



**USDA
Farm Service Agency**

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Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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**From the Desk of Lynn Voigt,
Oregon State Executive Director**

The joyous holiday season has come to a conclusion, and we in the Farm Service Agency (FSA) hope you and your family found it filled with happiness. Although wonderful memories of the season remain, those of us in agriculture now begin to turn our attention to the new production year. As planning activities commence, we'd like to bring several FSA programs to your attention that might be of benefit.

If implementing soil or water conservation measures are part of your plans, please remember FSA's new Conservation Loan (CL) program. This new low-interest program can be used with other conservation cost-share programs, and offers farmers and ranchers a chance to put Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) approved soil and water conservation measures on their land by providing financing for up-front costs. Direct loans can be up to \$300,000 and guaranteed loans up to \$1,119,000. CL funds can be used for a wide array of conservation practices, including the installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; implementation of manure management; and adaptation of other emerging or existing conservation practices, techniques or technologies. A priority in use of CL funds also goes to qualified women, minority, or beginning farmers and ranchers; owners or tenants that use the loans to convert to sustainable or organic agricultural production systems; and producers who use the loans to build conservation structures or establish conservation practices to comply with highly erodible land "compliance" regulations. This program is different than FSA's traditional lending programs. FSA can be your first choice for financing conservation improvements, and family size farm limitations do not apply. We and our conservation partners are excited about the CL program, and its use in helping you with effective conservation implementation.

For many reasons, wheat production is on the rise.

Given the volume of production anticipated, planning for crop storage after harvest may become an issue. If this is the case with the program crops you produce - such as wheat, barley, oats, corn, hay, renewable biomass, or fruits and vegetables - FSA's Farm Storage Facilities Loan (FSFL) program may be of help. The FSFL program provides low-interest financing for producers to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities, including cold storage in situations that do not involve controlled atmospheric conditions. Loans can be up to \$500,000, and the loan term can be up to 12 years. This program could be of real help if you anticipate needing storage capacity come harvest time.

For those that may have been impacted by adverse weather conditions during the 2009 production year, please don't forget that sign-up began for the 2009 crop year Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program on January 10, 2011. SURE provides assistance to farmers and ranchers who suffered 2009 crop losses due to natural disasters. No Oregon counties were declared either primary or contiguous counties in a Secretarial Natural Disaster Designation for the 2009 crop year. Despite this, individual producers could be eligible for SURE if the actual production on their farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production due to a natural disaster, and the producer obtained a policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or the FSA Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for all economically significant crops. This is a whole-farm revenue protection program, and is worth looking into if your 2009 production was adversely impacted by a natural disaster event.

Additional information and other notices that may be of assistance in planning for the coming year are contained in this newsletter. For more specific information or details on any of these subjects or other FSA programs, please contact your local USDA Farm Service Agency office. *You can also get news and information about DCP, ACRE and other USDA programs at www.fsa.usda.gov.*



BCAP Update

Instructions for Biomass Conversion Facilities (BCFs) to become approved BCAP-certified facilities are anticipated in the next few weeks. The actual Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) or agreement will be similar to the first pilot phase program which contains language that will address requirements of the new regulation. Biomass Conversion Facilities may wish to contact the FSA office in their county to make sure they are notified when this information is received. BCFs and interested producers can also watch the national website for further BCAP information at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> ***under Energy Programs.***



All BCFs must complete the MOU and submit it, along with any other documents or permits required by the notice. This is the first step in the BCAP process. Additional notices dealing with project area proposals and new procedure on the harvest, transportation portion or matching payment program are also scheduled to be released shortly.

The new BCAP regulation has significant changes in required conservation plans, fair market value and eligible material that will be explained in the Notice

DCP and ACRE Signup, Advance Payments

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and also the 2011 ACRE Program has begun and will continue through June 1, 2011. Advance payments of 22% on the 2011 DCP program will be available starting December 1, 2010. The remaining 78% of your DCP payment will be issued after October 1, 2011. ACRE is a revenue based payment alternative to the price-based counter-cyclical (CC) payments.

