October 2011

NEWSLETTER

Polk County FSA

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Hours

Monday—Friday
8:00 am—4:30 pm

County Office Staff

Janelle Huserik—ext. 105
County Executive Director

Nancy Thompson—(503) 399-5741 ext. 115
Farm Loan Manager

Laurie Johnson—ext. 102
Beverly Schmidt—ext 100
Program Technicians

County Committee

Tom Crawford—*Chair*
Donal MacCarthy—*Vice*
Kirk Fast—*Member*
Sandy Moritz—*Advisor*

Website

www.fsa.usda.gov/OR

2010 SURE Sign Up

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) is available to eligible producers on:
(1) farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties, that have incurred at least a 10 percent crop production or quality loss, or both, on all crops grown by a producer nationwide, **except** grazed crops, OR
(2) farms in non-disaster designated counties (and not contiguous) which, for the crop year, the actual production on the farm because of disaster-related conditions is 50 percent or less than normal production of the farm.

2010 Federal Crop Insurance or participation under FSA's Non-Insured Assistance Program is required for all crops to be eligible for the SURE program.

The 2010 SURE Program signup period begins **November 14th and ends June 1, 2012**.

2011 DCP Final Payments

DCP payments for 2011 participants will be issued after Oct. 1, 2011. These payments will be deposited directly into participating producers' personal bank accounts.

If there are any unearned payments, Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically subtract those amounts from the October Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program payments.

2012 DCP Sign-Up

Enrollment for the 2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) begins on Jan. 23 and continues through June 1, 2012. Producers can make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or they can visit the FSA office to complete their 2012 DCP contract.

Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates set by statute regardless of prices.

Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP)

ELAP provides compensation to eligible producers of livestock, honey bees and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other loss conditions, including losses caused by blizzards and wildfires. ELAP is for losses that are not covered by Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), or Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE).

Eligible producers under ELAP may receive assistance for losses that occur on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011, during the calendar year in which the loss occurs. Eligible losses include feed losses, physical losses and additional costs incurred in providing feed to eligible livestock.
The two parts to ELAP applications are: a) notice of loss, b) application for payment.

An application for payment cannot be filed without a notice of loss.

There are no late filed provisions for ELAP. Producers with eligible losses must timely file an acreage report on grazing land acres, honey bee colonies and farm-raised fish pond acres.

Eligible physical losses of honey bees and honey bee hives due to adverse weather or loss conditions are eligible under ELAP. Producers will be required to provide documentation of beginning and ending inventory of honey bee colonies when claiming a physical loss of honey bees or honey bee hives.

Additional ELAP information is available at FSA county offices or on line at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Adjusted Gross Income Certification and Verification

A new form (CCC-931) has been developed to assist producers to certify Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) compliance) and consent to verification by the IRS to maintain eligibility for 2009, 2010 and 2011 program benefits.

A separate form is required for each year. These forms must be filed with the FSA office. The FSA office will send copies to the IRS for verification.

This new form authorizes IRS to verify for FSA whether a payment recipient's AGI meets the eligibility requirements for FSA programs.

Producers who fail to file these forms before Sept. 2011 will receive a notice from the National Office stating that the producer is ineligible for 2009, 2010, or 2011 payments. If you receive this notice please contact your local FSA Office immediately for assistance.

County Committee Elections

Watch your mailbox for the official county office committee election ballot starting early in November. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters starting Nov. 4, 2011. If for some reason you don't receive a ballot and your district is up for election this year, feel free to notify the county FSA office.

Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on Dec. 5, 2011.

Farm Safety

Flowing grain in a storage bin or gravity-flow wagon is like quicksand, it can kill quickly. It takes less than five seconds for a person caught in flowing grain to be trapped.

The mechanical aspects of grain handling equipment, also presents a real danger. Augers, power take offs and other moving parts can grab people or clothing.

These hazards, along with pinch points and missing shields, are dangerous enough for adults; not to mention children. It is always advisable to keep children a safe distance from operating farm equipment.

Always use extra caution when backing or maneuvering farm machinery. Ensure everyone is visibly clear and accounted for before machinery is engaged.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is $500,000. Participants are now 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. New 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 approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- **Honey (New!!)**
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

For more information about FSFL visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

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 United States Department of Agriculture

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Farm Loan Program Limits

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, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to 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 starting on Oct. 1, 2011. .

The one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans has increased from 1 percent to 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan, for loans obligated after Oct. 1, 2011.

To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers

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 – 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.

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers and/or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm not more that 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.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency 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. The maximum loan amount is $5,000.

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 years 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
- Inability to obtain 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 and provide adequate supervision.

United States Department of Agriculture

Nursery Crop Insurance

USDA Risk Management Agency is providing an opportunity for growers, agents, and other stakeholders to comment on their experiences with the existing program and offer thoughts on how the program could be changed to be more efficient or effective. The listening session is scheduled at 9 AM, November 3rd, 2011, at the Oregon Association of Nurseries Conference Room, 29751 SW Town Center Loop W., Wilsonville, OR 97070. Nurserymen and Nurserywomen are especially encouraged to attend.

The focus of the listening sessions will be the degree of grower interest in the program and reasons for that interest, willingness to pay premiums for risk management, establishing important risks and perils to production (natural and man-made), experiences with the existing program including perceptions of potential conflicts and difficulties, and ideas for improving the program. .

If you plan on attending, cannot attend but would like to provide comments, or have further questions, please contact Dr. Randy Landgren at 406-252-7776 or (rlandgren@wattsandassociates.com).

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

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.

Selected Interest Rates - Oct. 2011	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	1.750%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.250%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility	1.5%
Commodity Loans	1.125%

Dates to Remember	
11/11/2011	Veterans' Day Holiday; Office Closed
11/14/2011	2010 SURE Sign-up Begins
11/21/2011	NAP Sales closing date for Perennial crops and honey
11/24/2011	Thanksgiving Day Holiday; Office Closed
12/05/2011	Deadline to return or postmark COC Election Ballots
1/23/2012	DCP Program Signup Begins; through June 1, 2012

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of 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, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (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 to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.