

January 2014



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Yamhill County Updates

We are continuing to take acreage reports as the national office has waived the late filed fees for the calendar year. Please make contact with the staff to get your reports started with what is currently planted and we can finish up when your spring planting is done.

I would like to hear from anyone who might have suffered crop damage from the freezing weather in late November/early December as I will need to file reports soon for a possible emergency designation. And with the drought conditions we are already seeing I would expect we will see problems down the road from lack of water. Your help in keeping the office updated on the crop and livestock conditions is greatly appreciated.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Jan 31 - Sales Closing Date - Crop Insurance - Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) new policy & AGR-lite (continuing)
Feb 6 - 8 - SWCD Native Plant sale - office parking lot
Feb 17 - All Federal Offices closed for Washington's Birthday
Mar 15 - Sales Closing Date - NAP - Beans (fresh), broccoli, camelina, cantaloupe, cauliflower, sweet corn (fresh), cucumbers, lentils, mustard, oats (hay), peas, potatoes, pumpkins, safflowers, sunflowers, squash, tomatoes, watermelons.
Mar 15 - Sales Closing Date - Crop Insurance - AGR-Lite (new), barley, beans (processed), field corn (silage), sweet corn (processed), spring oats (grain).
May 1 - Sales Closing Date - Crop Insurance - Nursery
Year Round Application Process - Crop Insurance - Livestock Gross Margin (Swine, Livestock Risk Protection (LRP): Lamb, LRP: Fed Cattle, Feeder Cattle, Swine

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.

Suzanne Hayes, FLO (Yamhill)
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Next County Committee

Meeting:

April 10 @ 8:00 a.m., if needed

All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and 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 (FSA-153) 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.

FARMING OPERATION CHANGES

Producers who have bought or sold land, or added or dropped rented land from their operation must report those changes to the FSA office as soon as possible. A copy of the deed or recorded land contract for purchase property is needed to maintain accurate records with FSA. Failure to do so can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. While making record updates, be sure to update signature authorizations. Making record changes now will save time in the spring.

BREAKING NEW GROUND

Agricultural producers are reminded to consult with FSA and NRCS before breaking out new ground for production as doing so without prior authorization may put a producer's federal farm program benefits in jeopardy. This is especially true for land that must meet Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions.

Producers with HEL determined soils must apply tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements as specified in their conservation plan.

Producers should notify FSA prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to ensure compliance. If you intend to clear any trees to create new cropland, these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure any work will not risk your eligibility for benefits.

Landowners and operators can complete form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is necessary.

MICROLOAN PROGRAM

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan (ML) program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and small family farm operations.

FSA offers applicants a Microloan designed to help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application process built to fit the needs of new and smaller producers. This loan program will also be useful to specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program.

Individuals who are interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available should contact the farm loan staff listed at the top of the newsletter.

RURAL YOUTH LOANS

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- * Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- * Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- * Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- * Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- * Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- * Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- * Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Contact the farm loan staff listed at the top of the newsletter for help preparing and processing the application forms.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).