

# What's Cropping Up!

## Your County Committee:

Robert Benton Jr.~ Member  
Carleton Clausen~ Member  
Stacey Cooper~ Member  
Janie Dodge~ Member  
Paul Klindt~ Member

**2325 River Rd. Ste. 1**  
**The Dalles, OR 97058**  
**Phone: (541) 298-8559 X 2**  
**Fax: (541) 296-7868**

## Wasco/Hood River FSA

# FSA

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

# JANUARY 2009



## Your FSA Staff:

Kevin MacIntyre~ CED  
Charlene Banta~ PT  
Lissa Biehn~ PT  
Judy Pointer~ PT  
Nancy Fields~ PT  
Karen Bloomdahl~ FLO  
Aimee Bell~ PT  
Josh Hanning~ DD  
Nancy Thompson~ Area FLM

## 2009 Dates to Remember

-  Jan 14<sup>th</sup>~ COC Organizational Meeting
-  Jan 19<sup>th</sup>~ MLK Jr Day Observed (Office Closed)
-  Feb 16<sup>th</sup>~ President's Day Observed (Office Closed)
-  Feb 2-12<sup>th</sup>~ Neighborhood Meetings
-  Feb 26<sup>th</sup>~ SWCD Annual Meeting & Dinner
-  Mar 31<sup>st</sup>~ Deadline for Commodity Loans and Wool or unshorn pelt LDP's

## County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Robert Benton Jr. and Stacey Cooper. Stacey was elected to represent farmers from Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1, Northern Wasco County while Bob was elected to represent producers from LAA 4, Lower Hood River Valley on the county committee. The election results for LAA 1 are: Stacey Cooper, member and Wade Root, 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate. Results for LAA 4 are Bob Benton, member and David Tallman, 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate. Congratulations to all those who were nominated to serve in this important position. FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.



## Payment Limits & Direct Attribution

To qualify for commodity and disaster programs under the new farm bill, applicants now must adhere to 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 of \$500,000**. Also under the new regulations, an individual or entity must have a 3-year average AGI less than or equal to \$750,000 per year from farm income 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.

Program payments are now limited by direct attribution of payment totals directly to individuals or indirectly to individuals through entities rather than through the previous "3 entity rule".

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 more information on how these provisions apply to your own situation, contact your local FSA office.

## DCP Signup Underway

Signup has started for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program for farms with base acres. Signup will continue until June 1, 2009. The June 1, 2009 deadline is mandatory for all participants. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications.

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 in the month the producer elects to receive them. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.



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 will begin in the spring. 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/or ACRE at the same time in spring 2009.

## Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

## 2008 Wool, Mohair and Unshorn Pelt LDP's Available

Deadline for submitting 2008 crop wool production or unshorn pelt receipts is March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009. 633EZ must be on file to receive benefits from this program. The Current LDP rate for wool is pound. Current rate for unshorn pelts is \$1.99 per pelt. Pelt receipts must show that it was signed statement from the buyer that the lamb was unshorn at slaughter.



A CCC-  
29¢ per  
unshorn, or a

### How to Report Production

Acceptable production records must be submitted by production reporting date, PRD (June 30<sup>th</sup> for Wasco/ Hood River) by the producer for the current crop year. Production records acceptable to CCC include verifiable or reliable:

- ❖ Warehouse receipts, settlement or ledger sheets, or load summaries
- ❖ Documentary evidence, such as collective measurements or diaries and truck scale tickets, as necessary, to verify information provided by the producer if the eligible crop was stored, sold, fed to livestock, or otherwise disposed of other than through commercial channels
- ❖ Appraisal information from a loss adjuster acceptable to CCC.

Please see the sample of the Cherry Production Record FSA requires for NAP or crop disaster programs.

### NAP PRODUCTION NEEDED

NAP production (production from crops covered under the Non-insured Disaster Assistance Program) must be submitted each year by the production reporting date, PRD, of June 30<sup>th</sup>. For fruit crops, please turn in production similar to the sample provided in this mailing. This production evidence is a requirement of the NAP program and is necessary to compute the producer's Actual Production History (APH). The APH is the approved yield used for NAP benefits and in all disaster programs. Failure to submit timely records may result in a reduced yield, which will decrease possible program benefits. Please turn in your 2008 production (or previous production as well if you haven't been "keeping up"). These records are essential for current and future disaster assistance programs. If you have any questions, please contact the Wasco/ Hood River FSA at 541-298-8559 ext 2. Thank you.

