

JULY 2008 UMATILLA COUNTY FSA NEWSLETTER



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County Committee

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2008 DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM (DCP) SIGN UP

Umatilla County FSA is now currently taking appointments for the 2008 DCP sign-up. Farmers are encouraged to come in early to sign-up this year as the final deadline for this sign-up is September 30, 2008 for **all** signatures. This sign-up can still receive advance payments of 22% of the total payment. Remember, any changes with your farm records that require a reconstitution must be completed prior to the August 1, 2008 deadline. If you have any further questions or would like to schedule an appointment, please call the office at 541-278-8049 ext 2.

2008 Crop Acreage Reporting



We are in the process of taking acreage reports. Please remember that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. Furthermore, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported. Crop reports, form FSA-578 Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. **Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event** and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. The deadline for reporting your crop acreage for 2008 is August 15th, 2008. After the August 15th deadline, a site-visit and a late file fee will be charged on a per farm basis for any acres not previously reported. The late file fee base charge is \$46/farm for the first hour and \$8 for every ½ hour after that. Contact the Umatilla County FSA Office for further information or to set up an appointment.

Conservation Compliance

All participants in USDA programs are required to have a conservation system in place on all the highly erodible land (HEL) that they operate. Several areas where problems can arise with complying with a conservation system are: renting new cropland, purchasing new land, breaking out additional cropland, planting different crops such as soybeans, and changing or removing existing conservation practices.



It is very important that you contact the FSA office before doing any of the above. Also, it is very important that you contact our office before modifying - tiling, draining, dredging, filling, or leveling - any wetland or drainage ditch. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in loss of all Federal payments and eligibility.

2008 County Committee Elections

Overview

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers with large or small operations.

Committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers. FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws.

Committees provide local input on:

- Commodity price support loans and payment;
- Conservation programs;
- Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities; and
- Emergency programs.

Current Local Administrative Area (LAA) up for the 2009 election year is:

- LAA #1 (Milton-Freewater, Umapine, Stateline)
- LAA #4 (Pilot Rock, Ukiah, Monument)

Election Period

June 15, 2008 – Nomination period begins. Request nomination forms from the local USDA Service Center or obtain online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> under News & Events/County Committee Elections.

August 1, 2008 – Last day to file nomination forms at the local USDA Service Center.

Who Can Vote

Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm can vote.

Nominations

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form is available at USDA Service Centers and online at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov> under News & Events/County Committee Elections.

Nominations forms for the 2008 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 1, 2008.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. The nominee must reside in the county or multi-county jurisdiction within the Legislative Administrative Area up for election.

2005-2007 Livestock Disaster Program Sign-Up Deadline

The 2005-2007 Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) sign-up deadline is July 18th, 2008. Farmers that have suffered Grazing Losses, had feed losses due to drought, or have incurred increased feed costs due to drought in 2005 and 2007 are eligible for this program. Please contact the Umatilla County FSA office for additional sign-up or program information.

FSA OPERATING LOANS AVAILABLE

Having trouble securing commercial credit? Annual and term operating loans up to \$300,000 are available through the Farm Service Agency. FSA is a federal lender that extends credit to farmers and ranchers who have been turned away by commercial lenders. FSA works with your budget and provides financial advising and servicing to help ensure a better chance for success.

Operating loan funds may be used for purchases such as livestock, farm equipment, feed, seed, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance, and other operating expenses. Other potential uses include minor improvements to buildings, costs associated with land and water development, basic family living needs, or refinancing of certain types of debt.

If you have any questions about the farm loan program, call the Umatilla County USDA Service Center in Pendleton at 541-278-8049 extension 2.

2005-2007 Crop Disaster Program (CDP) – Quality Sign-Up

Umatilla County FSA Office is now accepting applications for CDP quality sign-up. Losses caused by an eligible disaster event in 2005-2007 can apply for a quality loss on those affected crops. If you have suffered a quality loss on your crops, please contact the Umatilla County FSA office for more information on this program.

Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP)

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program is a private lands environmental improvement program that allows participants the opportunity to enroll environmentally sensitive acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality, and provide wildlife habitat and food sources. The Continuous CRP program is a voluntary enrollment program. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost-share reimbursement for establishment.



To be eligible for enrollment in Continuous CRP, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. Provided the eligibility requirements are met, FSA will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year. For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments, please contact Jessica at the Umatilla County FSA office at (541) 278-8049, ext 121.

Maintain Your CRP Cover

CRP cover maintenance is the participant's responsibility and must be done according to the conservation plan. All CRP maintenance activity, such as mowing, burning, and spraying, must be conducted outside the primary nesting season for wildlife and in accordance with the conservation plan.

Remember, spot treatment of the acreage may be allowed during the primary nesting season if certain criteria are met. The primary nesting season in Oregon is March 1st thru July 15th. If you would like to conduct a spot treatment of your CRP/CREP, please contact the Umatilla FSA Office for details.

Conserve with CREP

Farmers in the Umatilla Watershed Basin are able to take advantage of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). CREP will reimburse farmers for retiring cropland and/or pastureland surrounding streams, ponds and rivers from agricultural production. Program participants will receive annual rental payments, cost-share assistance, and other financial incentives for a period of 10-15 years for installing and maintaining any of these practices: Riparian Buffer, Riparian Filter Strip, Wetland Restoration, Marginal Pastureland Wildlife Habitat Buffer, and Marginal Pastureland Wetland Buffer.

Eligible cropland must have been row-cropped 4 of the 6 years between 2002 and 2007. Marginal pastureland is also eligible, but only for riparian buffers, and if the land is adjacent or parallel to streams.



Sodbuster Regulations – Read Before Tilling

The term “sodbusting” is used to identify the plowing up of erosion-prone grasslands for use as cropland. Sodbuster violations are unauthorized tillage practices on highly erodible lands that converted native vegetation such as rangeland or woodland, to crop production after Dec. 23, 1985. Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an AD-1026, indicating the area to be brought into production. If Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates on a CPA-026 that the area will be highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage, before bringing land into production.

In addition, producers and the producer's affiliates need to file an AD-1026 with the staff in the administrative or control county office before any farm program payments can be made. The AD-1026 is the

producer's signed certification that Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELIC), as well as wetland conservation, provisions will not be violated.

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2008 Farm and Tract Reconstitutions Deadline

The deadline for requesting farm and/or tract reconstitutions for 2008 is quickly approaching. Requests must be signed and turned in to the Umatilla County FSA office by August 1, 2008 for changes in this crop year. This includes all farm and tract requests regardless of base size that are participating in DCP.

Umatilla COC Has a New Advisor



We would like to take this opportunity to introduce Bette McLean as our new County Office Committee (COC) Advisor. McLean's have in the past raised 300 head of cows on any given year. Now in retirement they have a herd of 24 head of sheep. Currently enrolled as a member of the Confederated Tribe of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), Bette and her husband John have been married since 1977. Retired for the last 3 years, they enjoy spending time with their 7 kids and 9 grandkids. We would like to welcome Bette to the FSA COC Advisor appointment.



Important Dates to Remember

- July 4:** Independence Day – Office Closed
- July 15:** Final Date to Report Spring Seeded Crops for RMA
End of Primary Nesting season for CRP/CREP
- July 18:** **Final Date for Livestock Disaster Program and Livestock Indemnity Program Sign-Up!**
- August 1:** Last day for requesting reconstitution of Farms and Tracts for 2008
- August 15:** **2008 Crop Acreage Reporting Deadline**
- Ongoing:** Continuous sign up for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
Crop Disaster Program Sign-Up (Quantity & Quality) for 2005-2007 disaster years
Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program Sign-Up

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