

# UNION COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY

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OFFICE HOURS: Monday through Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

## 2010 DCP AND ACRE SIGN-UP

Sign-up is now underway for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program for farms with base acres. Producers will have the option of enrolling in the ACRE program for 2010.

The sign-up deadline is June 1, 2010. FSA will not accept late filed applications.

## SURE PROGRAM (The New Farm Bill Disaster Program ) SIGN-UP TO BEGIN

FSA expects to begin accepting applications for 2008 SURE program next week.

This program is different from past disaster programs. All crops must have been covered by: an insurance policy, NAP, NAP Buy-In, Cat Buy-In or Relief to be eligible for SURE.

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.

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

Union County does not qualify for 2008 or 2009 under the Disaster Designation provisions. Producers farming in other counties will need to check for eligibility in those counties.

**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 producer's wheat in all counties (not a loss per FSA farm as in past disaster programs).**

## 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.



## 2010 NAP DEADLINES

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Program (NAP) is available for producers growing crops that are not eligible for multi-peril crop insurance. This program provides a level of financial protection (50% quantity coverage at 55% of price) in the event of crop losses due to a catastrophic weather event.

November 30, 2009 is the deadline to purchase NAP for forage or grazing crops.

March 15, 2010 is the deadline to purchase NAP for sunflowers, safflower, lentils, mustard, beans, oats, and vegetable crops.

If you participate in NAP you must:

- File a crop acreage report by July 15, 2010.
- Provide prior year production evidence by July 15, 2010.
- File a notice of loss within 15 days of the damaging weather event or when a loss becomes apparent.

Producers wanting to maintain eligibility for SURE must purchase NAP for all non-insurable crops of economic significance.



## PAYMENT CHANGES

FSA has implemented numerous changes in payment processing over the last couple of months. You will now receive your transaction payment statement from the National Finance Center (NFC). Direct deposit and program payment information are transmitted from the county office to NFC. NFC then processes the payment, reviews the payment for potential offset for Federal Debt, and then transmits the deposit to your bank account. This additional process will cause a 1 day delay in receipts by direct deposit. Payments offset for Federal Debt will have a description of "FSA TREAS 310" as the description on your transaction statement.

**If you change banks or account numbers please remember to complete a new direct deposit form with the FSA office. Payments cannot be made until corrected account information has been provided.**

## FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS (FSFL)

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) Program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal loan amount through the FSFL Program is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a minimum down payment of 15 percent, with Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Early partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved loan amount.

Applications for FSFL's must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Wheat, barley, oats, corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, peanuts or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Wheat, oats, barley, corn or grain sorghum harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops – lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables – cold storage facilities

For more information about FSFL's please visit your FSA county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

## 2009 Dates to Remember

- Nov. 30 - Deadline to purchase NAP for forage/grazing crops
- Dec. 7 - Deadline to return ballots
- Dec. 25 - Office closed. Merry Christmas!

## COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Elections are currently underway for LAA #1 (La Grande, Starkey and west of North Powder areas).

Guy Weishaar is the nominee for this position. Guy farms with his brother Steve. They produce grain, peppermint, grass seed and sugar beets.

Ballots need to be postmarked, or hand delivered, to the Union County FSA Office by close of business December 7, 2009.

## LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM (LIP)

As part of the 2008 Farm Bill, Congress has implemented the Livestock Indemnity Program. This program is designed to compensate producers for livestock losses in excess of normal mortality. Excess losses must be due to adverse weather conditions such as blizzards, extreme cold and heat, or flooding, may be eligible for LIP.

**Verifiable third party documentation is required for proof of loss.** Losses must be reported within 30 days of when the loss is apparent to the participant. Documentation must prove that the loss was a direct result of an eligible adverse weather event in the calendar year for which benefits are being requested. Documentation may be through such records as bank or loan documents, private insurance documents, production records, purchase records, rendering receipts, veterinarian records or written contracts.

## BIOMASS CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (BCAP)

The new Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) is of interest to biomass conversion facilities and those who own, chip and transport biomass materials to these facilities.

Chippers and producers with conversion facilities contracts to prepare and deliver materials can apply for matching payments under the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) component of BCAP. Once an agreement is signed between FSA and a biomass conversion facility and funding is provided, the facilities can begin accepting materials under this program.

The matching CHST payments are paid at a rate of \$1 for \$1 per dry-ton equivalent received by a qualified biomass conversion facility, not to exceed \$45 per dry-ton equivalent. A biomass owner is eligible to receive payments for two years. The purpose of the matching payments is to assist biomass handlers with the CHST cost of delivering biomass to a qualified biomass conversion facility. Once a facility becomes qualified, eligible material owners or producers who deliver biomass to that facility may be eligible to receive CHST payments.

Eligible material owners or producers, who market eligible material to a qualified biomass conversion facility, may apply for the matching CHST payment at their FSA county office. An application must be submitted and approved before the eligible material is sold or delivered to a qualified biomass conversion facility. After the product is delivered, a material handler must provide FSA with documentation of product quantity, quality and payment rate. County offices will validate payment requests with information in the county office and information provided under the terms of MOUs with the qualified biomass conversion facilities. CHST payments will not be authorized until the appropriate environmental analysis is completed. Contact the Oregon State FSA Office at (503)692-3688 or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) for more information.

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