### 2009 Acreage Reporting has Begun

Judy has started the 2009 acreage reporting (FSA-578). Please make an appointment to complete your acreage report. The accuracy of your acreage report is vital to crop insurance, Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance (NAP), current and future crop disaster programs and other USDA farm programs. When providing your crop information please ensure the correct crop acres are planted, precise shares, accurate planting dates and other producers on the farm are complete as well. If your farming entity has changes or you have a new operator, now is the time to make the appropriate changes. With the 2008 Farm Bill being passed, it has never been more important to have accurate records on file at the Farm Service Agency. **Failure to have accurate records may render you ineligible for farm programs.** Please call the Wasco/ Hood River FSA at 541-298-8559 ext 106 to set up your appointment. Thank you in advance for your promptness and thorough review of your 2009 Acreage Reports. \*\*On another note, we are reviewing '08 acreage reports to ensure ALL farmland has been included, especially non-cropland and its use. Please plan for extra time.\*\*



### **Farm Loans Available! Contact Karen Bloomdahl at 541-298-8559 ext 107**

Direct loans for operating purposes for up to \$300,000 are designed to help family farmers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. FSA also provides credit to beginning farmers or members of socially disadvantaged groups who do not have sufficient net worth to qualify for commercial credit. Beginning farmers must have been in agriculture less than 10 years and meet certain other requirements. Agriculturists who have suffered financial setbacks from natural and economic disasters, or who have limited resources with which to establish and maintain profitable farming operations may also be eligible for USDA loans.



available to qualified producers. FSA's loan programs to obtain private or commercial credit. FSA also disadvantaged groups who do not have sufficient net must have been in agriculture less than 10 years and suffered financial setbacks from natural and economic disasters, or who have limited resources with which to establish and maintain profitable farming operations may also be eligible for USDA loans.

#### 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 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, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

#### Power of Attorney

Experiencing difficulties visiting the county office because of work schedules, distance, health or other reasons, FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information.

#### Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits

### Neighborhood Meetings

Date	Place
2/2/09	Maupin City Park Bldg, Maupin
2/2/09	Sportsman Pub & Grub, Wamic
2/11/09	St. Alphonsus Parish Hall, Dufur
2/12/09	Cousin's Restaurant, The Dalles
2/26/09	The Gorge Discovery Center

### Payment Deposits – New

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.

### Appeal Process

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request or application for USDA services, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree. Generally, appellants have three choices- an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and finally, an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency.

### FSA Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- ✍ A married woman shall sign her given name: Mrs. Mary Doe, not Mrs. John Doe
- ✍ For a minor, FSA requires the minor's signature and one from an eligible parent. Note, by signing the applicable document, the parent is liable for actions of the minor and may be liable for refunds, liquidated damages, etc
- ✍ When signing on one's behalf the signature must agree with the name typed or printed on the form, or be a variation that does not cause the name and signature to be in disagreement. Example - John W. Smith is on the form. The signature may be John W. Smith or J.W. Smith or J. Smith. Or Mary J. Smith may be signed as Mrs. Mary Joe Smith, M.J. Smith, Mary Smith, etc
- ✍ FAXED signatures will be accepted for certain forms and other documents provided the acceptable program forms are approved for FAXED signatures. Producers are responsible for the successful transmission and receipt of FAXED information.

Examples of documents **not** approved for FAXED signatures include:

- ✍ Promissory note
- ✍ Assignment of payment
- ✍ Joint payment authorization
- ✍ NAP actual production history and approved yield record
- ✍ Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
  - ✍ Spouses may sign on behalf of each other's individual interest in a partnership, unless notification denying a spouse that authority is provided to the county office

Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities

- ✍ All members of a general partnership must sign for the general partnership unless an individual is authorized to act on the behalf of the general partnership and bind all members

Acceptable signatures for general partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, estates, and trusts shall consist of an indicator "by" or "for" the individual's name, individual's name and capacity, or individual's name, capacity, and name of entity

Sign up for eGov, to conduct business with FSA. Go to <http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov> and use your home computer to file forms, apply for programs, check contracts and view your Customer Statement or payment history. All you need is Level 2 eAuthorization, a valid email account and your home computer.

*The U.S. 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 a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (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 to USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication & Compliance, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

# Sample of Production Evidence that FSA needs for NAP and Crop Disaster Programs\*

(This may have a different title from different packing houses, but the info and format is generally the same. This type of report is also available for brine summaries, freezer summaries and/or canner summaries. FSA requires the processed summary reports as well as the fresh reports.)

			FRP541
Fresh Summary Report			9/17/08
2ND & FINAL 2008 TIETON POOL 4			7.57.55
Grower: _____ # _____			
3	54 TIETON	Pool 04 6/25/08 thru 6/27/08	Pool summary
Total bins		14	
		Description	Pounds
		8.5 Row & L	202
		9 Row & L	1,079
		9.5 Row & L	1,214
		10 Row & L	742
		10.5 Row & L	136
		Packout Total:	3,373
			77%
		Briners	43
		S/O 13Row	89
		Payable Total:	3,505
			81%
		Culls	619
		Trash	229
		Total Delivered:	4,353
			CHARGES
		Sales Charge	3,373
		Packing Charge	3,373
		In-Weight Charge	4,353
		Cull Charge	619
		Inspection	3,373
		Total Charges:	13,080
		Return to grower:	
		DEDUCTIONS	
		CGFC	4,353 .00187457 8.16
		OSCC	3,373 .01350133 45.54
		WCMC	3,373 .00040024 1.35
		Total Deductions:	55.05
		Net to Grower:	13,024.95
		Previous Advances:	
		Due to Grower:	13,024.95

  

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;">Total Fresh packed #'s</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin-top: 20px;">Processed #'s</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin-top: 20px;">Undersized and cull totals</div>		
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	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;">Salvage value paid for culls and undersized fruit</div>
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	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;">Normally displays net amount paid to producer</div>
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\*Some data has been removed to protect the identity of growers and/or packing facilities