In DCP, eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. DCP or ACRE contract signatures for enrollment are due by the signup deadline of June 1, 2011. For more information producers can contact their local FSA office.

IRS Form 1099-G

Each year producers receive 1099-G forms from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) detailing payments producers have received from the CCC. CCC's annual report of program payments on the 1099-Gs help our customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the producer's own responsibility to report income to the IRS.

LDP Deadline on Unshorn Lamb Pelts

Eligible producers have until Feb. 1, 2011, to apply for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) for unshorn pelts produced during the 2010 crop year.

To be eligible, producers must a) have beneficial interest in the pelts, b) own the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and c) sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter. Producers must also comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands they operate or have interest in.

To qualify for payment, pelts must have been produced by an eligible producer from live unshorn lambs of domestic origin in the United States

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. FSA provides opportunities with its financial assistance programs. Direct and guaranteed loans are available, so please talk with us soon if we can help with your credit needs.

If you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan, ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee.

Direct farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained from FSA for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum of \$1,119,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that the application and loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact your local county office staff.

Rural 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.

Many farm and even city families have found the Youth Loan program an excellent means to introduce the next generation to the business of agriculture. Is there someone in your family who may qualify.

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA sets aside targeted funding to assist 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% of the county's median size.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for Farm Service Agency loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for 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 a group.

FSA loans are available to applicants who meet eligibility requirements and need to rely on FSA assistance for their credit requirements.

Both operating loans and loans for the purchase or improvement of farms or ranches are available under this category.

Continuous CRP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program allows participants to enroll acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources.

Continuous CRP program participation is voluntary. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment.



For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments or local Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) availability, please contact your local FSA office or visit the website <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/crpcont03.htm>

Paper Check Conversion (PCC)

Over the next year, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) are moving to an electronic method for processing checks from producers. This will allow FSA/CCC to process collections faster.

When producers present checks, either in person or through the mail, the checks will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) and debited from the producer's account, usually within 24 hours of receipt.

Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the USDA Service Center office or visit the following U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site for detailed information: <https://www.pccotc.gov/pccotc/pcc/usingpcc/Legal%20Notices/legalnotices.htm>

Annual Notifications

Changing Bank Accounts

All FSA payments should be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if your bank is purchased by another financial institution. Payments can be delayed if we are not aware of changes to account and routing numbers.

Civil Rights/Discrimination Complaint Process

As a participant or applicant for programs or activities operated or sponsored by USDA you have a right to be treated fairly. If you believe you have been discriminated against because of your race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, disability, or marital or familial status, you may file a discrimination complaint. The complaint should be filed with the USDA Office of Civil Rights within 180 days of the date you became aware of the alleged discrimination.

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD), USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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A complaint must be filed within 180 calendar days from the date the complainant knew, or should have known, of the alleged discrimination.



Nondiscrimination Statement

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.

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office.

If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office directly or by phone.

Change in Farming Operation

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have picked up or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties.

Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

Controlled Substance

Program participants convicted under federal or state law of any planting, cultivating, growing, producing, harvesting or storing a controlled substance are ineligible for program payments and benefits.

If convicted of one of these offenses, the program participant shall be ineligible during that crop year and the four succeeding crop years for direct and countercyclical payments, price support loans, loan deficiency payments, market loan gains, storage payments, farm facility loans, Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program payments or disaster payments.

Program participants convicted of any federal or state offense consisting of the distribution (trafficking) of a controlled substance shall, at the discretion of the court, be ineligible for any or all program payments and benefits:

- for up to 5 years after the first conviction
- for up to 10 years after the second conviction
- permanently for a third or subsequent Conviction Program participants convicted of federal or state offense for the possession of a controlled substance shall be ineligible, at the discretion of the court, for any or all program benefits, as follows:
 - up to 1 year upon the first conviction
 - up to 5 years after a second or subsequent conviction

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) & Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) allows farmers and ranchers to voluntarily enroll environmentally sensitive land into a program that decreases erosion, restores wildlife habitat and safeguards ground and surface water.

