



# NEWSLETTER



## Farm Service Agency

**SUMMER 2011**

### **Tillamook/Clatsop FSA Office**

6415 Signal St  
Tillamook, OR 97141

503 842-2848 x 2

[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

### **Hours**

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

### **County Committee**

Harold Weaver  
Chairperson

Linda Neahring  
Vice Chairperson

Bearl Seals  
Regular Member

### **County Executive Director**

Jim Worledge

[Jim.Worledge@or.usda.gov](mailto:Jim.Worledge@or.usda.gov)

### **Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)**

Tillamook County Office  
503 842-2848

Clatsop County Office  
503 325-4571

## **County Committee (COC) Elections Clatsop County LLA #1**

Since COC elections happen only once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into local administrative areas, or LAAs. Each LAA selects one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency county committee.

Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. With Tillamook and Clatsop Counties being combined under one FSA Office there are three LAAs between the two counties. The COC position from Clatsop County LLA #1 is up for election this year and is currently held by Harold Weaver.

## **Election Period**

June 15, 2011 – COC nomination period begins.

Aug. 1, 2011 - COC nomination forms (FSA-669A) due at the local USDA Service Center

Nov. 4, 2011 – COC ballots mailed to eligible voters

Dec. 5, 2011 - Last day to return completed COC ballots to the USDA Service Center

Jan. 2, 2012 - Newly elected COC members take office

## **Who Can Hold Office**

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria as follows:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate

Candidates must not have been:

- Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

For more information about county committee elections, contact the county office staff.

## **Nominations**

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy.

Nominees must complete and sign form FSA-669A available at USDA Service Centers and online at:

[http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/fsa\\_0669a\\_committeeselectform.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa_0669a_committeeselectform.pdf)

Nomination forms for the 2011 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on August 1, 2011.

## **Farm Storage Facility Loans**

The Farm Storage Facility Loan program allows producers to build cold storage facilities to store their fresh fruits and vegetables. To be eligible, cold storage facilities must have a useful life of 15 years and include:

- New structures suitable for a cold storage facility;
- New walk-in, prefabricated, permanently-installed coolers suitable for storing fresh fruits and vegetables;
- New permanently affixed cooling, circulating and monitoring equipment;
- Electrical equipment integral to the proper operation of a cold storage facility;
- An addition or modification to an existing storage facility.

USDA will not make cold storage facility loans for portable structures, portable handling and cooling equipment, used or pre-owned structures, cooling equipment or structures deemed unsuitable.

The maximum loan amount for a Farm Storage Facility loan is \$500,000 per loan, which requires a down payment of at least 15 percent. Applications must be approved before construction can begin. Loan terms of seven, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan.

For more information on this program or other FSA farm programs please contact the local FSA county office or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.



## **Beginning Farmer or Limited Resource Loans**

FSA has a program 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 percent of the county's median size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed.

Additional program information is available at the local USDA Service Center or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) and [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov).

## **Farm Reconstitutions**

At FSA, farms are “constituted” to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. If multiple owners and/or operators do not agree about program participation and want to separate acres by programs, for example to enter only a segment of property into the new ACRE program, then producers should inquire about a reconstitution of the farm at the local FSA office.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. NOTE: to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by August 1, 2011 for farms enrolled in specific programs.

<b>Selected Interest Rates for June 2011</b>	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Direct Farm Operating Loans	2.625%
Direct Farm Ownership and Conservation Loans	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%

**NOTICE  
TO HISPANIC  
AND/OR  
WOMEN  
FARMERS OR  
RANCHERS  
COMPENSATION  
FOR CLAIMS OF  
DISCRIMINATION**

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

To register your name to receive a claims packet, call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or visit: [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov)

The claims package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**Hispanic and Women Farmers**

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans is being established.

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you during certain time periods between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

For additional information on this claims process and other settlement issues contact:

**Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims**

**Process:** [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov)  
or 1-888-508-4429

**Pigford - Black Farmers Discrimination**

**Litigation** [www.blackfarmercase.com](http://www.blackfarmercase.com)  
or 1-866-950-5547

**Keepseagle - Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement**

[www.IndianFarmClass.com](http://www.IndianFarmClass.com)  
or 1-888-233-5506

**Budget Constraints and Reducing Costs**

In efforts to reduce costs, producers are being asked to provide current email addresses, FAX numbers and phone numbers.

Producers may call, email or FAX their contact information, or provide it when they visit their local FSA office.

It is more important than ever that all producers provide valid contact information.

Contacts will be initiated through phone and other electronic means to help curtail mailing expenses. Program reminders and announcements will be initiated through electronic newsletters and local press.

**Did You Change Banks?**

If you have changed banks and not notified FSA and NRCS your payment could be delayed.

Payments are electronically transferred into your bank account. If we are not aware of changes to your account and have incorrect routing numbers, there will be delays. For FSA and NRCS to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes your account such as type of account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

**MILC Program**

There hasn't been a MILC payment for over a year now. The chart below list the Boston Class 1 target price of \$16.94 and the actual BC1 price by month. Also shown is the NAD-FRC (adjustment for feed price) of \$7.35 and the actual price per month with the Adjusted MILC Trigger rate.

Fiscal Year 2010

Mo.	BCI Price-\$ (16.94)	Pymt Rate- \$ (Before Adjust.)	NAD-FRC-\$ (7.35)	Adjust. Trigger	Final Pymt Rate Adj. for Feed Cost (\$/cwt)
May	17.05	0.0000	6.90	16.94	0.00000
Jun	18.53	0.0000	6.80	16.94	0.00000
July	18.91	0.0000	6.88	16.94	0.00000
Aug	19.02	0.0000	7.05	16.94	0.00000
Sep	18.75	0.0000	7.44	16.94	0.00000

Fiscal Year 2011

Oct	19.83	0.0000	7.71	16.94	0.00000
Nov	20.49	0.0000	8.02	17.64	0.00000
Dec	20.21	0.0000	8.42	18.05	0.00000
Jan	18.45	0.0000	8.53	18.16	0.00000
Feb	19.14	0.0000	9.43	19.10	0.00000
Mar	21.48	0.0000	9.51	19.19	0.00000
Apr	22.68	0.0000	10.71	20.42	0.00000
May	23.00	0.0000	TBD	TBD	TBD
Jun	23.57	0.0000	TBD	TBD	TBD

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