

UNION COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY NEWS



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



August 2008

<p>Office Hours 7:00-4:30 Monday – Friday Tel: 541-963-4178 ext. 2 Fax: 541-962-1022</p>	<p>Office Staff Jennifer Isley, CED Tim Hines, PT Tara Hett, PT Erin McClure, Summer Intern</p>	<p>County Committee Members Todd Arnoldus Jim Murchison Shawn Bingaman Lisa Eisiminger</p>
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2008 DCP SIGN UP UNDERWAY

Producers have until September 30th to enroll in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program. Sign up can be completed at any Farm Service Agency Office or by going online to: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/edcp> and clicking on “Access eDCP Service.” Contracts can be completed and submitted from this web site.

For 2008, producers can elect to receive a 22% advance of the direct payment. Final payments will be issued in October. Counter-cyclical payments vary depending on market prices, and are issued only when the effective price of the commodity is below its target price.

Producers should call 541-963-4178 ext. 2 to schedule an appointment.

2005-2007 QUALITY LOSS CROP DISASTER SIGN UP

Sign up for quality losses under the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) began on June 23, 2008. The CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered losses to their 2005-2007 crops from natural disasters and related conditions. Producers who incurred qualifying quantity or quality losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 may receive benefits for only one of these years. However, producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple crops as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of the loss will be eligible to receive CDP benefits. Producers must have suffered quality losses of at

least 25% to be eligible for a CDP Quality loss payment.

2008 ACREAGE REPORTING DEADLINE

The deadline to report 2008 crop acreages has been extended to August 15th. All producers with farms participating in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP), the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), or those wishing to apply for a Commodity Loan or Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) must file an acreage report to maintain or establish eligibility. It is important for producers to take their time and be very accurate when reporting acreages as these acreage reports establish or maintain eligibility for numerous programs. Please call 963-4178 ext. 2 to schedule an appointment.

REPORT CROP LOSSES

Producers who have suffered crop losses due to weather should report those losses to the FSA office within 15 days of the disaster event or if the crop will not be carried to harvest. **This is a requirement for producers who have NAP coverage.** Reporting crop losses is also recommended for other producers so an accurate appraisal of damage can be performed. This information is essential for documentation of losses in the event of a disaster program.

IMPORTANT DATES

8/01 Deadline to submit nominating petitions for LAA #3 (Cove, Union and North Powder)
8/15 Deadline to report crop acreages
8/15 Deadline to sign up for EQIP with NRCS
9/01 Office closed: Labor Day
9/30 Deadline to sign up for the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program

COMMODITY LOANS AND LOAN DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS

As harvest season approaches, 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:

- 1) control of the crop
- 2) title to the crop
- 3) risk of loss for the crop

Beneficial interest is lost when the commodity is sold, immediately fed or delivered to a pass-title pit. If you will sell or feed your crop immediately after harvest you will need to file form CCC-633EZ prior to harvest to maintain eligibility for an LDP.

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

Commodity Loans are available for the following crops and loan rates:

Crop	Loan Rate	Crop	Loan Rate
Wheat SWH	\$ 2.65/bu	Safflower	\$ 9.01/cwt
Wheat HRW	\$ 3.25/bu	Canola	\$ 7.15/cwt
Wheat DUR	\$ 2.90/bu	Sunflower	\$ 7.32/cwt
Wheat HRS	\$ 3.23/bu	Sm. Chickpeas	\$7.43 /cwt
Barley	\$ 2.16/bu	Lentils	\$14.23 /cwt
Oats	\$ 1.31/bu	Dry Peas	\$6.58 /cwt
Corn	\$ 2.37/bu		

Commodity loans may be farm stored or warehouse stored. For farm stored loans, producers may either certify the quantity or request a paid measurement service. Warehouse receipts are required for all warehouse stored loans.

Loans are 9 months in duration. Producers can repay at principal plus interest (when the market is higher than the loan rate), repay at the loan rate minus the posted county price (interest and a portion of the principal may be forgiven), or forfeit the commodity to USDA. The last two options are used when the market is below the loan rate.

OPERATING LOANS

Having trouble securing commercial credit? Annual and term operating loans up to \$300,000.00 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 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, cost 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 ext. 2.

NRCS ANNOUNCES EQIP SIGN UP

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced an August 15th application cutoff date for the current Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) sign up in Union County. Interested landowners and operators should contact the Union County NRCS office at: 541-963-4178 ext. 3 or 1901 Adams Avenue, Suite 6, La Grande, OR.

EQIP is a USDA conservation program that offers financial and technical assistance to help farmers and ranchers implement working lands conservation. These measures include:

- Irrigation efficiency improvement
- Livestock management
- Conservation and precision tillage
- Forest management and other measures

NRCS accepts applications for EQIP year-round. Funding decisions are made at cutoff points during the year, when applications are evaluated and ranked on their potential to address local conservation priorities. The number of applications approved will be based on ranking and available funding.

For more information about EQIP, including local ranking information, enrollment requirements and program payments, please visit the Oregon NRCS web site at: <http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov>.

NOTICE: 2008 DISASTER PROGRAMS REQUIRE CROP INSURANCE AND NAP!

Eligibility “Buy-In” Deadline is September 16, 2008

The recently-enacted Farm Bill legislates 2008 disaster programs covering losses to crops, trees/vines/bushes, forage, and other losses due to adverse weather. These programs require the crops you planted, grew, produced or were prevented from planting to have been covered by federal crop insurance and/or FSA’s Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). All of your crops on all of your acreage must be enrolled, not just the acreage that suffered a loss.

Due to the late passage of the Farm Bill, you will be given an opportunity to “buy-in” to the disaster program by paying a \$100/crop catastrophic crop insurance and or NAP service fee for any 2009 crops that are not already covered by crop insurance or NAP.

This eligibility “buy-in” **must be completed by September 16, 2008** at your FSA Office to satisfy the requirement for total CI/NAP coverage. Note that it **does not** provide you with crop insurance indemnities or NAP benefits. Once this requirement has been met, you may be eligible for one or more of the following programs:

- **Supplemental Revenue Program (SURE):** Covers crop revenue losses from quantity or quality deficiencies in disaster declared counties, contiguous counties, or in cases where the overall production loss exceeds 50%.
- **Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP):** Compensates livestock owners for forage losses due to drought. Additionally, losses due to wildfire will be covered on public lands.
- **Tree Assistance Program (TAP):** Provides for partial reimbursement for replanting, salvage, pruning, debris removal and land preparation for orchardists and nursery tree growers if losses exceed 15%.
- **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm Raised Fish (EALHF):** Emergency relief to producers of livestock (including horses), honey bees, and farm-raised fish. Covers losses from disasters such as adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires not adequately covered by any other disaster program. This program is authorized at the discretion of the Secretary.

Another disaster program authorized by the Farm Bill is the **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality. This is the only disaster program that **does not** require crop insurance or NAP coverage.

Further details of all of these disaster programs, including sign-up information, will be provided at a later date. Note that additional requirements exist for disaster programs eligibility.

Bottom Line: To be eligible for Disaster Programs in 2008, you must pay the fees for the eligibility buy-in at your FSA Office by September 16, 2008!

**Union County FSA Office
10507 N McAlister Rd. Rm. 2
La Grande, OR 97850**

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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 1-800-795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please contact Jennifer Isley at (541) 963-4178 ext. 2