CREP is a partnership with federal and state government and is limited to specific geographic areas. Environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) or Continuous CRP will be eligible for annual rental payments and cost share of up to 50 percent on approved practices.

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These targeted programs will remain funded, and continue to provide heightened environmental benefits on select areas.

FAV / Wild Rice Exception

Para. 469A of 1-DCP(Rev3) and Para. 77A Producers may not plant fruits, vegetables (FAVs) or wild rice on base acres enrolled in DCP or ACRE. However, if the farm has a history of planting FAVs or wild rice or if the producer has a history of planting the specific FAV or wild rice, the FAV or wild rice may be planted on base acres. In such cases, the direct and countercyclical payments shall be reduced acre for acre for each base acre planted to FAVs or wild rice.



Foreign Buyers 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. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 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, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan.

Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance.



Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The noninsured crop disaster assistance program (NAP) is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for live-stock feed. These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop's application closing date. Production records for all crops must be reported to the FSA office no later than the application closing date for the crop for the following year. FSA requires that any production reported in a loss year be verifiable according to Agency specifications.

NAP Losses must be reported within 15 days of loss.

Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped under one farm serial number.

When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon: **Estate Method** - the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

Designation of Landowner Method—may be used when—

- (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred;
- (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons;
- (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons;
- (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred;
- (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or
- (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. The bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

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In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding.



DCP Cropland Method—the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract; **Default Method** - the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

Note-- Reconstitutions must be requested by August 1 of the fiscal year for farms subject to DCP.

Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- A married woman shall sign her given name: Mrs. Mary Doe, not Mrs. John Doe
- For a minor, FSA requires the minor's signature and one from an eligible parent

Note: by signing the applicable document, the parent is liable for actions of the minor and may be liable.

- for refunds, liquidated damages, etc
- When signing on one's behalf the signature must agree with the name typed or printed on the form, or be a variation that does not cause the name and signature to be in disagreement.

Example - John W. Smith is on the form. The signature may be John W. Smith or J.W. Smith or J. Smith. Or Mary J. Smith may be signed as Mrs. Mary Joe Smith, M.J. Smith, Mary Smith, etc

• FAXED signatures will be accepted for certain forms and other documents provided the acceptable program forms are approved for FAXED signatures. Producers are responsible for the successful transmission and receipt of FAXED information. Examples of documents not approved for FAXED signatures include:

- Promissory note
- Assignment of payment
- Joint payment authorization
- NAP actual production history and approved yield record
- Acknowledgement of commodity certificate purchase
- Financing statement

- UCC financing statement

- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities
- All members of a general partnership must sign for the general partnership unless an individual is authorized to act on the behalf of the general partnership and bind all members
- Spouses may sign on behalf of each other's individual interest in a partnership, unless notification denying a spouse that authority is provided to the county office
- Acceptable signatures for general partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, estates, and trusts shall consist of an indicator "by" or "for" the individual's name, individual's name and capacity, or individual's name, capacity, and name of entity. For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.

Payment Limitation/Eligibility

Since the Agricultural Act of 1970 payment limitation provisions have been expanded to apply to more FSA and NRCS programs and have more provisions for eligibility.

Direct Attribution

A maximum dollar amount has been established by legislation for each program that can be received annually, directly or indirectly, by each person or legal entity. Such limitations on payments are controlled by direct attribution. Program payments made directly or indirectly to a person are combined with the pro rata interest held in any legal entity that received payment, unless the payments to the legal entity have been reduced by the pro rata share of the person.

