

UNION COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY

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

SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SURE)

SURE provides assistance for crop production and/or quality losses due to natural disasters.

To be eligible for SURE you must be a producer in a disaster designated county. (This includes contiguous counties.)

OR

You must have a 50% loss in total crop production.

AND

You must have risk as well as an ownership share in the crop.

Producers must have multi-peril Federal Crop Insurance on **ALL insurable crops and must have NAP (Non-Insurable Assistance Program) on all Non-Insurable crops.**

SURE payments are based on the following:
(Program Guarantee – Total Farm Revenue) X 60%
= SURE Payment

The Program Guarantee is equal to:
(FCIC price election X planted acres X yield) X 115% = Program Guarantee

Total Farm Revenue is calculated as follows:
(Harvested acres X Actual Yield X National Avg. Market Price)
+ 15% of Direct Payments
+ 100% of counter-

.cyclical payments
+ Any marketing loan proceeds
+ Any Insurance or NAP indemnity payments
= Total Farm Revenue

Remember that the National Average Market Price is based on a twelve month marketing period.

Total farm acreage reports are required for disaster programs, including SURE. This includes all cropland and non-cropland acres in all counties that the producer has an interest in.

Producers will need to report all native and improved grasses that will be hayed or grazed. **This includes non-cropland acres.**



IMPORTANT DATES

Nov. 26 th	Deadline to apply for DCP on farms with 10 acres or less
Nov. 27 th	Thanksgiving Day - Office closed
Nov. 30 th	Pasture, Range & Forage Insurance deadline
Dec. 1 st	Deadline to purchase NAP for 2009 crops
Dec. 1 st	Deadline to return ballots for COC elections

FCIC SALES CLOSING DATES

- Sweet Cherries, Berries, Fruit, Honey: 11/20/08
- Pasture and rangeland: 11/30/08
- Barley, Oats, Dry Peas, Dry Beans, Sugar Beets: 3/15/08

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The election process is currently underway for LAA #3 (Cove and Union). County Committee members are farmers or ranchers elected to serve a three year term on the Union County FSA Committee.

Candidates for County Committee from LAA #3 are:
Jim Murchison.

Jim lives near Cove and produces wheat, hay, grass seed and livestock.

Ballots were mailed to producers in LAA #3 beginning November 3rd. If you have not received a ballot by November 19th and you wish to vote, please notify the FSA office and a substitute ballot will be issued. Ballots must be signed and returned to the office or postmarked by December 1, 2008. Remember, if your ballot is not signed, it will not be counted!



LIVESTOCK FORAGE PROGRAM

The 2008 Farm Bill provides for a Livestock Forage Program (LFP) to assist ranchers during times of drought or when there is a fire on public lands.

The Livestock Assistance Program is triggered when your county has at least 8 consecutive weeks at D2 Severe Drought during the growing season.

To be eligible for LFP you must purchase NAP or PRF (pasture rangeland and forage) Insurance on all of your pastureland (this includes pasture located in other counties as well as your BLM and USFS ground).

Acreage reports will be required for all of your pastures.

The deadline to purchase PRF Insurance is November 30th. If you are interested in pasture insurance you need to contact an insurance agent.

NEW 2009 INCOME ELIGIBILITY RULES

The Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) provisions have been changed for 2009 and subsequent years.

Producers with a non-farm AGI that exceeds \$500,000.00 will no longer be eligible DCP or Price Support (loans & LDP's) benefits.

Producers with a farm AGI that exceeds \$750,000.00 will not be eligible for DCP payments.

Producers with a total AGI that exceeds \$1 million will not be eligible for conservation programs unless at least 66.66% is from farming and ranching.

NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

The deadline to purchase NAP has been extended to December 1st. NAP is available for all crops not covered by FCIC insurance. NAP provides a catastrophic level of insurance (50% yield at 55% price) for crops that were damaged by an eligible weather event.

NAP pays on eligible losses that exceed 50% of the APH (actual production history) at 55% of the established price for the crop.

Cost is \$250.00/crop not to exceed \$750.00 per county. For producers who farm in multiple counties, the maximum cost is \$1875/producer.

Producers participating in NAP must file an annual acreage report and provide production records.

A notice of loss must be filed at the FSA office within 15 days of the date that the loss first becomes apparent. **You must notify FSA prior to destroying any crop that will not be carried to harvest.**



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!**

2008 CROP COMMODITY LOANS

Commodity loans are available for the following crops, at the announced 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 mature 9 months following the month the loan was issued. 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.

eGOV

Producers now have the option of conducting some business with the government online.

To register for a level 2 account you will need to access the following website: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> After registering on this website, you will need to visit the FSA office for identity verification. In addition, producers can inquire on any farm program financial transaction that has taken place in a county office that affects that producer, including payments, collections, debts and CCC-1099-G. That website can be accessed at: <http://customerstatement.usda.gov/>



FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for eligible farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help beginning farmers who have yet to develop the net worth necessary to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, FSA loan programs provide opportunities for existing farmers and ranchers to acquire the resources they need to improve the efficiency of their operations, or assist in recovery from the effects of natural disasters.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$949,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers or ranchers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For detailed information contact our loan center in Pendleton at 541-278-8049 extension 2. Or, you can access the USDA website at www.usda.gov or the FSA website www.fsa.usda.gov for more information.



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

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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
