



Polk County News

Polk County FSA Office

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

Andrew Schmidt, CED – Ext 105
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Sharilyn Millette, Loan Mgr.
Kathey Naegeli, Loan Officer
Farm Loan employees are in
Marion FSA Office 503-399-5741 ext 2

March 2007

SOME IMPORTANT DATES

April 18, 2007 - County Committee meeting in FSA office at 8:30 a.m.

June 1, 2007 – Deadline to complete 2007 DCP contract, see article

June 29, 2007 – Deadline to report crop acreage to FSA if you receive USDA benefits, see article

August 29, 2007 and October 22, 2007– Deadline to file for emergency loan, see article.

2007 DIRECT AND COUNTER CYCLICAL (DCP) SIGN-UP

The Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP) provides payments to eligible producers on farms through the 2007 crop year. Direct payments are not based on producers' current production choices, but instead are tied to historical acreage bases and yields. Because direct payments provide no incentive to increase production of any certain crop, the payments support farm income without distorting producers' current production decisions. Bases and yields were selected by farmers in 2002.

To be eligible for payments under DCP, owners, operators, landlords, tenants, or sharecroppers must:

- share in the risk of producing a crop on base acres on a farm enrolled in DCP, and be entitled to share in the crop available for marketing from the base acres or would have shared had a crop been produced;
- annually report the use of the farm's cropland acreage;
- comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements on **ALL** of their land;
- comply with planting flexibility requirements which pertains to the planting of fruits and vegetables.
- use the base acres for agricultural or related activities; and
- protect all base acres from erosion, including providing sufficient cover as determined necessary by the county FSA committee, and control weeds.

The deadline for all individuals or entities that receive a share of the payment to physically sign the contract and file it with the FSA office is **JUNE 1, 2007**. IF SIGNATURES ARE NOT RECEIVED IN THE FSA OFFICE BY JUNE 1, 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. We would like to encourage you to contact us as soon as possible to avoid a mad rush at the end of May.

DO YOU NEED HAY OR HAVE HAY FOR SALE?

The Farm Service Agency's (FSA) electronic Hay Net Ad Service is an Internet-based service allowing farmers and ranchers to share 'Need Hay' ads and 'Have Hay' ads online. Check it out at www.fsa.usda.gov and go to ONLINE SERVICES and select Hay Net.

2007 FARM BILL PROPOSAL

Find the latest information regarding the next farm bill proposals online at www.usda.gov and select the link to WEBSITE:2007 Farm Bill Proposals. There are also handouts available at Farm Service Agency Office.

ACREAGE REPORTING

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. We encourage those farmers who do not normally do business with us, to please come in and still complete a crop report each year. Crop reporting is a requirement to participate in disaster programs. In addition, not reporting prevented and failed acreages now could reduce future disaster program payments.

PREVENTED PLANTINGS AND FAILED ACREAGES

It doesn't matter whether you are currently enrolled in Farm Service Agency programs or not, prevented plantings and failed acreages **APPLY TO EVERYONE WHO MAY, AT A LATER DATE, WANT TO APPLY FOR ANY APPLICABLE DISASTER BENEFITS IF AVAILABLE.**

If you encounter either of the two issues this year you need to contact your Farm Service Agency office immediately. To receive credit for prevented plantings you must report the acreage within 15 days after the final planting date for the crop in Polk County.

Prevented planting - is the inability to plant the intended crop acreage with proper equipment during the established planting period for the crop type because of a natural disaster.

Failed acreage - is acreage that was timely planted with the intent to harvest, but because of disaster related conditions, the crop failed before it could be brought to harvest.

PRICE SUPPORT FOR PRODUCERS OF WOOL AND MOHAIR

The purpose of the loan deficiency program is to financially support producers when market prices fall below a set loan rate. The difference between the loan rate and the actual market price equals a payment rate available to farmers if they forgo a loan on the commodity. If you have sheared any wool or mohair since January 1, 2007 you may be eligible for a cash payment based on the pounds of wool or mohair. Rates are in effect for graded and non-graded wool. Mohair only has one rate.

Certain eligibility criteria apply; however, if you currently participate in other Farm Service Agency programs, you have already met most of the criteria. If you have never worked with FSA and you are a producer of wool or mohair please stop by our office or call us at 503-623-2396 extension 2.