Program Direct Attribution Limitation

Counter-cyclical and ACRE	\$65,000*
Direct payments	\$40,000**
CRP	\$50,000
EQIP	\$300,000
ELAP, LFP, LIP, and SURE	\$100,000
NAP	\$100,000
TAP	\$100,000

*Under ACRE, this amount will be a combined limitation for counter-cyclical and ACRE payments. If a person or legal entity has a direct or indirect interest in payments earned on a farm participating in ACRE, this limitation will reflect an increase for the amount that the direct payments were reduced.

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**If the person or legal entity has a direct or indirect interest in payments earned on a farm that is in ACRE, this limitation will reflect a 20 percent reduction in direct payments on each farm that is participating ACRE.



Picture taken in the Willamette Valley

Actively Engaged in Farming

To be eligible for payments and benefits under specified programs, all program participants, either individuals or legal entities, must provide significant contributions to the farming operation to be considered as "actively engaged in farming." Contributions can consist of capital, land, and/or equipment, as well as active personal labor and/or active personal management. The management contribution must be critical to the profitability of the farming operation and the contributions must be at risk.

Each partner, stockholder or member with an ownership interest must contribute active personal labor and/or active personal management to the farming operation on a regular basis. The contribution must be identifiable and documentable; as well as separate and distinct from the contributions made by any other partner, stockholder or member. If any partner, stockholder or member with an ownership interest fails to meet this requirement, program payments will be reduced by the corresponding share held by that partner, stockholder or member.

Spouses may both be considered "actively engaged in farming" if one spouse makes all of the requisite and at-risk contributions.

Landowners may be considered "actively engaged in farming" if they contribute the owned land to the farming operation and in return, receive rent or income for the use of the land. The landowner's share of the profits or losses from the farming operation must also be commensurate with the landowner's contributions to the farming operation and the contributions must be at risk.

A determination of not actively engaged in farming results in the participant being ineligible for any payment or benefit requiring a determination of actively engaged in farming.

Cash Rent Tenant

Program participants participating in specified programs must meet the requirements of the cash rent tenant rule if the participant rents land from another person for cash or as a guaranteed crop share. A cash-rent tenant shall be eligible to receive payments only if the cash-rent tenant makes either of the following:

- A significant contribution of active personal labor to the farming operation
- A significant contribution of both of the following to the farming operation
- Active personal management
- Equipment

Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Limitations

The average AGI provisions are applicable to the majority of the 2009 through 2012 programs administered by the FSA and NRCS. Different income thresholds will be used to determine eligibility for different programs.

A person or legal entity with:
Adjusted Gross Nonfarm Income exceeding \$500,000 is ineligible for all commodity program payments and benefits;

Adjusted Gross Farm Income exceeding \$750,000 is ineligible for Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) Direct Payments;

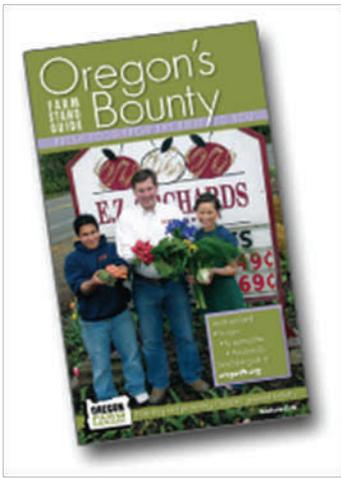
Adjusted Gross Nonfarm Income exceeding \$1 million is ineligible for conservation programs, unless at least 66.66% of total AGI was farm income. (Note: This limitation may be waived on a case-by-case basis for the protection of environmentally sensitive land of special significance.)

The 2008 Farm Bill required the establishment of valid procedures under which to conduct audits of persons and legal entities determined most likely to exceed the AGI limitations. USDA and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) have developed an electronic information exchange process strictly for the purpose of average AGI verification. This process electronically looks at certain line items on tax returns filed for the applicable three-year period; performs a series of calculations to arrive at the average amounts; and then compares these values to the average AGI limitations. USDA receives the results of these comparisons with indicators of whether the participant appears to exceed or not exceed the average AGI amounts. No actual tax data will be included. The cases that appear to exceed the average AGI limitations will be received and evaluated by FSA state office or headquarters personnel.

