

August 2010 Umatilla Co. FSA



Umatilla County FSA Office
200 SE Hailey Ave, Suite 112
Pendleton, OR 97801

Telephone: (541) 278-8049 x 2
Facsimile: (541) 278-8048
Website: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/or/or.htm>



County Committee

Ed Burlingame, Chairman
Dave Patton, Vice Chair
Bud Schmidtgall
Bob Walchli
Richard Kopp
Bette McLean, Advisor

Office Staff

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|------------------------|----------------------|
| Connie Carter, PT | Kyle Pottala, FLO |
| Emma Lee Demianew, PT | Karie Walker, FLO |
| Blair Keithley, PT | Jessica Westberg, PT |
| Virginia Lundberg, FLT | Kevin Jordan, FLM |
| Kate O'Berg, PT | Jane Harden, CED |

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
7:00am to 4:30pm

County Committee Meetings

4th Thursday of the month

Anticipated General Conservation Reserve Program Sign Up

There is a high probability that there will be a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) signup period before the end of September 30, 2010. FSA encourages producers to pay attention to future news releases, newsletters and post card notices. CRP is a voluntary program available to agricultural producers to help them safeguard environmentally sensitive land. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion and enhance wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years. These are competitive sign ups at a national level based on the "Environmental Benefits Index". Please call the office if you have questions or concerns.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

Changes to the Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program have been implemented in accordance with the 2008 Farm Bill, which will allow producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) administers FSFL on behalf of the USDA Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC).

The maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. Loan terms of 7, 10, or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount. **The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans: 1) wheat, barley, oats harvested as whole grain; 2) corn, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain; 3) Pulse crops – lentils, small chickpeas, and dry peas; 4) Hay; 5) Renewable biomass; 6) Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables – cold storage.**

For more information please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

Foreign Investors Must Report United States Agricultural Land Holdings

“Any foreign person who acquires or transfers any interest, other than a security interest, in agricultural land in the United States is required by law to report the transaction no later than 90 days after the date of the transaction”. Foreign investors must file Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) reports with the Farm Service Agency County Office that maintains reports for the county where the land is located.

“Failure to file a report, filing a late report or filing an inaccurate report can result in a penalty with fines up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land”.

For AFIDA purposes, agricultural land is defined as any land used for farming, ranching or timber production, if the tracts total 10 acres or more. Disclosure reports are also required when there are changes in land use. For example, reports are required when land uses changes from nonagricultural to agricultural or from agricultural to nonagricultural. Get an FSA-153 from the local office or on line at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Farm 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. 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.

GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE

Pendleton – The Umatilla-Walla-Walla-Willow Creek OWEB Small Grant Team announces the availability of up to \$10,000 for on-the-ground restoration projects. Example projects include: stream bank planting to slow erosion, off-stream livestock watering facilities or fencing stream areas to restore riparian function, weed control, native plant reseeding, restoring or enhancing natural wetlands, improving fish habitat, culvert removal or replacement.

Interested landowners should contact the Umatilla County Soil & Water Conservation District at 541-276-8131 for additional information and technical assistance.

Commodity Loans and LDP Payments

Please remember that you must apply for a commodity loan or LDP BEFORE you lose beneficial interest in the crop. To maintain beneficial interest you must have:

- ❖ Control of the crop
- ❖ Title to the crop
- ❖ Risk of loss for the crop

Beneficial interest is lost when the commodity is sold or immediately fed.

Remember, you can select a loan or an LDP but you cannot do both. Once you complete the paperwork for an LDP, you are no longer eligible for a commodity loan.

To be eligible for an LDP Producer's must:

- File CCC-633 EZ, page 1, before loss of beneficial interest
- File CCC-633 EZ, page 2, 3, or 4, as applicable, on or before the final availability date to request LDP payment.

Final availability dates for commodity loans and LDP's are as follows:

- ❖ January 31st, 2011: Mohair, wool, and unshorn pelts
- ❖ March 31st, 2011: Barley, wheat, and oats
- ❖ May 31st, 2011: Corn, dry peas, and lentils

Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

The TAP program provides assistance to qualified orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes, and vines that were lost by natural disasters occurring on or after Jan 1, 2008, and before Oct 1, 2011.

To qualify for TAP, eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers must:

- Suffer qualifying tree, bush, or vine loss in excess of 15 percent (after adjustment for normal mortality) from an eligible natural disaster for the individual stand
- Have owned the eligible trees, bushes, or vines when the natural disaster occurred; however, eligible growers are not required to own the land on which the eligible trees, bushes, or vines are planted
- Replace eligible trees, bushes, or vines within 12 months from the date the application is approved
- Have obtained crop insurance or Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on **ALL farms and ALL crops they have interest in**, regardless of the location.

Applications for losses incurred between May 8, 2010 and Sept. 30, 2011 must be submitted within 90 calendar days from the later of the disaster event or the date when the loss of trees, bushes or vines is apparent.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Umatilla County FSA Office
200 SE Hailey Ave., Suite 112
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Complaint Process

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree. Generally, program participants have four choices – 1) an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, 2) an opportunity for mediation, 3) appeal to State Committee and/or 4) appeal to the USDA National Appeal Division (NAD).

Civil Rights Compliant Process

Any person, class or group of persons may file a discrimination complaint within 180 days of an alleged discriminatory action. Complaints may be filed in writing or orally with the agency head, any designated agency official or the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington D.C. 20250. Assistance in filing a complaint can be obtained by calling or visiting the FSA office.

"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."