

November 2013



# NEWSLETTER

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## Union County FSA Updates

Farmers and Ranchers in the Imbler, Summerville and Elgin areas should be receiving ballots for County Committee Elections this week. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Union County FSA Office by Monday, December 2, 2013. The position open for election is LAA #2. The candidate is Lisa Eisiminger.

### Union County FSA Office

1901 Adams Avenue, Suite 5  
La Grande, OR 97850

Phone: 541-963-4178  
Fax: 541-962-1022

#### County Committee:

Terry Puckett  
Guy Weishaar  
Lisa Eisiminger

#### County Executive Director:

Jennifer Isley

#### Program Technicians:

Tim Hines  
Tara Hett

#### Farm Loan Manager:

Kevin Jordan  
Phone: 541-278-8049

#### Next County Committee Meeting:

December 9, 2013 at 9:00 AM

### Dates To Remember

November 11, 2013 - Veteran's Day (Office Closed)  
November 15, 2013 - Crop Reporting Deadline for PRF policy holders  
November 28, 2013 - Thanksgiving Day (Office Closed)  
December 2, 2013 - Deadline to return County Committee Election Ballots  
December 15, 2013 - Acreage Reporting Deadline for hay, pasture and all fall seeded crops

### 2014 Early Acreage Reporting Deadlines

The first acreage reporting deadline in Oregon is November 15 for producers who have purchased a Pasture, Range, and Forage (PRF) policy or an Apiculture policy from their crop insurance agents.

December 15th is the deadline for all producers to report the following crops: perennial forage (except seed), mint, fall seeded wheat and barley, fall canola or any other fall seeded crop.

January 15th is the deadline for established or fall planted cherries, peaches, apples, pears, and plums.

Producers failing to report crops timely are required to pay for a farm visit. All crops must be planted before they are reported to FSA. Producers should contact their FSA office to schedule an appointment or answer any questions.

## Changing Banks

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using direct deposit. To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

## Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- \* Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- \* Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- \* Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- \* Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- \* Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- \* Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- \* Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms.

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## Farm Reconstitutions

When changes in farm ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1 for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program.

Estate Method — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

Designation of Landowner Method — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

DCP Cropland Method — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

Default Method — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

If DCP direct payments have already been issued on a particular farm, the reconstitution will be effective for the next year, unless the payments are refunded.

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## FSA Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- \* Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- \* Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.

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USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).