



USDA Farm Service Agency

Washington/Columbia County FSA Office
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 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

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County Committee

Tom Duyck, Chairperson
 Jeff VanNatta, Vice-Chairperson
 Becky Berger, Regular Member

COC Election

Congratulations to Becky Berger for winning the December 2009 County Office Committee (COC) Election for Local Administrative Area 3. Becky has been serving on the COC since January and has been a great asset whom offers a wealth of knowledge. It is now time to start the 2010 election process. Nominations for candidates to run for the Washington County Farm Service Agency County Office Committee representing producers in Local Administrative Area 2 will be accepted from June 15 through Aug. 2, 2010. Producers who are residents in LAA 2 (headquarters are west of Jackson School Road) and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program *and* are of *legal voting age* may be nominated *to serve on* the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates. A nomination form, FSA-669A, is included in this newsletter. Additional forms and details may be picked up at the county office or downloaded from the FSA Web site. Simply go to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

Acreage Reports Due

Producers are reminded that acreage reports (FSA-578's) are due **June 30, 2009**. The Hillsboro FSA office is currently taking appointments for acreage reporting. All producers who participate in USDA programs (CRP, NAP, DCP, etc.) are required to submit an acreage report by the reporting deadline. Failure to do so will result in non-compliance for USDA programs and benefits. Please contact the Hillsboro FSA office at 503-648-3174 x 2 to make an appointment.

Weed Control/Erosion Control Penalty

All Conservation Reserve Program, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, Enhanced Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, and Direct and Counter Cyclical Program participants must comply with the Oregon Noxious Weed Law and ensure noxious weeds and erosion are controlled. Failure to control these may result in the County Committee applying a penalty or terminating contracts if you are found in violation. Penalty amounts assessed are determined by the following equation:

Default acres x \$25/ac x 2 = total assessed penalty, -or- Number of acres affected x \$50/ac – total assessed penalty

Direct Deposit Bank Account Changes

If you have recently changed your financial institution or had made changes to your account information, we (FSA) must have a new direct deposit form (SF-1199A) completed along with a written statement directing our department to terminate your old direct deposit form. This is needed to ensure that you will receive your future payments in a timely manner. If you have any questions, please contact the FSA office.

Loans for Socially Disadvantaged Persons

FSA can make and guarantee loans to socially disadvantaged applicants for the purchase and/or operation of family-sized farms and ranches. Funds are reserved each year specifically for these loans. "Socially disadvantaged" describes persons belonging to a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to individual qualities. Women, African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Latinos, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are common examples. Applicants must meet all requirements for FSA's regular farm loan assistance. For more information contact Suzanne Hayes at the following number 503-648-3174 Ext 116.

FSA Farm Loans Available to Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

FSA can make and guarantee loans to beginning farmers for the purchase and/or operation of family-size farms and ranches. Funds are reserved each year specifically for these loans.

"Beginning Farmer" describes persons who have not farmed for more than 10 years; have materially participated in the management of a farm for at least 1-3 years; and in some cases do not own real property in excess of 30% of the average farm size in the county. Applicants must meet all requirements for FSA's regular farm loan assistance.

Dates to Remember

- June 30th** Crop Acreage Report Deadline
- July 5th** Independence Day Observed, Office Closed
- July 6th** TAP Signup Deadline
- August 26th** Women's Equality Day

FSA-669A
(03-24-10)U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency**NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION**

This form allows individuals to nominate themselves or any other person as a candidate. If additional forms are needed, this one may be copied or may be obtained at the County FSA Office or obtained electronically at <http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov>. Each form submitted must be:

- A. Limited to one nominee.
- B. Signed and dated by the nominee in Item 3. Nominee must sign if willing to have his/her name placed on the ballot and agrees to serve if elected.

Note: Name shown on ballot will appear exactly the same as in Agency records.

- C. Delivered to the County FSA Office or postmarked no later than August 2, 2010.
- D. Signed and dated as a write-in candidate if elected as a member and willing to serve on the COC.

The County FSA Committee is responsible for reviewing each form to determine the eligibility of nominees. A person who is nominated on this form and is found ineligible will be so notified and have an opportunity to file a challenge.

Persons nominated should actively participate in the operation of a farm or ranch and be well qualified for committee work. A producer is eligible to be a County FSA committee member if the producer resides in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) in which the election is to be held and is eligible to vote.

Federal regulations may prohibit County FSA Committee members from holding certain positions in some farm, commodity, and political organizations if such positions pose a conflict of interest with FSA duties. The positions include functional offices such as president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer; and positions on boards or executive committees. Conflict of interest restrictions also apply to employees, operators, managers, and majority owners of tobacco warehouses. Questions concerning eligibility should be directed to the County FSA Office.