Noncompliance with AGI provisions, either by exceeding the applicable limitations or by failure to submit a certification statement, will result in the determination of ineligibility for all program benefits subject to AGI provisions;

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program benefits shall be reduced in an amount that is commensurate with the direct and indirect interest held by an ineligible person or legal entity in any legal entity, general partnership, or joint operation that receives benefits subject to the average AGI limitations.



Foreign Persons

Foreign persons and non-resident aliens are ineligible for most program benefits under FSA and NRCS administered programs. Some FSA programs do allow participation from foreign persons and non-resident aliens, but the participation is subject to **Foreign Person Rules**.

Foreign Person Rules require that the foreign person or non-resident alien must have a valid taxpayer identification number and make significant contributions of land, capital, and active personal labor to the farming operation. If an entity comprised of foreign persons or non-resident aliens is participating in a program that allows participation, then the members of the entity must make significant contributions of active personal labor to the farming operation of the legal entity requesting benefits.

Paperwork

All program benefits subject to any payment limitation and payment eligibility rules will be paid only after the participant has filed the necessary forms and determinations have been made by the County FSA Committee. Most programs require completing all or part of the CCC-902, Farm Operating Plan.

Filing this form is not required to be filed annually, if the farming operation continues to be conducted as reflected on the farm operating plan and supporting documents that are on file in the County Office. Any changes that could affect an actively engaged in farming, cash-rent tenant, foreign person, or average AGI determination must be timely reported to the County Office by revising the appropriate form or supporting documents.



Entities that earn program benefits are required by statutory provisions to provide names, addresses, and tax identification numbers of all members of the entity. All payment eligibility and payment limitation forms submitted to the FSA office are subject to spot check through the end-of-year review process.

Livestock Disaster Assistance Programs

January 31, 2011 is the deadline apply for program benefits under the following programs:

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP) - Provides Emergency relief to producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish. Covers losses from disaster such as adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires not adequately covered by any other disaster program. Must have filed a notice of loss within 30 days of the date the loss occurred or became apparent.

Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) - Provides financial assistance to producers who suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) - Provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from disaster. Must have filed a notice of loss within 30 days of the date the loss occurred or became apparent.

Contact your local FSA Office for additional details.

Important Dates / Deadlines for Producers

2012 NAP Application Closing Dates

August 31, 2011—Beets, cabbage, canola, carrots, Christmas trees, flowers, greens, herbs (except peppermint), onions, radish.

October 1, 2011—Alfalfa, asparagus, barley, Clover, garlic, grass, herbs (peppermint), hops, meadowfoam, mixed forage, rye, sugarbeet, triticale, vetch, wheat

November 20th, 2011—Apples, apricots, Blueberries, caneberries, chestnuts, cherries, cranberries, grapes, hazelnuts, honey, nectarine, peaches, pears, plums, prunes, strawberries, walnuts

March 15, 2012—Beans, broccoli, cantaloupe, cauliflower, corn, cucumber, lentils, mustard, peas, potatoes, pumpkin, safflower, sunflower, squash, tomato, watermelon, oats, camelina

May 31, 2012—Buckwheat



GENERAL PROGRAM DEADLINES	
Jan 2, 2011	Honey Acreage Report (all counties)
June 1, 2011	DCP / ACRE Filing Deadline
June 30, 2011 July 15, 2011 August 15, 2011	Acreage Reporting Deadline All other counties Union County Baker, Grant, Harney, Klamath, Lake, Wallowa Counties *If the crop has NAP coverage, then the acreage must be reported 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest.
July 15, 2011	2010 ACRE Production Reporting Deadline
August 1, 2011	Deadline for Reconstitutions
COMMODITY LOANS AND LDP DEADLINES	
Jan. 31, 2011	2010 final loan or LDP availability date for Wool, Mohair, Unshorn Pelts
Mar. 31, 2011	2010 final loan or LDP availability date for Barley, Canola, Crambe, Flaxseed, Honey, Oats, Rapeseed, Wheat, Sesame Seed
May 31, 2011	2010 final loan or LDP availability date for Corn, Dry Peas, Grain Sorghum, Lentils, Mustard Seed, Safflower Seed, Small Chickpeas, Soybeans, Sunflower Seed

