

UNION COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY

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OFFICE STAFF: Jennifer Isley CED, Tim Hines PT, Tara Hett PT

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

EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Union County livestock producers are eligible to apply for emergency livestock water assistance through the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). However, there are currently no funds available. Union County has been placed on a list for allocation should funds become available in the future.

In anticipation of future funding, a sign up will be held from Tuesday September 4th through Monday September 24th. Livestock producers who do not have enough livestock water to utilize available grass are encouraged to sign up.

If funds become available FSA will cost-share two practices:

- 1) Livestock water hauling: This includes truck/tank rental, holding/storage tanks and troughs.
- 2) Livestock water development: This includes well drilling, or deepening of wells, and spring development.

A site inspection is required to determine eligibility before any applications can be approved. In addition, a cultural review is required for all permanent measures, i.e. well drilling or deepening, spring development and pipelines.

FCIC SALES CLOSING DATES

The 2008 sales closing dates for crop insurance are:

- Mint with winter coverage, Barley with winter coverage and Wheat: 10/01/07
- Berries, Fruit, Honey: 11/20/07
- Barley, Oats, Dry Peas, Dry Beans, Sugar Beets: 3/15/08



IMPORTANT DATES

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|--------------------------|--|
| Sept. 4 th : | Sign up starts for ECP |
| Sept. 24 th : | Deadline to apply for ECP |
| Oct. 1 st : | Deadline to apply for EQIP (with NRCS) |
| Oct. 8 th : | Columbus Day, Office closed |
| Oct. 15 th : | Crop Disaster Program sign up starts |
| Nov. 3 rd : | Ballots mailed to Imbler / Summerville / Elgin producers |
| Nov. 10 th : | Veterans Day, Office closed |
| Nov. 23 rd : | Thanksgiving Day, Office closed |
| Dec. 4 th : | Deadline to return ballots for COC elections |



NON-INSURABLE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Non-Insurable Assistance Program (NAP) provides coverage for crops that are not eligible for multi-peril crop insurance. NAP coverage is available from the Farm Service Agency. Closing dates are:

- Oct. 1st: Grass for seed or forage, clover, mixed forage, and grain crops for forage
- Nov. 20th: Fruit, nut and berry crops
- March 15th: Garbanzo beans, peas, safflower and sunflower
- May 31st: Buckwheat

Producers participating in the NAP must provide production history each year. Losses must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event or the date that the loss becomes apparent.



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 suspended file in Kansas City until the correct account information is provided. This can cause lengthy delays in receiving payments from FSA. **Please notify our office whenever you change banks, accounts, or your bank name changes!**



2007 COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The election process is currently underway for LAA #2 (Imbler, Summerville, Elgin). 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 #2 are:
M. Shawn Bingaman and Gene Hardy.

M. Shawn Bingaman lives on Courtney Lane northeast of Summerville. He produces wheat, barley, grass seed and peppermint.

Gene Hardy lives on Hardy Lane. He produces wheat, barley, hay and livestock.

Ballots will be mailed to producers in the Imbler, Summerville and Elgin areas beginning November 3rd. If you have not received a ballot by November 26th 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 3, 2007. Remember, if your ballot is not signed, it will not be counted!

FARM LOAN PROGRAM

Loan applications are being accepted for farm operating and ownership purposes from those having difficulty obtaining credit through private lenders. 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. A minimum qualification for **Farm Ownership** loans is 3 years involvement in the business operations of a farm. 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 direct loans, except refinancing real estate debt is also eligible.

FSA provides Direct and Guarantee loan assistance for beginning farmers 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 further information, please contact the Farm Loan staff in Pendleton at: (541) 278-8049 ext. 2.

NEW INSURANCE PRODUCT FOR PASTURE, RANGELAND AND HAYLAND

Producers in Union County and eight other Oregon counties have the ability to insure their pasture, rangeland, and/or hayland for the 2008 crop year. The following are a few highlights of this new insurance product:

- Producers have the option of insuring all or part of their acreage.
- Insurance period is April 1st through March 31st of the following year. Producers can select between 4, 3 month insurance intervals when determining the timing of coverage for the selected acreage.
- Loss benefits are based on the vegetation index factor for the selected acreage, not the insured's individual production. Producers can select either 70%, 75%, 80%, 85% or 90% of the vegetation index factor.
- The insured producer is covering a dollar amount per acre which is based on the county established base value for the crop, productivity factor for the selected crop and the producer buy-up coverage level.
- Sales closing date is November 30, 2007 for coverage in the 2008 crop year. For further information or to purchase a policy, contact your local crop insurance agent.



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM

The sign-up deadline for the 2007 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) is October 1st.

Producers will need to have a farm plan on file with NRCS in order to apply for EQIP. If you do not have a farm plan on file we recommend you apply early as you will need to complete a farm plan as part of your application.

Producers with CSP contracts may want to consider EQIP funded practices to move up a tier or to increase payments on soil STIR/SCI payments and irrigation efficiencies. For more information contact the NRCS staff at (541) 963-4178 ext. 3.

CROP DISASTER PROGRAM

The Secretary of Agriculture has announced that sign up for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) will begin on October 15th. Crop losses must be due to a natural disaster and must exceed 35% to be eligible for CDP. This program is available to producers for crop years 2005, 2006 and crops planted before Feb. 28, 2007. Producers may receive benefits for one crop year only.

To be eligible for CDP you must have either FCIC Insurance or NAP (Non-Insurable Assistance Program) for the crops you are claiming a loss on.

Additional details will be announced as they become available.

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

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