A candidate has the option to request that all voted ballots for an individual county committee election be returned to the respective State Office in lieu of being returned to the county office. This request must be in writing and submitted to the local County Executive Director prior to the announced end of the nomination period.

The duties of County FSA Committee members include:

- A. Administering farm program activities conducted by the County FSA Office.
- B. Informing farmers of the purpose and provisions of the FSA programs.
- C. Keeping the State FSA Committee informed of LAA conditions.
- D. Monitoring changes in farm programs.
- E. Participating in county meetings as necessary.
- F. Performing other duties as assigned by the State FSA Committee

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or 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, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

FSA-669A (03-24-10)	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Farm Service Agency
<h2 style="margin: 0;">NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION</h2>	

1. NAME OF NOMINEE (<i>Type or Print Nominee's Full Name</i>)	TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE	
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE	4. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE RECEIVED	
3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION: <i>I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.</i>	5. COUNTY	
	6. LAA	7. STATE
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.</i>	8. NOMINATOR'S CERTIFICATION: <i>If this nomination is by other than self, the following eligible voter or representative of a community based organization hereby nominates the afore-named person to be a candidate in the next County FSA Committee election for the county.</i>	
3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE	3B. DATE	8A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.	8B. DATE <i>(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required).</i>	

9. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE

VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES: The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.

ETHNICITY <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	GENDER <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
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INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM

- Complete the form as follows:
- ITEM 1** Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be:
 - A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election.
 - B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member.
 - C. Willing to serve if elected.
 - ITEM 2** Enter the nominee's current address.
 - ITEM 3** The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.
 - ITEMS 3A & 3B** The nominee must sign and date.
 - ITEMS 8A & 8B** The nominator must sign and date. (*If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required.*)
 - ITEM 9** Completing this item is voluntary.
- ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 2, 2010.**

NOTE: *The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a - as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246). The information will be used to obtain nominees for election to the County FSA Committee. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for County Personnel Records, USDA/FSA-6. Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination of ineligibility for nomination for election to the County FSA Committee.*

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The provisions of appropriate criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided. RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.

Tree Assistance Program for Orchardists and Nursery Tree Growers (TAP)

TAP provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters occurring on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011. Eligible trees, bushes and vines are those from which an annual crop is produced for commercial purposes. Nursery trees include ornamental, fruit, nut and Christmas trees produced for commercial sale. Trees used for pulp or timber are ineligible.

To qualify for TAP, orchardists and nursery tree growers must: 1) suffer qualifying tree, bush or vine losses in excess of 15 percent (adjusted for normal mortality) from an eligible natural disaster for the individual stand; 2) have owned the eligible trees, bushes and vines when the natural disaster occurred; however, eligible growers are not required to own the land on which eligible trees, bushes and vines are planted; 3) replace eligible trees, bushes and vines within 12 months from the date the application is approved.

Orchardists and nursery tree growers must have obtained a policy or plan of insurance for all crops through either the Federal Crop Insurance Act or FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). For tree, bush or vine replacement including replanting and the cost of seedlings, the payment calculation is the lesser of the following: 70 percent of the actual cost of the practice, - or - the amount calculated for each practice using the established rates.

For salvaging existing trees, bushes or vines—including the costs of pruning, removal, or other costs—the payment calculation is the lesser of the following: 50 percent of the actual cost of the practice, - or - the amount calculated for each practice using the established rates.

More information on TAP is available at local FSA offices and on FSA's Web site at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/tap>.

Requirements For FSA's Regular Farm Loan Assistance To be eligible, an individual must:

1) Be a citizen or legally admitted permanent resident; 2) Possess the legal capacity to incur a loan; 3) Have applicable farming experience, education, and/or on-the-job training; 4) Be unable to obtain the requested financing elsewhere at prevailing rates & terms; 5) Be the operator of not larger than a family farm once the loan is closed; 6) Not have received previous FSA Operating Loan assistance in more than 6 different calendar years and/or not have had FSA Farm Ownership Loan assistance outstanding for more than 10 years (some allowances can be made); 7) Not have received debt forgiveness from FSA (some allowances can be made); 8) Not be delinquent on any Non-Tax Federal Debt; 9) have an acceptable credit history; and 10) Agree to take an FSA-approved Financial Management and/or Production Management course, unless one has already been completed.

For entities, the requirements are much the same, applying to the entity itself, as well as ALL members. In addition, the entity must be controlled by the member(s) engaged directly in farming or ranching; and must consist of members who are individuals and not other entities.

In addition, there must be a feasible business plan, with supportable projections, that indicates the ability of the operation to repay the requested financing.

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