Oregon’s Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

This program is a partnership with the State of Oregon and allows farmers and ranchers to voluntarily enroll environmentally sensitive land into 10-15 year contracts. The program provides cost-share to establish buffers along streams and wetlands in addition to incentives and annual payments to maintain the buffers that decrease erosion, restores wildlife habitat and protects water quality.

An example of a successful CREP project was recently completed in Yamhill County. Property along the Yamhill River which had grown up into invasive blackberries and other weeds after a logging operation was also subject to flood waters on an almost annual basis. The Brey family, who owned the property, elected to enroll in CREP with the Yamhill FSA Office to return the area to a properly functioning riparian buffer with the help of the personnel from the Yamhill SWCD. In addition to the cost-share available from the CREP a grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) helped with the cost of the project. This was an excellent example of the value of developing partnerships to combine available resources.

-Before work 2007-



The project began in 2007 and by 2010 the area is now home to a variety of species of trees and shrubs with a cover of grass and forbs. Water quality in the Yamhill River is now improved in this area due to the reduction of silting caused by erosion on an unprotected floodplain. Wildlife habitat has been improved with better forage and cover. The area has been fenced to exclude domestic livestock from the floodplain which protects the young plantings and keeps the livestock out of the River. The Brey family receives an annual payment from FSA that replaces income from agricultural sources on the enrolled acreage and will also receive cost-share to implement enhancement activities as required during the life of the contract.

Oregon’s CREP currently has 36,388 acres enrolled in CREP and 11,764 enrolled in Continuous CRP. Continuous CRP also targets buffers along streams and wetlands but does not include a partnership with the State of Oregon and has reduced cost-share available for implementation.

-After CREP work 2010-



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

USDA BLOG

-Reaching Out, Every Day and Every Way-

Children Explore Agricultural Science on Wheels

Ahhh! Remember the days of taking classroom field trips? Bet you never had one like this—a virtual visit by a classroom on wheels that drives right up to the school’s front door!

Such was the recent treat for K-5 students at Beltsville Academy in Beltsville, Md., just down the road from the USDA Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC). Nationwide, BARC is the largest location of the USDA’s Agricultural Research Service.

Over the past several years, BARC and Friends of Agricultural Research-Beltsville (FAR-B)—a nonprofit organization that supports BARC research and programs have coordinated numerous science enrichment programs at Beltsville Academy to help kids learn more about agricultural science. This fall, BARC and FAR-B teamed up with the school to sponsor a visit from the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation’s “Agricultural Products” mobile science lab.

Inside the mobile lab, retired science teachers skilled in making science “come alive” promote the importance of agriculture in our daily lives, and conduct experiments featured on the lab’s kid-sized workbenches.

Younger students heard a story about cows, talked about dairy foods, made butter from heavy cream, and then taste tested their experiment on graham crackers.

Older students played “chemist,” producing glue from milk and then testing its strength against a commercial variety using several objective tests. Problem, hypothesis, procedure, results, conclusion—the scientific method in action!

One third-grader was overheard saying, “I’m going to save my glue so we don’t have to buy it anymore.”

The school’s principal, Rashida Edwards, praised the program, saying, “This was a great experience for the kids. It reinforced the importance of agriculture in our daily lives, showed how science can be fun, and you just never know what might motivate kids—maybe we’ve even inspired some future scientists!”

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