



Polk County News

Polk County FSA Office
580 Main Street Suite D – Dallas, OR 97338
Telephone: 503-623-2396 Extension 2
Fax: 503-623-6335
Website: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/or/>
Email: andrew.schmidt@or.usda.gov

Scott Faber, Chairman
Tom Crawford, Vice Chair
Ron Quiring, COC Member
Sandy Moritz, Minority Advisor

Andrew Schmidt, CED – Ext 105
Laurie Johnson, PT – Ext 102
Beverly Schmidt, PT – Ext 100

Sharilyn Millette, Loan Mgr.
Kathey Naegeli, Loan Officer
Farm Loan employees are in
Marion FSA Office 503-399-5741 ext 2

June 5, 2007

SOME IMPORTANT DATES

- June 19, 2007** – County Committee Election informational meeting 5:00 pm, at the FSA office
- June 21, 2007** – County Committee Election informational meeting 7:00 am, at the FSA office
- June 26, 2007**- County Committee meeting in FSA office at 8:30 a.m.
- June 29, 2007** – Deadline to report crop acreage to FSA if you receive USDA benefits, see article
- August 3, 2007** – Deadline to complete 2007 DCP contract, see article

ACREAGE REPORTING DEADLINE JUNE 29, 2007

Producers or landowners who participate in FSA programs are required to file a timely and accurate acreage report by June 29, 2007. All cropland on farms which receive Direct and Counter-Cyclical payments, Marketing Assistance Loans, and Loan Deficiency Payments must be reported. In addition, all land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program and land in which Non-Insured Assistance Program benefits are received must be reported.

Failure to complete report by June 29, 2007 will require at minimum a \$46 charge per farm for FSA to physically verify crop existence. If crop existence cannot be verified or if you do not complete an acreage report you will not be eligible for FSA benefits and will be required to refund benefits received this year already.

WETLAND AND HIGHLY ERODIBLE COMPLIANCE

If you plan on cleaning a ditch, tiling a field or clearing trees and/or brush PLEASE call to check if the field or non-cropland area has a wetland and/or highly erodible determination on file. This step will save you a lot of stress by knowing up front if your proposed actions could possibly jeopardize your program eligibility with USDA.

WHAT IS CONVERTING A WETLAND?

The 1985 Act provided that planting on a converted wetland was a violation that would cause ineligibility for USDA benefits. The 1990 Act amended the 1985 Act and states that a person who converts a wetland after November 28, 1990, shall be ineligible for USDA benefits.

Definition of Converted Wetland: Conversion or “convert” is draining, dredging, filling, leveling, or otherwise manipulating a wetland, including the removal of woody vegetation or any activity that results in impairing or reducing the flow, circulation, or reach of water, for the purpose or to have the effect of making the production of an annually tilled crop possible if this production would not have been possible before such action and before the action the land was a wetland or farmed wetland and was not Highly Erodible.

WHAT IS HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND COMPLIANCE?

The 1985 Act, as amended, provides that, unless exempt, persons who produce an annually tilled crop on a field on which Highly Erodible Land (HEL) is predominate shall be ineligible for benefits under certain programs administered by USDA/FSA unless the producer has a conservation plan in place with NRCS and is actively following that plan.

2007 DIRECT AND COUNTER CYCLICAL (DCP) SIGN-UP

The deadline for all individuals or entities that receive a share of the payment to physically sign the contract or to file a lease with the FSA office is **August 3, 2007; however, you need to complete acreage reporting by June 29, 2007 to be eligible for this program.** IF SIGNATURES ARE NOT RECEIVED IN THE FSA OFFICE BY AUGUST 3, 2007 YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY \$100 LATE FEE PER CONTRACT.

Please call us to make an appointment or stop by the office at your convenience. An advance phone call is helpful to us and you in preventing delays and getting you back to other business matters in a timely fashion.

FARM YOUTH LOANS AVAILABLE

Rural youth ages 10-20 may be eligible for loans to establish and operate income-producing projects that are modest in size. These loans can finance nearly any kind of income-producing project. Some common projects include livestock, lawn and garden service, repair shops, aquaculture and roadside stands. These projects must be in connection with the local FFA, 4-H, or other similar organization and be part of an organized and supervised plan of work. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.

These loans provide youths with excellent practical business experience and a valuable educational experience. They also give youth an opportunity to build a credit history, which is very important these days. Please call 503-339-5741 extension 2 and ask for a Loan Officer for more information.

DISASTER LEGISLATION PASSED STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFO IN THE FUTURE

Recently, disaster legislation was passed that provides crop production loss assistance. It also provides Livestock compensation for producers in designated disaster counties. The years of assistance covers 2005, 2006 and 2007. NOTE: The 2007 language has a specific date of loss prior to February 28, 2007. More details will be coming once the regulations are written and the Farm Service Agency is provided with the guidelines to administer the program.

One significant change from past disaster programs administered is that you must have purchased federal crop insurance or FSA non-insured assistance for the year of disaster for the crop you request assistance on.

NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA) COMMITTEE ELECTION

Nominations are being accepted **until August 1, 2007** for the Polk County FSA Committee election being held this November. For FSA elections Polk County is identified by 3 voting/administrative areas. The area up for election this year is area #1, which is all land North of Highway 22 and East of Perrydale Road. Three positions are being filled: 1 regular member and 2 alternates.

Elected individuals serve a 3-year term beginning January 1, 2008. Typically members meet as often as once a month and they are reimbursed for their time and travel. Duties that Committee members are involved in include the following: Administering farm program activities conducted by the County FSA Office, Informing farmers of the purpose and provisions of the FSA programs, Monitoring changes in farm programs, participating in county meetings as necessary, performing other duties as assigned by the State FSA Committee

The enclosed **Nomination Form** allows individuals to nominate themselves or any other person as a candidate. If additional forms are needed, this one may be copied or another may be obtained at the County FSA Office, return completed forms to Polk FSA 580 Main Street Suite D, Dallas, OR 97338. Persons nominated should actively participate in the operation of a farm or ranch and be well qualified for committee work. A producer is eligible to be a County FSA committee member if the producer resides in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) in which the election is to be held and is eligible to vote.

There will be 2 informational meetings to explain what the County Committee is all about: Tuesday June 19, 2007 at 5:00 pm and Wednesday June 21, 2006 at 7:00 am. Both will be held at the Dallas Farm Service Agency Office Service Center.

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

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Do you wish to receive the newsletter by email? Please contact Andy at 503-623-2396 extension 105 or by email at andrew.schmidt@or.usda.gov and you will be emailed the newsletter.

Attention: Agricultural group members and leaders. Do want FSA to come to your meeting and talk about what FSA has to offer you? If so contact Andrew Schmidt at 503-623-2396 extension 105 or by email at andrew.schmidt@or.usda.gov

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to visit the USDA Polk County Service Center should contact Andy Schmidt, at 623-2396 extension 105, or email andrew.schmidt@or.usda.gov.

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