



Umatilla County FSA

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Pendleton, OR 97801

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Hours

Monday—Friday
7:00 am—4:30 pm

County Office Staff

Darcy Sexson
County Exec. Director

Kevin Jordan
Farm Loan Manager

Donella Smith
Chief Program Technician

Kyle Pottala
Karie Walker
Farm Loan Officers

Virginia Lundberg
Farm Loan Program Technician

Jessica Westberg
Emma Lee Demianew
Blair Keithley
Amanda Wight
Kayci Sharp
Program Technicians

County Committee

Ed Burlingame
Dave Patton
Bud Schmidtgall
Clyde Nobles
Richard Kopp
Bette McLean – Advisor

Website

www.fsa.usda.gov/OR

Virginia Lundberg is Retiring



After 20 years of service to the Farm Service Agency, Virginia Lundberg will be retiring on November 30th.

Virginia has worked as the Farm Loan Program Technician for 12 years in the Pendleton FSA office. Prior to working in Pendleton, she worked for 8 years in the Coos Bay office.

Stop by the office in Pendleton on **November 30th between 2:00-4:00 pm** for an open house with cake and punch. Bring your memories and stories and join us as we wish Virginia the very best in her retirement!

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

The sign-up for 2010 losses begins **Nov. 14, 2011** and will end **June 1, 2012**.

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop year 2010. SURE is available to eligible producers on:

Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties that have incurred at least a 10% crop production or quality loss, or both. All economically significant, insured, crops grown by a producer are eligible, **except** grazed crops.

County Committee Voting Begins

Ballots for this year's county committee election will be mailed to eligible voters on Nov. 4, 2011. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on Dec. 5, 2011. If mailed, ballots must be post-marked by midnight Dec. 5, 2011.

The candidates are:

LAA 1—

Dennis Burks
Yvonne Carroll
Kathie Yeager

LAA 4 -

Richard Kopp

Eligible voters in local administrative area 1 or 4 who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

Voter Requirements - Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, are eligible to vote:

1. Legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as any of the following: an individual, an authorized representative of an entity, spouses when property is owned jointly or in community property states.

2. Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm.

3. Participates or cooperates in any FSA program that is provided by law.

Discrimination Prohibited No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

Adjusted Gross Income Report to IRS – Act Now

Producers should remember they must submit an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) verification consent form (CCC-931) to maintain eligibility for 2010 and 2011 program benefits. Individuals and legal entities now are using one form: CCC-931 Certification and Consent.

The consent form authorizes IRS to verify that a producer's AGI is within the requirements for FSA programs eligibility. Producers who failed to file these forms before Sept. 2011 will receive a final notice from the National Office. This notice will give the producer a final opportunity to submit the CCC-931 prior to becoming ineligible for all program payments (with the exception of some earlier multi-year CRP contracts.) The letter will provide instruction on where the completed form must be sent.

IRS requires written consent from all individuals or legal entities before verification of AGI eligibility can be provided to USDA. For more information contact your local FSA office.



Disaster Assistance Programs

The array of FSA disaster assistance programs include:

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)

Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program

To be eligible for SURE, TAP, and ELAP, producers must purchase catastrophic risk protection insurance for all insurable crops, and coverage for non-insurable crops. For LFP, grazed land must be covered.

In the case of honey, the term "farm" means all bees and beehives in all counties that are intended to be harvested for a honey crop by the eligible producer.

Producers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource Producer or Beginning Farmer or Rancher do not have to meet this risk management purchase requirement.

2012 DCP/ACRE Signup

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment begins Jan. 23, 2012 and ends June 1, 2012.

Here are IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

1) All producers planting on **DCP base** acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.

2) Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1st in DCP/ACRE **must** be reported to your local FSA office such as:

- Ownership changes
- Producer changes (Individuals and Entities)
- Change in crop shares arrangements

3) Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012.

**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

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



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Move with FSA to Instant Electronic Information

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation.

Producers can now enroll in the new GovDelivery system for notices, newsletters and electronic reminders and discontinue their slow and costly paper copies received through the mail.

FSA, like many other organizations, is working smarter and more efficiently. Conversion to electronic notifications via email helps conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars.

County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers.

Subscribe now to receive free e-mail updates by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe> or use the box "Sign up for updates" on the FSA homepage.

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Funds are available for operating loans and to purchase or improve farms or ranches (ownership loans.)

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of socially disadvantaged applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is someone who has been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as a member of a group, without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

FSA loans are only available to appli-

cants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

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 has been established.

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.

For additional information on this and other settlement issues contact:

Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process:

www.farmerclaims.gov or call 1-888-508-4429

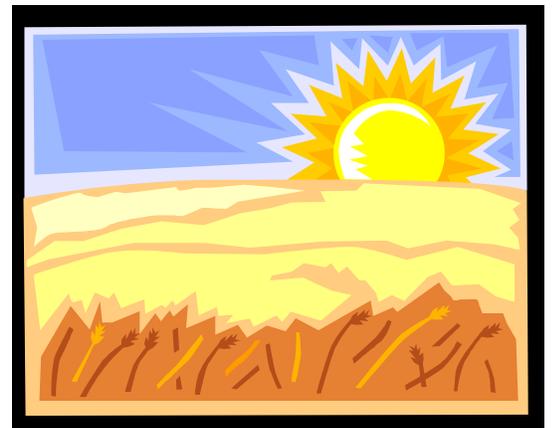
Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation:

www.blackfarmercase.com or call 1-866-950-5547

Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement:

www.IndianFarmClass.com or call

1-888-233-5506



Changing Banks

Almost all FSA payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. To maintain efficient payment processing, it is critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make with your financial institutions. If you have made changes to accounts or have changed banking institutions, these changes might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments. When changes like these are made, be sure to contact the FSA county office so we can update our records to ensure efficient and uninterrupted service.

| Selected Interest Rates - November 2011 | | Dates to Remember | |
|---|----------------|-------------------|---|
| 90-Day Treasury Bill | 0.125% | Nov. 4 | COC Ballots are mailed |
| Farm Operating - Direct | 1.375% | Nov. 14 | 2010 SURE Crop Disaster Sign Up Begins |
| Farm Ownership - Direct | 3.750% | Nov. 30 | Retirement Party for Virginia Lundberg 2-4 pm |
| Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher | 1.500% | Dec. 5 | COC Ballots due back in FSA office |
| Emergency | 3.750% | Jan. 23 | 2012 DCP/ACRE Enrollment Begins |
| Farm Storage Facility | 1.875 - 3.125% | | |
| Commodity Loans 1996 - Present | 1.125% | | |

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of 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, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or 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, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.