

February 2014



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Wallowa County FSA Updates

Please note that we have a new fax number effective immediately.

Our new fax number is: **1-855-824-6184**.

Wallowa County FSA Office

401 NE 1st Suite E
Enterprise, OR 97828-1185

Phone: 541-426-4521 ext. 2
Fax: 1-855-824-6184

County Executive Director:
Bill Williams, ext 104

Farm Loan Manager:
Kevin Jordan

541-278-8049, ext. 111

Program Technicians:

County Committee Election Results

County committee elections are over, the ballots are counted and the results are in...

Melvin Stonebrink was elected to represent LAA # 3.

Bruce Lathrop will serve as the first alternate, and

Bobbie Lou Baker will serve as the second alternate.

Elected county committee members serve a three-year term and are responsible for making decisions on FSA disaster, conservation, commodity, and price support programs, as well as other important federal farm program issues.

County committee members are a valuable asset because they are

Lela Kunkle, ext. 102

comprised of local producers who participate in FSA programs themselves and have a direct connection to farmers and ranchers in the community. All recently elected county committee members and alternates took office on February 17, 2014, and joined the existing committee.

Susie Madigan, ext. 103

Next County Committee

Meeting: None scheduled at this time

For more information about county committees and the election process, please contact our office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

County Committee:

Our thanks to all agricultural producers in the Lostine and Wallowa area who voted. The County Committee system works only because of your participation.

Donna Smith, Chairperson

Wes Wilsey, Vice-Chairperson

Melvin Stonebrink, Member

2014 Acreage Reporting Date

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit our office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting date is applicable for Wallowa County:

July 15, 2014: spring Alfalfa for seed, grass for seed, CRP, spring seeded grain crops, any other spring seeded crops, all other crops

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting date::

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact Susie at 541-426-4521, ext. 103.

FSA Allows Lenders to Use Evaluations

Lenders that originate Farm Service Agency (FSA) guaranteed loans may now use internal real estate "collateral evaluations" to support loan requests of \$250,000 or less, rather than appraisals.

This policy change will allow lenders more flexibility and a faster underwriting process, and is consistent with industry standards.

Lenders must follow their regulator's "Interagency Appraisal and Evaluation Guidelines" and apply these same policies to FSA guaranteed loans as non-guaranteed loans. In addition, lenders should request an appraisal when they would do so for unguaranteed loans even if the loan is under the threshold, such as when the expected loan-to-value is above their established standards.

A description of the method of establishing the real estate value – whether appraisal or evaluation – needs to be described to FSA in their credit presentation.

For more information on Guaranteed Loans please contact Kevin Jordan, Farm Loan Manager at 541-278-8049, ext. 111.

Microloan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan (ML) program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and small family farm operations.

FSA offers applicants a Microloan designed to help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application process built to fit the needs of new and smaller producers. This loan program will also be useful to specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program.

Individuals who are interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available should contact Kevin Jordan, Farm Loan Manager at 541-278-8049 ext. 111 to set up an appointment with a loan official.

Beginning Farmer Loans

FSA assists beginning farmers to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans.

FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- § Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- § Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- § Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA, and
- § Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at the Umatilla County USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Bulletin Board

Selected Interest Rates for February 2014:

Farm Operating Loans — Direct - 2.00%

Farm Ownership Loans — Direct - 4.25%

Farm Ownership 2013 crop Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher - 1.50%

Emergency Loans - 3.00%

Farm Storage Facility Loans - 7 year term - 2.375%

2013 crop commodity loans - 1.125%

Dates to Remember:

March 31, 2014 - Final date to request a 2013 crop commodity loan

July 15, 2014 - Crop Acreage Report Deadline

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).