

What's News in FSA

September 2008



USDA Farm Service Agency

Washington/Columbia County FSA Office
1080 SW Baseline, Suite B-3
Hillsboro, OR 97123
Telephone: 503-648-3174 x2
Fax: 503-681-9772
Website: www.fsa.usda.gov/or/washington/html
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. M-F

Office Staff

Gail Stinnett, CED x106 gail.stinnett@or.usda.gov
Nancy Thompson, FLM x107 nancy.thompson@or.usda.gov
Suzanne Hayes, FLO x 116 suzanne.hayes@or.usda.gov
Dennis Cooper, PT x100 dennis.cooper@or.usda.gov
Heidi Duggan, PT x 120 heidi.duggan@or.usda.gov
Peggy Kinkade, PT x105 peggy.kinkade@or.usda.gov

County Committee

Kay C VanNatta, Chairperson
Crystal VanderZanden, Vice-Chairperson
Tom Duyck, Regular Member

Notice:

2008 Disaster Programs Requires Crop Insurance or NAP



Eligibility "Buy-In" **Deadline** is September 16, 2008

The recently-enacted Farm Bill legislates 2008 disaster programs covering losses to crops, trees/vines/bushes, forage, and other losses due to adverse weather. These programs require the crops you planted, grew, produced or were prevented from planting to have been covered by federal crop insurance or FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). **All** of your crops on **all** of your acreage must be covered, not only those acres that suffered losses.

Due to the late passage of the Farm Bill in May, you will be given an opportunity to "buy-in" to the disaster program by paying a \$100/crop catastrophic crop insurance or NAP service fee for any 2008 crops that are not already covered by crop insurance or NAP.

This eligibility "buy-in" **must be completed by September 16, 2008** at your FSA Office to satisfy the requirement for total CI / NAP coverage. Note that it does not provide you with crop insurance indemnities or NAP benefits. Once this requirement is met, you may be eligible for one or more of the following programs:

- **Supplemental Revenue Program (SURE):** Covers crop revenue losses from quantity or quality deficiencies in disaster declared counties, contiguous counties, or in cases where the overall production loss exceeds 50%
- **Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP):** Compensates livestock owners for forage losses due to drought. Additionally, losses due to wildfire will be covered on public lands.
- **Tree Assistance Program (TAP):** Provides for partial reimbursement for replanting, salvage, pruning, debris removal and land preparation for orchardists and nursery tree growers if losses exceed 15%.
- **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (EALHF):** Emergency relief to producers of livestock (including horses), honey bees, and farm-raised fish. Covers losses from disasters such as adverse weather, blizzards and wildfires or other conditions not adequately covered by any other disaster program. This program is authorized at the discretion of the Secretary.
- **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP):** for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality. ***This is the only disaster program that does not require crop insurance or NAP coverage.***

Further details of all of these disaster programs, including signup information, will be provided at a later date. Note that additional requirements exist for disaster programs eligibility.



To be eligible for Disaster Programs in 2008, you must pay the fees for the eligibility buy-in at your FSA Office by September 16, 2008.



Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP)

NAP is available for all crops not covered under Federal Crop Insurance. NAP provides catastrophic level of coverage (50% yield / 55% price) to crops damaged by the eligible weather events that occur before or during harvest. Due to enactment of the farm bill on 5/22/08, **the fees have been increased to \$250/crop, maximum of \$750/county, and a maximum of \$2250/multi County.** Please note, this year only, closing dates for the fall of 2008 has been extended to December 1, 2008.

- Fall planted vegetable seeds, canola, carrots, onions and other seed crops; Christmas trees, cut flowers, ornamental nursery, herbs, grass, alfalfa, small grain, (fall or spring planted), other forage, grazing, grass seed, clover seed, alfalfa seed, and any other perennial not mentioned, all fruit crops, honey -- **December 1, 2008**
- Beans broccoli, cantaloupe, cauliflower, corn, cucumber, lentils, mustard, peas, potatoes, pumpkin, safflower, sunflowers, squash, tomato, watermelon. All spring planted crops not mentioned -- **March 15, 2009**
- Alfalfa, asparagus, barley, clover, garlic grass, peppermint, meadow foam, mixed forage, oats, rye, sugar beets, triticale, wheat -- **October 1, 2009**
- Apples, apricots, blueberries, caneberrys, chestnuts, cherries, cranberries, grapes, hazelnuts, honey, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, prunes, strawberries, walnuts -- **November 20, 2009**

WASHINGTON-COLUMBIA COUNTY FSA OFFICE

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID



Sign-up Underway for the 2008 DCP

Producers have **until September 30, 2008** to sign up for the 2008 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP). There will be **no late filed provisions** for 2008 DCP.

FSA computes DCP payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. For 2008, eligible producers may request to receive an advance payment of 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. USDA will issue advance direct payments as soon as practical after enrollment. Final direct payments will be issued sometime after Oct. 1, 2008.

A producer on a farm will not receive DCP payments if the sum of the base acres of covered commodities on the farm is 10 acres or less. However, this provision does not apply if the farm is wholly owned by either a socially disadvantaged or limited resource farmer or rancher. If the farm is owned by a legal entity, such as a corporation, each shareholder, partner, or member of the entity must be a socially disadvantaged or limited resource farmer or rancher.

Again, participants must submit the **completed DCP contract by September 30, 2008**. Applications filed after this date will not be approved. Please contact the office at (503) 648-3174 ext. 2 to make an appointment.



Hispanic Heritage Month is Sept 15 – Oct 15

Program Determinations Process

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree. Generally, program participants have four choices – 1) an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, 2) an opportunity for mediation, 3) appeal to State Committee and/or 4) appeal to the USDA National Appeal Division (NAD).



Civil Rights Compliant Process

Any person, class or group of persons may file a discrimination complaint within 180 days of an alleged discriminatory action. Complaints may be filed in writing or orally with the agency head, any designated agency official or the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington D.C. 20250. Assistance in filing a complaint can be obtained by calling or visiting the FSA office.

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 USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.