

October 2009 Umatilla Co. FSA



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

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Website: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/or/or.htm>



County Committee

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

Office Staff

Houston Bruck, FLO	Fran Mortier, PT
Connie Carter, PT	Donella Smith, PT
Emma Lee Demianew, PT	Karie Walker, FLOT
Blair Keithley, PT	Jessica Westberg, PT
Virginia Lundberg, FLT	Kevin Jordan, FLM

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
7:00am to 4:30pm

County Committee Meetings

4th Thursday of the month

Final Payments for 2009 DCP

Enrolled producers can expect their final direct payment to be deposited directly into personal bank accounts sometime during the first few weeks of October.

Producers who did not elect to receive an advance direct payment will receive their entire direct payment for the year in one lump sum after the end of the fiscal year (Sept. 30).

The direct payment for a crop equals 83.3 percent of the farm's base acreage times (x) the farm's direct payment yield times (x) the direct payment rate.

If there are any unearned payments, Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically subtract those amounts from the final Direct and Counter-cyclical Program payments you are about to receive.

2008/2009 SURE (The New Farm Bill Disaster Program) Sign-Up to Begin

The Umatilla County Office will begin taking 2008 disaster sign-up the **week of November 9th**. It will be **by appointment only** due to advance paperwork requirements.

This program works differently than past disaster programs. Most importantly, all crops must have been covered by: an insurance policy, NAP, NAP Buy-In, CAT Buy-In or Relief to be eligible for SURE.

Exceptions to this requirement are:

- crops that are not of economic significance (contribute < 5% of the total expected value of all crops grown by a producer in all counties)
- crops reported for grazing
- persons that have certified to socially disadvantaged, limited resource or beginning farmer status.

Producers must have at least one crop of economic significance with a 10% production loss on the farm to qualify.

For SURE purposes the definition of a "Farm" is: the sum of **all crop acreage, in all counties**, planted or intended for harvest for sale or on-farm livestock feeding, including native grassland intended for haying. This means that wheat, for example, must show a production loss for the total of a producer's wheat in all counties. (not a loss per FSA farm as in past disaster programs).

The earliest that payments will be made is December 2009 and that is tentative.

County Committee Elections

Be watching your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters starting on November 6, 2009. They will be mailed to eligible voters in the following towns: Adams, Athena, Helix, Weston, Cayuse, Mission and Pendleton. If you don't receive a ballot, notify the county FSA office. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on December 7, 2009.

Acreage Spot Check Determinations and Notification

Each year FSA completes spot checks of acreage reports. Acreage reports are an integral part of farm program participation. Acreage spot checks are completed to ensure accurate acreage reports in farm program computations.

FSA will conduct spot checks on a selected number of farms in each state. All acreage determinations use the FSA Geographic Information System official acreages.

After farms are spot checked, a Notice of Determined Acreage will be sent to the farm operator. Questions concerning determined acres should be directed to your local FSA office for further explanation.

Marketing Assistance Loans

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity.

Beneficial interest means 1) retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; 2) responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and 3) title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for a loan, even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling in the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans.

The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

Farm Loans Available

Loan applications are being accepted for farm operating and ownership purposes. Operating loans include annual operating expenses, farm equipment and livestock purchases, and refinancing related debt. Ownership loans include the purchase or enlargement of a farm, or the construction and/or repair of buildings. Loan guarantees are available to lenders where FSA provides up to a 90% guarantee of loss on the principal of a farm loan. The loan purposes are similar to FSA's Direct Loans, except refinancing real estate debt is also eligible under the Guarantee Program.

FSA's ability to partner with commercial lenders provides for useful tools in meeting your credit needs. FSA can provide for just a portion of your credit needs i.e. a tractor purchase, etc. when we work in consultation with your commercial lender.

FSA provides Direct and Guarantee loan assistance for Beginning Farmers and Socially Disadvantaged producers as well. An applicant is considered a Beginning Farmer if they have not operated a farm for more than 10 years. Youth loans are available for 4-H and FFA members' ages 10 through 20 who want to start any income producing enterprise recommended by their leader.

The Umatilla County Soil & Water Conservation District is offering TWO Incentive Programs to Area Growers

Pendleton – The Umatilla County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is taking applications for the Variable Rate Fertilizer Application & Wildhorse Basin Direct Seed Incentive Programs!

If you're planting a fall 2009 crop and plan on using a variable rate fertilizer applicator or you would like to try this technology, you are eligible for the incentive program (cost-share of \$20 per acre for up to 200 acres per producer). If you farm in the Wildhorse watershed and would like to try direct seeding or convert conventional tillage acres to direct seeding, then this is the program for you! The cost-share is \$10 per acre up to 1,000 acres per producer!

Applications can be found on their website at: www.umatillacountyswcd.com/naturalresources.html. Or stop by the office or call Heidi at 541-276-8131 for more information.

The Umatilla SWCD is located in the old John Murray building at 200 SE Hailey Ave Suite 108 in Pendleton.

Don't waste time – sign up today!

Selected Interest Rates for October 2009	
Farm Operating - Direct	3.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.000%
Limited Resource	5.000%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Farm Storage Facility-Varies with 7, 10 and 12 year loan terms	3%- 3.75%
Commodity Loans	1.37 %

EQIP Sign-Up Deadline

NRCS will be having a cutoff for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) later this fall. Signups received before the cutoff will be accepted for the 2010 year. For further information contact NRCS at (541)278-8049 extension 3

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.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Umatilla County FSA Office
200 SE Hailey Ave., Suite 112
Pendleton, OR 97801

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