

Wallowa County Harvester USDA Ag Service Center

USDA SERVICE CENTER

88401 Hwy 82, Box B
Enterprise, OR 97828-3042
(541) 426-4521
(541) 426-4789 FAX

Hours:

Monday – Friday
7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

FSA

Bill Williams ext. 5104
bill.williams@or.usda.gov
Lela Kunkle ext. 5102
lela.kunkle@or.usda.gov
Susie Madigan ext. 5103
susie.madigan@or.usda.gov

FSA Committee Members

Wes Wilsey
Melvin Stonebrink
Donna Smith

NRCS

Tom Smith ext. 5101
tom.smith@or.usda.gov
Nathan James ext. 5107
nathan.james@or.usda.gov

SWCD

Cynthia Warnock ext. 5106
cynthia.warnock@or.nacdnet.net
Joe Zuger ext. 5108
joe.zuger@or.nacdnet.net

DCP Signup Underway

Signup has started for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program for farms with base acres. Since we must complete new Payment Limitation forms for 2009, we can only accept appointments for DCP. Please call Lela (ext. 5102) or Susie (ext. 5103) to schedule an appointment.

Signup will continue until June 1, 2009 and we will not accept any late-filed applications after that date. This means that all signatures, including absentee owners, must also be obtained by June 1st.

An electronic application is also available for DCP (or eDCP) for those who wish to register and explore this option. Contact your local FSA office for more information and to establish the required *eAuthentication Level 2* account.

FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. FSA will issue advance direct payments on a monthly basis.

Producers who are eligible for the DCP Program will also be eligible to enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program. The enrollment period for the ACRE Program has not yet been announced but is projected to begin in the spring of 2009. You may first enroll in the DCP Program, receive advance direct payments and then later modify your enrollment to include the ACRE program or you may wait and elect to enroll in DCP and ACRE at the same time in spring 2009. You can enroll in ACRE on all of your farms or selected farms. There will be more information on this program in a later newsletter.

Customer Statement

It's a new year and time to think about filing taxes. Producers with an USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account will be able to access their farm data via their Customer Statement. The Customer Statement puts a range of USDA services and programs into a single report that's at your fingertips and available online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Customer Statement also allows USDA customers to view their participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation programs; information on farm loans; and conservation plan and land unit information.

For more information on this program, please contact our office.

THANK YOU ALAN

A big 'thank-you' to Alan Klages for his 9 years of service as a Wallowa County FSA Committee member. His efforts in representing the agricultural producers in the Joseph/Enterprise area are very much appreciated and to be commended.



Payment Deposits

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

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 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Smith Elected to Committee

Donna Smith was elected to the Wallowa County FSA Committee in the recent Committee election. She will begin her 3-year term on January 1, 2009 and will represent the agricultural producers from the Joseph/Enterprise area. Other members of the Committee are: Wes Wilsey (Flora/Troy) and Melvin Stonebrink (Lostine/Wallowa).

The County Office staff would like to thank all agricultural producers who voted in this year's election. The County Committee meets on the 3rd Thursday of every month at the USDA Service Center at 9:00 a.m. (June through October) and at 10:30 a.m. (November through May).



2009 Dates to Remember

- January 19 – Martin Luther Day (office closed)
- February 3 – SWCD Board Meeting, 12:30 pm
- February 16 – George Washington's Birthday (office closed)
- March 15 – 2009 Crop Insurance Deadline (Barley & Oats)
- 2009 NAP Sales closing Date (Peas, Lentils & Mustard)
- June 1 – 2009 DCP signup Deadline (no late files)

USDA Service Center
88401 Hwy 82, Box B
Enterprise, OR 97828-3042

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
TUALATIN OR
PERMIT NO. 71

Payment Limits & Direct Attribution

To qualify for commodity and disaster programs under the new farm bill, applicants now must adhere to the following new **Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)** restrictions:

- The AGI ceiling limitation was reduced from \$2.5 million from all sources to a three-year average **non-farm AGI less than or equal to \$500,000** to receive commodity program benefits.
- In addition, an individual or entity must have a 3-year average **farm AGI less than or equal to \$750,000** in order to qualify for direct payments issued under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP)
- For conservation programs, the average **nonfarm AGI limitation is \$1 million or less** for eligibility. However, an individual or entity who has non-farm AGI in excess of \$1 million remains eligible for conservation programs only if 66.66 percent or more of the total AGI is derived from farming, ranching and forestry operations. In addition, the AGI limitation for conservation programs may be waived on a case-by-case basis if it is determined that environmentally sensitive land of special significance would be protected.

The three years used for this computation are the 3 years prior to the signup year, less the previous year. For example, for 2009, we will be looking at the 3-year average from 2005, 2006 & 2007. This will be an annual certification for 2009 through 2012 and the 3 years will change each year.

Program payments are now limited by direct attribution of payment totals directly to individuals or indirectly to individuals through entities. A legal entity is defined as an entity created under Federal or State law that owns land or an agricultural commodity, product or livestock. Through direct attribution, payment limitation is based on the total payments received by the entity and also the individual, both directly and indirectly as an officer, partner or shareholder in an entity. Qualifying spouses are eligible to be considered separate persons for payment limitation purposes, rather than being automatically combined under one limitation.

Also, individuals and entities must be "actively engaged in farming" with respect to a farming operation in order to be eligible for specified payments and benefits. To be "actively engaged in farming," the individual or entity must make significant contributions to the farming operation of: (1) capital, equipment, land, or a combination; and (2) personal labor or active personal management, or a combination.

For 2009, all new Payment Limitation forms are in effect. We will be mailing these forms to all DCP participants so that you may become familiar with them.

2009 NAP POLICY DEADLINE

The application deadline for 2009 Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) for **Peas, Lentils and Mustard** is Thursday, March 15, 2009. The cost of an application is \$250 per crop per year, with a maximum of \$750 per producer per county per year. Please contact Susie by the deadline if you are interested.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication and Compliance, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.