

March, 2012



## Wallowa County FSA Updates

DEAR PRODUCERS: Welcome to the new GovDelivery bulletins and updates service from your Wallowa County FSA office. Note that you are welcome to request to receive bulletins from more than one county and can add or remove individual subscriptions at any time.

### Wallowa County FSA Office

401 NE 1st Suite E  
Enterprise, OR 97828-1185  
**Phone:** 541-426-4521 X2  
**Fax:** 541-426-4789

**Hours:** 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM

**County Executive Director:**  
Bill Williams

**Program Technicians:**  
Lela Kunkle  
Susie Madigan

**Farm Loan Team:**  
Kevin Jordan, Farm Loan Manager  
Farm Loan Officers:  
Kyle Potalla  
Karie Walker

**Wallowa County FSA Committee:**  
Wes Wilsey, Chairperson  
Melvin Stonebrink, Vice Chairperson  
Donna Smith, Member

### New Continuous CRP Initiative

FSA has announced a new conservation initiative to protect up to 750,000 acres of the nation's most highly erodible croplands. This initiative will assist producers with targeting their most highly erodible cropland (land with an erodibility index of 20 or greater) by enabling them to plant wildlife-friendly, long-term cover through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Producers can enroll land on a continuous basis beginning this summer at their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office. With the use of soil survey and geographic information system data, local FSA staff can quickly determine a producer's eligibility for the initiative.

Producers are encouraged to contact the local FSA office or visit FSA's website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/crp](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp) for additional information regarding CRP.

### DCP/ACRE Sign-up

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment runs from Jan. 23, 2012 through June 1, 2012. Here are some IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- All producers planting on **DCP base** acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.
- Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1 in DCP/ACRE **must** be reported to your local FSA office. Changes may include:
  - o Ownership changes
  - o Producer changes (Individuals and Entities)
  - o Change in crop shares arrangements

**Note:** Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012.

### Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating expenses or help purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for socially disadvantaged applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of a group. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

### CRP General Sign-up

There will be a four-week Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general signup which will begin on March 12, 2012 and end on April 6, 2012.

CRP is a voluntary program available to agricultural producers to help them use environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion and develop wildlife habitat. In return participants receive rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years.

Producers with expiring contracts and producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP. Producers also are encouraged to look into CRP's other enrollment opportunities offered on a continuous, non-competitive, signup basis.

Please call Lela @ 541-426-4521 ext. 102 for an appointment.

## **NAP Enrollment**

Producers must apply for coverage before a disaster strikes. Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) applications for coverage must be filed using Form CCC-471 and the applicable service fees by the closing date. Application closing dates vary by crop. An upcoming application closing date is March 15th for most spring planted crops.

Producers are reminded about the need for insurance coverage on crops in order to remain eligible for the agency's Disaster Assistance Programs such as SURE, Livestock Forage Program, Tree Assistance Program, and Emergency Livestock Assistance Program. Producers must purchase at least catastrophic (CAT) level of insurance for all insurable crops. NAP provides coverage to producers for non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters. Crops eligible for NAP coverage are those for which crop insurance is not available.

## **Actively Engaged**

USDA has amended the rules that govern the requirements to be 'actively engaged' in farming. These rules apply to eligibility for payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program administered by FSA.

Normally the stockholder or a member of a legal entity **must** make contributions of active personal labor and/or active personal management for the farming operation. The contributions are to be performed on regular basis, must be identifiable, and separate from the contributions of others. The exception to this rule for a stockholder or member of a legal entity only occurs when both of the following apply:

- At least half of the interest in the legal entity is held by stockholders or members who are providing active personal labor or active personal management;
- The total direct payments received by the legal entity and each of the members can't exceed \$40,000.

## **IMPORTANT - AGI Reconciliation Process**

FSA's **Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Reconciliation Process** begins when FSA is notified that the IRS has not received a valid "**Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information**" form. There are two distinct reasons why a producer appears on an FSA AGI Reconciliation Report: 1) IRS did not receive a consent form from the producer or 2) IRS rejected the consent form.

In these cases the IRS notifies the FSA National Office which then directs the producer's recording FSA County office to reconcile the report. The county office then contacts the producer to complete a

**CCC-931 "Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information".**

It is then the FSA County Office responsibility to mail the completed CCC-931 consent form to IRS. Failure to provide the required "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information" forms may render a producer ineligible for FSA program benefits and require repayment of benefits received

**Acreage Reporting Deadline**

The 2012 acreage reporting deadline for **all crops** is July 16, 2012. This is a month earlier than normal so please give Susie a call at 541-426-4521 ext. 103 as soon as all of your spring crops are planted or if all of your crops were the same as 2011.

**Dates to Remember**

- March 12  
General CRP Signup Opens
- March 15  
NAP signup ends for oats for hay, camelina, dry peas, & canola.
- April 6  
General CRP Signup Closes
- June 1  
2012 DCP Enrollment closes
- July 15  
2012 Crop Reporting Deadline - All Crops



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For more information on bulletin subjects or details regarding your GovDelivery subscription with the Wallowa County FSA Office, contact Bill Williams, County Executive Director