

# UNION COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY

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| <b>County Committee Members</b><br>Shawn Bingaman<br>Jim Murchison<br>Guy Weishaar<br>Lisa Eisiminger | <br>E-Mail <a href="mailto:jennifer.isley@or.usda.gov">jennifer.isley@or.usda.gov</a> | <b>Union County FSA Office</b><br>1901 Adams Avenue, Ste 5<br>La Grande, OR 97850 |
| <b>Phone: (541) 963-4178 Ext. 2</b>   | <b>August, 2010</b>  | <b>FAX: (541) 962-1022</b>  |

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

## CRP Sign-up Starts August 2, 2010

Producers interested in offering highly erodible cropland for the Conservation Reserve Program may do so August 2<sup>nd</sup> through August 27<sup>th</sup>. Bids are evaluated based on an EBI (environmental benefits index). Maximum rental rates are based on the three predominate soils for the land being offered.

To be eligible to offer land for CRP you must have owned or operated the land for a minimum of 12 months prior to the start of sign-up. Operators must provide documentation that they have control of the land for the life of the contract.

Land must be planted or considered planted to an agriculture commodity four of the six crop years from 2002 to 2007. Alfalfa or other multiyear grasses and legumes grown in a rotation, not to exceed 12 years, may be eligible.

We anticipate the bidding process to be highly competitive, with more land being offered than USDA can accept into the program.

CRP is a voluntary program that helps agriculture producers use environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to control soil erosion, water erosion, improve air and water quality and develop wildlife habitat. Producers interested in offering land for CRP should call the FSA office at 541-963-4178 ext. 2 to schedule an appointment.

## 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:

- Control of the crop
- Title to the crop
- 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 need to file form CCC-633EZ prior to harvest to maintain eligibility for an LDP.

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.

## 2010 Commodity Loan Rates

| Crop      | Loan Rate | Crop          | Loan Rate   |
|-----------|-----------|---------------|-------------|
| Wheat SWH | \$3.28/bu | Dry Peas      | \$6.33/cwt  |
| Wheat HRW | \$3.08/bu | Lg. Chickpeas | \$11.28/cwt |
| Wheat DUR | \$6.42/bu | Sm. Chickpeas | \$7.43/cwt  |
| Wheat HRS | \$4.27/bu | Lentils       | \$13.17/cwt |
| Barley    | \$2.16/bu | Canola        | \$7.95/cwt  |
| Oats      | \$1.42/bu | Safflower     | \$9.90/cwt  |
| Corn      | \$2.31/bu | Sunflower     | \$8.39/cwt  |

## Durum Wheat Program

The Farm Service Agency is currently taking applications for the Durum Wheat Quality Program (DWQP). This program partially compensates producers for the costs associated with fungicide application on 2010 durum wheat. This compensation is for durum wheat growers that applied fungicide for Fusarium Head Blight (FHB) commonly known as wheat scab.

Durum producers have until September 15, 2010 to apply for fungicide application reimbursement under the DWQP. The fungicide payment rate will be established by the National Office. The reimbursement rate for the cost of application will be set by the state committees in each durum wheat producing state.

For more information about this program contact your local FSA office.



## 2009 Dates to Remember

- August 27 - CRP sign up deadline
- Sept. 1 - NAP deadline for 2011 camelina, canola, herbs (except mint), onions, and radishes
- Sept. 15 - DWQP deadline
- Nov. 20 - NAP deadline for fruit crops
- Nov. 30 - NAP deadline for forage and grazing crops

## Transition Incentives Program

The Transitions Incentive Program encourages retired or retiring owners or operators to transition their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

TIP provides annual rental payments to the retiring farmer for up to two additional years after the date of the expiration of the CRP contract, provided that the transition is **NOT** to a family member.

To be eligible the retiring farmer or rancher must:

- Have land enrolled in CRP that is in the last year of the contract.
- Agree to allow the beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher to make conservation and land improvements.
- Agree to sell, or have a contract to sell, or agree to long-term lease (minimum of 5 years) the land under CRP contract to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher by Oct. 1 of the year the contract expires.



## 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.

## Farm Record Changes

If you have changes in your farming operation, such as buying or selling land or leasing ground, you need to report these changes to your local FSA office.

It is extremely important that you keep your farm records up to date as it may affect your eligibility for USDA programs.



## 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 to a suspense file in Kansas City until the correct account 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!**

## 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 useful tools for 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.

For Farm Loan assistance contact our loan staff in Pendleton at: 541-278-8049 ext. 2.

## SURE Program

As you plan for the 2011 crop year please keep in mind that all crops must be covered by: an FCIC crop insurance policy, or a NAP policy if you wish to be eligible for the SURE Program (Supplement Revenue Assistance Payments Program).

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.

Many crop insurance deadlines and NAP deadlines are in the fall so it is important to plan ahead if you wish to maintain eligibility for SURE in 2011.

To be eligible for SURE producers must farm in a county with a Secretarial Disaster Designation or be contiguous to a declared county, or must have a crop with at least a 50% loss.

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 producers wheat production.

## CREP & Continuous CRP

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a program designed to decrease erosion, restore wildlife habitat and safeguard ground and surface water. CREP is a partnership with Farm Service Agency and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB).

Environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for CREP or Continuous CRP will be eligible for annual rental payments and cost-shares for approved practices. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis.

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