
FARM SERVICE AGENCY NEWS

County Committee Members

Jim Murchison

Mary West

Todd Arnoldus



Union County FSA Office

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OFFICE HOURS Monday through Friday 7:00 am to 4:30 pm

2007 ACREAGE REPORTING DEADLINE

The deadline to report 2007 crop acreages is July 15th. All producers with farms participating in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment 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.

2007 COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The Union County FSA Committee is currently accepting nominating petitions for the Imbler/Summerville/Elgin area (LAA #2). Owners and/or operators of agriculture land are eligible to serve on the Committee.

The Committee is comprised of 3 locally elected farmers/ranchers with each committee member serving a 3 year term of office. One position expires each year. Current members are:

Mary West (LAA#2) Imbler/Elgin/Summerville area, Jim Murchison (LAA#3) Cove/Union/North

Powder area, and Todd Arnoldus (LAA#1) La Grande/Starkey areas.

County Committees are an important part of the service delivery of FSA programs. Committee members make decisions or recommendations on commodity price support loans and loan deficiency payments, county yields, conservation cost-shares and incentives, crop disaster losses and disaster payments as well as hearing appeals. FSA is encouraging more participation from producers in non-traditional farming operations. Nominating petitions have been enclosed with this newsletter and should be returned to the Union County FSA Office by August 1st.

IMPORTANT DATES

- 6/15 Nominations open for LAA#2
- 7/4 Office closed Independence Day Holiday
- 7/15 Deadline to report crop acres
- 7/15 Deadline to provide prior year production evidence for NAP
- 8/1 Deadline to submit nominating petitions for LAA #2
- 8/3 Deadline to sign up for the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program

MINORITY FARM REGISTER

The Minority Farm Register is a tool to promote equal access to farm programs and services for minority farmland owners, farmers, ranchers, tenants and other individuals with an agriculture interest. Participants may receive information or be personally contacted through USDA outreach efforts. Programs include direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans, marketing loans, as well as conservation, housing and rural risk management.

Participation is voluntary.

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.

For producers that will maintain beneficial interest after harvest, a CCC-633 will need to be filed on the day you want to lock in your LDP rate.

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.

Field direct LDP's (CCC-709) must be filed with the FSA office prior to harvesting the crop. Payment will be based on the day the commodity is delivered.

Regular LDP's (CCC-633) must be filed after harvest and before beneficial interest is lost. Payment is based on the day the form is received in the FSA office.

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

Crop	Loan Rate	Crop	Loan Rate
Wheat SWH	\$ 2.74/bu	Safflower	\$ 8.89/cwt
Wheat HRW	\$ 3.22/bu	Canola	\$ 7.15/cwt
Wheat DUR	\$ 3.37/bu	Sunflower	\$ 7.08/cwt
Wheat HRS	\$ 3.12/bu	Sm. Chickpeas	\$ 7.43/cwt
Barley	\$ 2.13/bu	Lentils	\$13.31/cwt
Oats	\$1.35/bu	Dry Peas	\$.63/cwt
Corn	\$2.37/bu	Ungraded wool	\$ 0.38/lb

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.

2008 NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) is available for all crops that are not covered under Federal Crop Insurance (FCIC). This program provides a catastrophic level of coverage (50% yield, 55% price). The cost to apply is \$100.00 per crop, not to exceed \$300.00 per county. Coverage is year specific, so you must reapply each year. The deadlines for 2008 are:

- 08/31/07 canola, all herbs except mint, radish
- 10/01/07 grass seed, grazing, hay and forage crops (including small grain hay), All perennial crops not mentioned.
- 11/20/07 All fruit crops, Honey
- 03/15/08 Beans, corn, lentils, mustard, peas, safflower, sunflower.

Please note that for crop year 2008 peppermint will be an insurable crop. If you wish to insure peppermint you will need to contact your crop insurance agent.

If you have purchased a NAP application in the past, you need to provide production evidence by the acreage reporting deadline. **Production evidence must be provided yearly regardless of whether you have a claim or not. Failure to provide crop production evidence can result in a lower APH (actual production history) which may affect any future claims.**

WEED CONTROL

Please remember, if you participate in FSA programs you will need to control weeds on your contract acres. All A and B list weeds need to be controlled. A current weed list can be obtained from the Union County Public Works Office. The Oregon State FSA Committee defines weed control as follows: "Weeds are to be contained by using any method of control that is necessary to prevent the weeds from reaching maturity." Failure to control weeds can result in contract termination and assessment of liquidated damages. Please be a good neighbor and control your weeds!

**Union County FSA Office
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La Grande, OR 97850**

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CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium poppies or other drug producing plants.

FOREIGN LANDOWNER NOTIFICATION

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. These reports to the Secretary are made through the Farm Service Agency.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 % of the fair market value of the property. County Government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communications of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington D.C., 20250, or call 1-800-245-6340 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (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
