



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

September 17, 2007

SOME IMPORTANT DATES

October 15, 2007 – Crop Disaster Program (CDP) sign-up begins for quantity losses.

October 19, 2007 – Environmental Quality Incentives Program cutoff for ranking.

2008 NAP DEADLINES

FSA is currently taking applications for 2008 Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) crops. NAP provides financial assistance to producers of federally noninsurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented plantings occur due to natural disasters. Nap fees are the lesser of \$100/ crop or \$300/ producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$900/ producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

Crops eligible for NAP coverage are crops for which catastrophic crop insurance is not available. For a complete list of eligible crops, please contact the Polk County FSA office.

Eligible causes of loss are natural disasters that occur before or during harvest and must directly affect the NAP crop. Examples of natural disasters include, but are not limited to, damaging weather (drought, freeze or hail), adverse natural occurrence (earthquake or flood) or a condition relating to one of the above.

2008 NAP crop closing dates are:

October 1, 2007	November 20, 2007	March 15, 2008	May 31, 2008
All forage (hay) crops: includes alfalfa, grass, clover, small grains & mixed forage; GRAZING crops (rangeland), mint and other perennials not mentioned, including garlic, sugar beets and hops	Berries, fruits, nuts and honey: Includes young cherries, apples, pears, and grapes, all blueberries, cranberries, and other fruit or nut crops	All spring planted crops not mentioned, including safflower, sunflower, mustard, melons, legumes, potatoes and squash (pumpkins, etc)	Buckwheat

CROP DISASTER PROGRAM FOR 2005, 2006, AND 2007

FSA is awaiting more information pertaining to this program, which we are scheduled to start taking sign-ups October 15th. The program provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from natural disasters if the crop was planted before Feb. 28, 2007, or, in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before Feb. 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to apply for benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. **Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss for the crop will be eligible for CDP benefits.** Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP.

PORK PRODUCER WORKSHOP

There will be a workshop designed for those who are new to raising hogs on September 22 at the Wilco Farmers office in Mt. Angel. The workshop will focus on production practices and health issues relative to Oregon. For more information you can stop by the FSA office and pick up a flier or call Gene Pirelli at 503-623-8395 or Gayle Burke at 506-663-6758.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that provides assistance to agricultural producers in a manner that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals. Through EQIP, farmers and ranchers receive financial and technical assistance to implement structural and management conservation practices that optimize environmental benefits on working agricultural land.

EQIP applications are accepted through a continuous sign-up process. Local offices periodically announce a cutoff date when applications are ranked for funding. Anyone interested in EQIP needs to contact NRCS and submit an application prior to **October 19, 2007** in order to be considered for funding. Tom Finegan or Sue Reams can be reached at 503-623-2396.

LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION AND INDEMNITY PROGRAMS

The Livestock Compensation Program 2005-2007 (LCP) provides benefits to livestock and catfish producers who suffered feed losses or incurred additional feed costs **directly resulting from natural disasters** occurring between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007. Producers in primary or contiguous counties declared secretarial disaster areas or counties declared presidential disaster areas between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, are eligible. During this period Polk County was either the primary or contiguous county on the following types of declared disasters: Severe Storms, Excessive Moisture, Winter Storms, High Winds, Below Normal Temperatures.

The Livestock Indemnity Program 2005-2007 (LIP) provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths caused by natural disasters that occurred between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007. During this period Polk County was either the primary or contiguous county on the following types of declared disasters: Severe Storms, Excessive Moisture, Winter Storms, High Winds, Below Normal Temperatures.

If you think either one of these programs applies to you, then contact the Polk County FSA office immediately. Keep in mind the disaster condition has to have directly caused your loss. No deadline has been set to sign-up for this program, but don't wait to hear about one.

FSA's 2007 National Compliance & Spot Check Review

FSA is committed to delivering accurate program payments to America's agricultural producers. The accuracy of payments not only benefits farmers and ranchers, but also maximizes taxpayer dollars and government efficiency. As part of the 2007 National Compliance Review, FSA's national office is requiring local FSA county offices to conduct compliance reviews and spot checks of certain producers selected by the national office through a statistical sampling method. A statistical sample of FSA employees, County Committee (COC) and State Committee (STC) members have also been selected for review using this same process. FSA may review a producer's operations in multiple states and counties, depending on the scope of the producer's operations. FSA will review both the accuracy of the representations made by the selected producers in connection with participation in FSA programs as well as the producer's compliance with applicable program requirements. The reviews may need to be conducted at various times throughout the year depending on the FSA programs in which the producer is participating. FSA appreciates the cooperation of its customers as the agency continues to enhance its operations. FSA's goal is to ensure that program dollars are delivered effectively and efficiently so America's farmers and ranchers can provide safe and abundant food, fiber and fuel for consumers at home and abroad.

FINANCIAL TOOLS FOR BEGINNING FARMERS

FSA offers some useful financial tools for beginning farmers who cannot obtain credit from commercial lenders. Beginning farmers are defined as not having farmed for more than 10 years. FSA reserves a portion of its direct and guarantee loan funds each year for beginning farmers.

A minimum qualification for farm ownership loans is 3 years involvement in the business operations of a farm. Another is the limitation of size of ownership, i.e. 30% of the average size of a farm in the county.

One tool is the down payment farm ownership loan where the applicant makes at least a 10% down payment, FSA finances up to 40% with a 15-year term and the remainder would be financed elsewhere. The purchase price or appraised value, whichever is lower, may not exceed \$250,000.

LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS HAVE ADDITIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT CHOICES

There is now a Livestock Risk Protection Program available for fed cattle, feeder cattle, swine and lamb producers in Oregon and Idaho. The program covers a change in price for the insurance period. It does not include any other peril (mortality, condemnation, physical damage, disease, individual marketing decisions, local price deviations, or any other cause of loss). Producers are encouraged to contact a local livestock insurance agent to learn additional details. If you need assistance in finding a livestock insurance agent, stop by the local FSA office to pick up a list of agents or go online at www.rma.usda.gov/livestock/ for more information.

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.

COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA) COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Ballots for the Polk County FSA Committee election being held this year will be mailed out around November 4, 2007. 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. Write-in's are acceptable on ballots.

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

For ballots to be considered acceptable for business entities, there must be documentation on file in our office authorizing who has authority to sign documents for the entity.

DO YOU HAVE WETLAND OR STREAMS ON OR ADJACENT TO YOUR PROPERTY?

If you have wetlands and either seasonal or perennial streams on or adjacent to your property you should ask our office for information relating to the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. This program focuses on water quality, erosion control and wildlife habitat. This program can help you improve environmentally sensitive land while providing you with financial benefits. It is a voluntary program. Please contact our office either by phone or in person to get an informational packet about this program or to set an appointment to talk about the program in person.

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 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.

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.

The U.S. 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 a 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, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.