

From: USDA Farm Service Agency <usdafsa@service.govdelivery.com>
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To: Breeding, Roseanna - FSA, Moro, OR
Subject: Sherman County FSA Office August Newsletter

August 2013



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Sherman County Oregon FSA Updates

Sherman County FSA Office

302 Scott St
 P O Box 305
 Moro, OR 97039

Phone: 541.565.3551 x 2
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Hours: M-F, 8:00am-4:30pm

County Executive Director:
 Roseanna Breeding

Program Technicians:
 Sheri Carlson
 Kara Lanthorn

Farm Loan Officer:
 Karen Bloomdahl
 Phone: 541.298.8559 ext 107,
 Wasco County Office

Sherman County Committee:
 Jim Macnab
 Tim Jeffries
 Teresa Hart

Next County Committee Meeting: Tentatively scheduled for Thurs, Dec 5, at 9:00 AM

Dates to Remember

September 2, 2013: Labor Day - Office closed
September 16, 2013: DCP sign up deadline (extended)
November 4, 2013: COC ballots mailed to voters in LAA 1
November 11, 2013: Veteran's Day - Office closed
November 28, 2013: Thanksgiving Day - Office closed
December 2, 2013: Last day to return COC election ballots

Marketing Assistance Loans

Marketing assistance loans are available to provide producers interim financing at harvest time to meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows. A paid measurement service may be requested up to 30 calendar days before a producer submits a loan application. For more information, or to request a measurement service appointment, contact Kara Lanthorn at 541.565.3551 ext 2.

Foreign Landowner 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.

Foreign individuals who 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 could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Actively Engaged

USDA has amended the rules that govern the requirements to be 'actively engaged' in farming. These rules apply to eligibility for payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program administered by FSA. Normally the stockholder or a member of a legal entity must make contributions of active personal labor and/or active personal management for the farming operation. The contributions are to be performed on regular basis, must be identifiable, and separate from the contributions of others. The exception to this rule for a stockholder or member of a legal entity only occurs when both of the following apply:

- At least half of the interest in the legal entity is held by stockholders or members who are providing active personal labor or active personal management;
- The total direct payments received by the legal entity and each of the members can't exceed \$40,000.

Compliance Spot Checks

Compliance spot checks will be conducted on 2013 crops. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, and deficiency loans, for review, a nationwide selection of producers is employed. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in the Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program or other relevant program. For more information about the spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact your local Farm Service Agency office for additional clarification.

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.

For more information you may contact the FSA County Office at 541.298.8559 ext 2. County Office staff will be happy to assist you.

Loan Programs for the Socially Disadvantaged Groups

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Farm operating loans are available as well as loans to purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of socially disadvantaged applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African-Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Loan Programs for Beginning Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 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, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center, Farm Service Agency County Office. Sherman County farmers may also contact the Farm Loan staff in The Dalles FSA office at 541.298.8559 ext 2, or visit the website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

USDA RMA Announces Changes for Fall and Spring Wheat - Also Reminds PNW Producers of Fall Crop Sales Closing Dates

USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) announced the availability of a separate revenue price for fall and spring wheat for the 2014 **Multi-Peril Crop Insurance (MPCI)** crop year. RMA would also like to remind producers in the Pacific Northwest of sales closing dates in September for fall crops. RMA worked closely with Tri-State Wheat Grower groups to move the price discovery period for spring wheat from the spring to the fall.

"Producers in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington will now have both the spring and winter wheat projected prices available before the wheat sales closing date," said RMA Spokane Regional Office Director Dave Paul.

The spring wheat type now uses the Minneapolis Grain Exchange (MGE), referencing the September futures contract with its projected price discovery period from August 15 to September 14 of the calendar year before harvest, and the harvest price derived from August 1 to August 31 of the calendar year of harvest.

Price determination for the winter wheat type remains unchanged, referencing the September Chicago futures contract with a Portland white wheat basis adjustment for a projected price and using the August 1 to August 31 Portland Merchants Exchange bid prices for determining the average harvest price.

Both the spring and fall wheat prices will be announced no later than September 15.

Idaho, Oregon, and Washington producers need to be aware of the important **2014 crop year sales closing deadlines for:**

- **Canola/Rapeseed** – September 3 (for fall planted types)
- **Onions** – September 3 (fall planted types - Umatilla/Walla Walla counties only)
- **Mint with Winter Coverage** – September 30
- **Forage Production** – September 30 (Klamath and Malheur counties, Oregon)
- **Forage (Alfalfa) Seed Pilot** – September 30
- **Fall Planted Barley with Winter Coverage** – September 30 (in selected counties)
- **Fall Planted Dry Peas/Lentils with Winter Coverage** – September 30 (in selected counties)
- **Wheat** – September 30

RMA also reminds producers of the importance of buying crop insurance to help lower risk if the crop is lost due to a natural weather related disaster condition. For non-insurable crops, a producer may buy catastrophic coverage through the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) from the Farm Service Agency (FSA) by the sales closing date. Producers should contact their local FSA county office for more information about timetables.

Current policyholders and uninsured growers must make all of their decisions on crop insurance coverage, especially which crops to insure and what level and type of coverage to get before the sales closing date.

Producers are encouraged to visit their crop insurance agent soon to learn specific details for the 2014 crop year. Federal crop insurance program policies are sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance companies and agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers throughout the

United States or on the RMA web site at www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program - NAP Basic Provisions Revised

USDA wishes to notify producers that the basic provisions of the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for crop year 2014 and subsequent years, have been revised.

Producers may access the revised CCC-471 NAP Basic Provisions through the FSA Internet at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>, according to the following:

- access the FSA Internet and CLICK "Disaster Assistance Programs" under the "Browse by Subject" column
- CLICK "Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)" under the "Related Topics" column
- CLICK "View CCC-471 NAP Basic Provisions" under the "I Want To..."

For more information about NAP, or to request a print copy of the revised CC-471 NAP Basic Provisions or other questions, please feel free to contact the local FSA County Office at 541.565.3551 ext 2.

QUESTIONS? Please contact Roseanna Breeding, County Executive Director, at 541.565.3551 Ext 103, roseanna.breeding@or.usda.gov, or for Farm Loans, contact Karen Bloomdahl, Farm Loan Officer, at 541.298.8559 Ext 107, karen.bloomdahl@or.usda.gov

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