March 2010 Shop Talk

County Committee Members **Tim Jefferies** **Jim Macnab** **Mavis Olsen**	**E-Mail: kyle.mills@or.usda.gov**	**Sherman County FSA Office** **302 Scott St.** **Moro, OR 97039**
Phone: (541) 565-3551 Ext. 2		**FAX: (541) 565-3414**

OFFICE STAFF: Kyle Mills CED, Sheri Carlson PT, Patti Fields PT
OFFICE HOURS: Monday through Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) 2008 Sign-Up

Signup for the 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program (SURE) has started. Please contact the County Office to schedule an **appointment**.

SURE 2008 is for those who suffered crop production losses during crop year 2008. SURE provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred crop production or crop quality losses. The program takes into consideration crop losses on all crops grown by a producer nationwide. SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE farm guarantee and total farm revenue. The farm guarantee is based on the amount of crop insurance and Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on the farm. Total farm revenue takes into account the actual value of production on the farm as well as insurance indemnities and certain farm program payments.

Producers with a farming interest physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Agriculture Secretary must have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance. The 10 percent production loss must be caused by a natural disaster. Producers must meet the risk management purchase requirement by either obtaining a policy or plan of insurance, under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or NAP coverage, for all economically significant crops. For 2008 crops, producers had the opportunity to obtain a waiver of the risk management purchase requirement through a buy-in provision. Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage.

If there is no Secretarial Disaster Designation, individual producers may also be eligible for SURE if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster.

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Tim Jefferies! Tim was re-elected to represent farmers from the Grass Valley & Kent areas on the county committee. Tim was elected to his 4th consecutive term. The election results for Local Administrative Area 3 are:

Tim Jefferies — Elected to the county committee (COC),

Stuart von Borstel — 1st alternate to COC,

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

Foreign Investors Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

FSA Signature Policy

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Sherman County FSA Office
302 Scott St.
Moro, OR 97039

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FARM LOANS AVAILABLE

FSA has been very busy making loans recently. As of right now, there is plenty of money available in all categories except real estate loans for non-beginning or non-SDA farmers. If you are having difficulty getting funding from traditional lenders, please call Karen Bloomdahl at 541-298-8559 x107, or email karen.bloomdahl@or.usda.gov to see if you are eligible.

Loans can be made for annual farm expenses, equipment and livestock purchases, refinancing farm debt, and purchasing real estate. There is also a special loan program just for Youth ages 10-21 of up to $5,000 to finance an agricultural enterprise.

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 15th, 2010:	**Washington's Birthday (Office Closed)**
May 31st, 2010:	**Memorial Day (Office Closed)**
June 1st, 2010:	**DCP/ACRE Sign-up Deadline**
June 30th, 2010:	**Crop Acreage Reporting Deadline**

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