

UNION COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY

County Committee Members Shawn Bingaman Jim Murchison Todd Arnoldus Lisa Eisiminger	 E-Mail jennifer.isley@or.usda.gov	Union County FSA Office 1901 Adams Avenue, Ste 5 La Grande, OR 97850
Phone: (541) 963-4178 Ext. 2	May, 2009	FAX: (541) 962-1022

OFFICE STAFF: Jennifer Isley CED, Tim Hines PT, Tara Hett PT, Erin McClure SCEP
OFFICE HOURS: Monday through Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

ACRE PROGRAM

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program provides producers, on an eligible DCP farm, with the option to receive revenue based payments instead of DCP Counter-Cyclical (CC) payments. An eligible farm may only enroll in either DCP or ACRE. For Union County, eligible farms are those with established base acreage of wheat, barley, oats, oil seeds, and/or pulse crops. Farms with 10 or less acres of base acres are not eligible except where the owners are socially disadvantaged or are limited resource producers.

The deadline to elect and enroll in ACRE for 2009 is August 14, 2009. If you choose not to enroll in 2009, you will also have the opportunity in 2010, 2011 and 2012 but the deadline will be June 1 for each of those years.

Once you elect ACRE participation and do not cancel by the deadline, your election is irrevocable and cannot be changed from the time of election through the 2012 crop year. In addition, all owner(s) must agree to participate and they must understand that even an operator change or farm sale will not negate the ACRE election.

What's the tradeoff? If you enroll in ACRE, you agree to:

- forgo DCP counter-cyclical payments
- a 20% reduction in your DCP direct payments, and
- a 30% reduction in the marketing assistance loan rates for all commodities on your farm

The ACRE program provides producers an option to protect against declines in market revenue. ACRE payments are issued when two conditions are met for a commodity. The first condition is met when the Actual State Revenue falls below the State ACRE Guarantee. The second condition is met when the Actual Farm Revenue falls below the Farm ACRE guarantee.

Since this is a revenue based program, a key item is that you must be producing a covered commodity. If you aren't, then this program is not for you. The covered commodity does not necessarily have to have a base. A producer meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 21st at the Ag Service Center Conference Room, 10507 N. McAlister Road, Island City, at 7:00 p.m. Please plan to attend if you are interested in this program.

The United States 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 part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (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 USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication and Compliance, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

DCP Signup Extended

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been extended to August 14, 2009. Please call Tim to schedule an appointment.

An electronic application is also available for DCP (or eDCP) for those who wish to register and explore this option. Contact your local FSA office for more information and to establish the required *eAuthentication Level 2* account.

Pulse Crop Base Acres

The Farm Bill provides that eligible pulse-crop acres **may** be added as base acres and will be effective for 2009-2012. These base acres will be a 4-year average of the planted and considered planted acres of lentils, dry peas, large chickpeas (Kubuli Garbanzos) and small chickpeas (Desi Garbanzos) for 1998-2001. These base acres are not eligible for Direct payments under DCP. However, they are eligible for DCP Counter-cyclical payments or ACRE payments. We will compute these base acres for all affected operators and owners and notify them of their options. The deadline to add these base acres is August 14, 2009.

2009 Acreage Reports

Producers participating in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Non-Insurable Assistance Program (NAP), Supplemental Revenue A or those wishing to apply for a Commodity Loan or a Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) must file a crop acreage report to maintain eligibility for these programs. The deadline to report crop acreages is July 15th.

Remember: We are required to enter a planting date for **all crops** when you file your crop acreage report.

To schedule an appointment for your acreage report, please call Tara at: (541)963-4178 ext. 2.

Weather Losses

If you suffer crop losses due to damaging weather, you need to report those losses to the FSA office within 15 days of the date the disaster event occurred. This is a requirement for producers that have NAP coverage. All other producers are encouraged to report losses as they occur. These reports are important in the event a disaster program is implemented.

Grassland Reserve Program

The Farm Service Agency is currently accepting applications for the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP). This program provides financial and technical assistance to landowners and operators for the restoration and preservation of the nation's grasslands. FSA and NRCS jointly administer GRP and both offices accept applications for easements or rental agreements. Applications must be received by May 15, 2009 to be considered for funding.

Producers may offer grasslands for 10, 15, or 20 year rental agreements, or for permanent easements.

Ranking criteria is based on protection of grassland, land that contains forbs, and shrub land at the greatest risk from the threat of conversion to uses other than grazing, plant and animal diversity, restoration costs, and expiring CRP contracts.

Eligible landowners who enroll in GRP will receive payment for permanent easements based on the lowest amount of either the fair market value of the property less the grazing value of the land; a geographical cap as determined by NRCS, or the offer from the landowner.

Participants with approved rental agreements will receive annual payments for the rental contract period.

To apply, contact the Union County FSA Office or the NRCS Office, both of which are located at: 1901 Adams Avenue, La Grande, OR 97850 or call: FSA at 541.963.4178 ext.2 or NRCS at: 541.963.4178 ext. 3.



2009 Dates to Remember

- May 15 - Grassland Reserve Program Signup Deadline
- May 25 - Memorial Day (Office Closed)
- July 3 - Independence Day Observation (Office Closed)
- July 15 - Acreage Reporting Deadline
- August 14 - 2009 DCP Signup Deadline
- August 14 - ACRE Signup Deadline
- August 14 - Pulse Crop Base Acre Deadline

2009 Commodity Loan Rates

Crop	Loan Rate	Crop	Loan Rate
Wheat SWH	\$3.12/bu	Dry Peas	\$6.12/cwt
Wheat HRW	\$2.92/bu	Lg. Chickpeas	\$11.48/cwt
Wheat DUR	\$4.90/bu	Sm. Chickpeas	\$14.62/cwt
Wheat HRS	\$3.81/bu	Lentils	\$14.62/cwt
Barley	\$2.12/bu	Canola	\$7.15/cwt
Oats	\$1.35/bu	Safflower	\$9.13/cwt
Corn	\$2.31/bu	Sunflower	\$7.59/cwt

NAP Production Reporting

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information for prior years to establish your yields(s). If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your actual production history (APH) up-to-date. Records need to show the crop disposition. We recommend that you submit 2009 production records as soon as possible after harvest.

All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.

"NAP" is a 4-step program:

- 1) file application and pay fees at FSA
- 2) report crop acres
- 3) report production
- 4) file notice of loss within 15 days of the disaster event, or when the loss first becomes apparent.

Direct Deposits

If you change bank accounts or financial institutions, it is extremely important that you notify FSA. All program payments are now made by direct deposit. If you change banks, your bank changes names, or you change accounts and fail to notify us of the change, your payments will go into a suspense file in Kansas City until the correct information is provided. This can cause lengthy delays in receiving payments from FSA. **Please notify us whenever you change banks, accounts, or your bank name changes!**



2009 Wool Loan Deficiency Payments

Producers are eligible for a Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) on their 2009 clip if they have not sold or otherwise disposed of that clip.

Producers are eligible for an LDP on wool after shearing but before sale or loss of beneficial interest. The deadline to request a wool LDP is January 31, 2010.

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.



Union County FSA Office
1901 Adams Avenue, Suite 5
La Grande OR 97850

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
TUALATIN, OR
PERMIT NO. 71