CAN YOUR SPOUSE SIGN DOCUMENTS ON YOUR BEHALF?

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the County Office from either spouse. There are exceptions to the rule. For example, spouses may not sign a power of attorney (FSA-211) on behalf of each other or sign on behalf of the other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities. Spouses must have a power of attorney on file or sign personally for claim settlements, such as promissory notes. A spouse's authority to sign documents on behalf of the other spouse does not entitle a spouse to review or receive agency records of the other spouse.

OREGON FAMILY FORESTLANDS SYMPOSIUM

This symposium is taking place April 27 – 28, 2007 at Oregon State University, LaSells Stewart Center, Corvallis, OR. It is sponsored by the Oregon Board of Forestry & Committee for Family Forestlands. The goals of this three-phased Oregon Family Forestlands Symposium are:

- Explore the importance of family forestlands to Oregon
- Discuss Oregon's changing forestry environment in the context of family forestlands
- Identify issues that affect the management of family forestlands
- Develop action plans to address priority issues relevant to family forestlands

If you are interested in finding out more information regarding this event you can go online at <http://www.oregonforests.org/conferences/ffi> or call OSU Conference Services at (541) 737-9300

FARM SERVICE AGENCY LOANS FOR CONSERVATION PROJECTS AND PRACTICES

For those farmers involved in United States Department of Agriculture conservation programs such as the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, Conservation Security Program, or the Environmental Quality Incentives Program; the inability to provide the up-front costs to contract implementation can be a challenge. This challenge could become a barrier to full contract implementation. If you are struggling with providing the initial capital, FSA loans could be your answer. FSA loans can be used for various farm purposes such as farm improvements, which would cover conservation projects and practices, and payment of costs associated with land and water development for conservation use purposes.

For more information please call 503-399-5741 ext 2 and ask for a Farm Loan employee or stop by the FSA office and pick up some informational handouts.

COUNTIES ELIGIBLE FOR USDA EMERGENCY FARM LOAN ASSISTANCE

There are currently two Presidential Major Disaster Declarations covering Polk County with different dates to apply Farm Service Agency Emergency loans:

- # 1 Severe storms, flooding, landslides and mudslides that occurred between November 5 – 8, 2006.
 - o Farm operators have **until August 29, 2007** to apply for emergency loans to help cover part of their actual losses with this event.

- #2 Sever Winter Storm and flooding that occurred between December 14-15, 2006.
 - o Farm operators have **until October 22, 2007** to apply for emergency loans to help cover part of their actual losses with this event.

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

Operators in Polk county and contiguous counties are eligible to be considered for low interest emergency loans at a rate of 3.75% from FSA, provided all the eligibility requirements are met. Producers can borrow up to 100% of the actual production losses to a maximum amount of \$500,000. Loan terms for crop losses are normally 1 to 7 years, but terms of up 20 years may be authorized.

If you are interested in applying for an emergency loan or getting more information contact the following: Polk County loan officers are located in the Marion County FSA office, they can be reached at 503-399-5741.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE VIOLATIONS

Persons convicted under Federal or State law of a controlled substance violation will be ineligible for payments or benefits as provided by the Code of Federal Regulations (7 CFR part 718).

PRICE SUPPORT FOR COMMODITES HARVESTED AS OTHER THAN GRAIN

The purpose of the loan deficiency program is to financially support producers when market prices fall below a set loan rate. The difference between the loan rate and the actual market price equals a payment rate available to farmers if they forgo a loan on the commodity. The below crops could be harvested as grain or hay, cobbage, ground corn, cracked, rolled, or crimped, or silage. Crops mechanically harvested as other than grain are eligible for a LDP if a payment rate exists. Rates are announced daily and as of March 5, 2007 the only crop with a payment rate was for dry peas.

Eligible commodities harvested as other than grain include wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, rice, soybeans, sunflower seed, sesame seed, rapeseed, canola, safflower, flaxseed, mustard seed, crambe, dry peas, small chickpeas, or lentils meeting the definitions included in Official U.S. Standards for Grain.

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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 andrew.schmidt@or.usda.gov

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.

Important deadlines are contained within this newsletter, specifically for those farmers who in the past have received payments from the Farm Service Agency. If you wish to continue to receive those payments please read this newsletter carefully, especially the DCP and Acreage reporting sections. If you have questions call us or stop by our office.

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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