



NEWSLETTER



July 2012

FSA COC Nomination Deadline

County committees (COC) play a crucial role in helping county office staff implement Farm Bill programs. Producers can participate in the FSA county committee election process by nominating an eligible candidate by the Aug. 1, 2012, deadline.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The form and more information about FSA county committee elections is available at:

<http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFile/Services/eForms/FSA669-A.PDF>

During their three-year terms, FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support programs and more. Nationwide, more than 7,800 farmers and ranchers serve on FSA county committees. Committees consist of three to five members who are elected by eligible local producer voters.

Crop Certification Deadline

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification.

Form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The producer certification deadline for all crops is Monday, July 16th.

Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program, Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

Filing for NAP Losses

Form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

Disaster Assistance

The Farm Service Agency would like to remind crop and livestock producers that have recently experienced severe damage from natural disasters that FSA programs are available to assist with recovery.

We encourage all who have suffered a disaster due to the recent severe weather conditions to read the fact sheets and visit their local FSA county office to get a quick start in the recovery process.

Fact sheets for all of these programs can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov; click on *Newsroom*, then *Fact Sheets*.

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 type loans to purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, FSA has provided priority funding for socially disadvantaged applicants. *Continued on Page 2: Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged*

Wallowa County FSA Office

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

541-426-4521 x2
phone

541-426-4789 fax

www.fsa.usda.gov/OR

Hours:

Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Staff

Bill Williams, CED
Extension 104
bill.williams@or.usda.gov

Lela Kunkle, PT
Extension 102
lela.kunkle@or.usda.gov

Susie Madigan, PT
Extension 103
susie.madigan@or.usda.gov

County Committee

Wes Wilsey
Melvin Stonebrink
Donna Smith

Farm Loan Team:
541-278-8049

Kevin Jordan, FLM
Extension 111

Kyle Potalla, FLO
Extension 122

Karie Walker, FLO
Extension 114

A socially disadvantaged applicant is a member of a group that has been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as a group member without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact their local FSA office for details. FSA loans are available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Farm Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

Estate Method — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

Designation of Landowner Method — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

DCP Cropland Method — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

Default Method — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

Foreign Landowner Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county to report the transaction to FSA with 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, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are advised to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Successor-In-Interest

Many FSA programs will allow payments to be made to heirs or successors when a program participant passes away. Additionally, contracts in programs such as CRP must be revised to reflect the successor(s) to a deceased participant's interest.

In the event of an FSA program participant's death, it is important that FSA be notified. Entities and joint operations that participate in FSA programs also need to notify FSA if a shareholder or member passes away. FSA benefits are reported to IRS and maintaining current, accurate participant records is vital to ensuring that those payments are reported correctly.

Highly Erodible Lands and Wetland Compliance

Producers participating in most programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are required to abide by certain stipulations on any land owned or farmed that is highly erodible or that is considered a wetland.

To be in compliance with the highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions, producers must agree,
Continued on Page 3: Highly Erodible Lands

that they **will not**:

- Produce an agricultural commodity on highly erodible land without a conservation system;
- Plant an agricultural commodity on a converted wetland;
- Convert a wetland to make possible the production of an agricultural commodity.

Producers must notify the FSA and update Form AD-1026 if they plan to remove fence rows, convert woodlots to cropland, combine crop fields, divide a crop field into two or more fields, install new drainage, or improve or modify existing drainage. FSA will notify NRCS who will then provide highly erodible land or wetland technical determinations.

To get additional information on highly erodible land and wetland conservation compliance contact the FSA office or the NRCS office at a local USDA Service Center. Additional information about conservation programs offered by FSA can be found online at www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation, and information on NRCS programs can be found at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>.

CRP Haying & Grazing

If you are interested in haying or grazing CRP acres, please contact Lela at extension 102. You cannot hay or graze until July 16th.

There will be a 25% reduction in your annual rental payment based on the number of acres hayed or grazed. You may either pay it when you sign up or we will deduct it from your annual CRP rental payment in October.

Sign Up for FSA Fence Post for Daily Updates

The Farm Service Agency Fence Post is an online newsletter that is updated on an almost daily basis. It contains articles of interest on the agency's programs and departments, as well as success stories from the field. To access Fence Post visit <http://fsa.blogs.govdelivery.com/>. Producers can sign up for weekly Fence Post updates by putting an email address in box that says "Get Email Updates."

Selected Interest Rates for July 2012	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	1.25%
Farm Ownership - Direct	3.375%
Limited Resource	5.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility – 7 year	1.125%
Farm Storage Facility – 10 year	1.625%
Farm Storage Facility – 12 year	1.875%
Sugar Storage Facility	2.125%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.250%

Dates to Remember	
July 16	First Day to request CRP Haying and Grazing
July 16	Last Day to file 2012 Crop Acreage Reports
Aug. 1	Last Day to file COC nomination form
Aug. 1	Last Day to request a reconstitution effective for 2012
Sept. 3	Labor Day (Office Closed)

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.