 payments; 2) you can be affected if your landlord is doing these activities on a farm that you operate; 3) persons affiliated with you may be affected.

➤ Planting fruits & vegetables (even for seed) could affect your DCP payments

If you participate in the DCP/ACRE program, planting fruits and vegetables (FAVs), even for seed, *on base acres* is prohibited. If FAVs are planted on base acres, this would be a violation that would either terminate the DCP/ACRE contract for the year or result in an acre-for-acre payment reduction, depending on if the specific farm has a history of FAV plantings. So, **before** you plant FAVs, check with our office to see if this would affect your payments.

➤ Highly erodible determinations are needed on fields with annual crops

If you will be planting wheat or another annual crop for 2010, highly erodible determinations are required on those fields. The determinations, if already made, can be found on your tract maps beneath the field number and acres. HEL = highly erodible, NHEL = not highly erodible. If you're not sure that a determination has been made, contact our office and we will send a request to NRCS. If the land is highly erodible a conservation system is required. NRCS can help you with this.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

Changes to the Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program have been implemented in accordance with the 2008 Farm Bill, which will allow producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) administers FSFL on behalf of the USDA Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC).



The maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. Loan terms of 7, 10, or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount. **The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans: 1) wheat, barley, oats harvested as whole grain; 2) corn, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain; 3) Pulse crops – lentils, small chickpeas, and dry peas; 4) Hay; 5) Renewable biomass; 6) Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables – cold storage.**

Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP)

The new BCAP program is of interest to biomass conversion facilities (BCFs) and eligible material owners who own, chip and transport biomass material to these facilities. Eligible material owners with BCF contracts can apply for matching payments under the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) component of BCAP. Once an agreement is signed between FSA and a BCF and funding is provided, the facilities can begin accepting materials under this program.

The CHST matching payments are paid at a rate of \$1 for \$1 per dry-ton equivalent received by a qualified BCF, not to exceed \$45 per dry-ton equivalent, limited to receive payments for two years. The purpose of the matching payments is to assist biomass handlers with the CHST cost of delivering biomass to a qualified BCF. Once a facility becomes qualified, eligible material owners or producers who deliver biomass to that facility may be eligible to receive CHST payments.

Eligible material owners or producers, who market eligible material to a qualified BCF, may apply for the matching CHST payment at their FSA county office. An application must be submitted and approved **before** the eligible material is sold or delivered to a qualified BCF. After the product is delivered, a material handler must provide FSA with documentation of product quantity, quality and payment rate. CHST payments will not be authorized until appropriate environmental analysis is completed. Contact your local FSA county office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov for more information.

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

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
TUALATIN, OR
PERMIT NO. 71

DO YOU NEED A FARM LOAN?

We have the following programs available for those qualified individuals in need of financing:

Operating Loans
Equipment Loans
Real Estate Loans
Debt Refinancing
Loans for Minorities and Women
Loans for Beginning Farmers
Youth Loans for FFA or 4-H Members



Call (503) 399-5741 Sharilyn Millette – Ext. #115

Do you wish to receive the newsletter by email? 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.huserik@or.usda.gov.

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

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). 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.