



MAY 2009 YAMHILL COUNTY AG NEWS

YAMHILL COUNTY FSA OFFICE
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County Committee

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Drenda Bayliss, Member

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2009

DCP Signup Deadline has been Extended!

Signup is underway for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP). **The sign up has been extended until August 14, 2009.** This deadline is mandatory for all participants. FSA will not accept 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 as requested. 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 eligible for the DCP Program are also able to enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program or the Counter-cyclical Program. The enrollment period for the ACRE Program will begin April 27th. You may first enroll in the DCP Program, receive advance direct payments and the later modify your enrollment to the ACRE program or you may wait and elect to enroll in DCP and ACRE at the same time.

CREP & Continuous CRP Available

At this time USDA has no general signups scheduled for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in 2009. However, environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), and Continuous CRP will still be eligible for enrollment. These targeted programs remain funded, and continue to provide a heightened environmental benefit in selected areas. For more information or to request a site visit, contact Amie Loop-Frison at amie.loop-frison@or.nacdnet.net.

Sodbuster, Swampbuster

Most Farm Service Agency & NRCS programs require compliance with sodbuster and Swampbuster provisions. These provisions require producers to follow an approved conservation system on all highly erodible land planted to an annual crop as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Be sure to have determinations made on any new land you plan to plant to annual crops. If you plan to plant a different crop on your current cropland, check with NRCS to assure the new crop will qualify under your conservation system.



Swampbuster provisions state that converting a wetland to make possible the planting of a crop will result in the loss of all USDA benefits. To avoid this possibility it is strongly recommended that producers check with FSA before starting to work in the fields.

BANK ACCOUNT CHANGES!!



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.

A mother's duty: Give your children roots, and then give them wings.

Buy-In Waiver Extension Approved for Disaster Assistance Programs

Producers who did not obtain crop insurance or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for 2008 can pay a buy-in fee through May 18, 2009, to become eligible for 2008 disaster assistance programs authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

Producers who have not already taken the necessary steps to become eligible for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP), and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) are required to complete the following steps by May 18, 2009:

- Pay a \$100 "buy-in" fee per crop. The maximum fee is \$300 per county, per producer, not to exceed \$900 for multi-county producers.
- In the case of each insurable crop, excluding grazing land, agree to obtain a policy or plan of insurance for the next insurance year for which crop insurance is available; coverage level should equal 70 percent or more of the yield at 100 percent of the price.
- In the case of each non-insurable crop, agree to file the required paperwork and pay the applicable administrative NAP coverage fee by the applicable state application closing date for the next available year.



Producers who choose to "buy-in" under this provision will be considered, for insured crops, to have obtained a policy or plan of insurance for the 2008 crop year at a level of coverage not to exceed 70 percent of the yield at 100 percent of the price. For non-insurable crops, producers will be considered to have a level of coverage equal to 70 percent of the yield. These levels of coverage will be used to calculate the 2008 SURE guarantee.

NEW Program for 2009! "Average Crop Revenue Election" (ACRE)

Producers may elect to enroll in the **Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE)** program **beginning April 27, 2009 and ending August 14, 2009**. USDA will not accept any late-filled applications.

"The Average Crop Revenue Election program is an innovative alternative to the traditional farm safety net," said Agricultural Secretary Tom Vilsack.

The ACRE program was created in the 2008 Farm Bill to give producers an option in lieu of traditional counter-cyclical payments. Producers may elect to enroll in ACRE for the 2009 year even if they have already accepted advance direct payment under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.



Producers who elect the ACRE program for a farm agree to:

- forgo counter-cyclical payments;
 - accept a 20-percent reduction of the direct payments; and
 - accept a 30-percent reduction in loan rates for all commodities produced on the farm
- for fact sheets go to www.fsa.usda.gov, in the box on the upper right of the screen, click "Find FSA Fact Sheets"



2009 Crop Acreage Reporting

We are in the process of taking 2009 acreage reports. If you are participating in DCP, CRP, and NAP or want a commodity loan you must report your crop acres by June 30. If you have everything planted and we have not yet mailed you an acreage report you may contact our office to let us know what you have planted. Also let us know if everything is the same as last year. If you still have spring planting to do you can contact us at a later date.

The deadline for reporting your crop acreage for 2009 is June 30th. We will need planting dates of anything that is a new planting, and will also need the acreage for split fields.

There are only three seasons for farmers: before harvest, harvest and after harvest.

U.S. Department of Agriculture and Treasury Combine Forces to Combat Payment Fraud



the 2008 Farm Bill.

In response to the discovery of nearly \$50 million in payments to ineligible farmers, Agricultural Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Internal Revenue Service have begun efforts to ensure that high-income individuals and entities who request USDA payments meet income limits set forth in

Said Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner: "This cooperation between the Treasury Department and USDA will implement reforms from the 2008 Farm Bill to ensure payments go only to those who need them and are supposed to receive them. The goal is to limit excessive payments while providing for fairness to family farmers."

Beginning with the 2009 crop year and for successive years, in order to be eligible for USDA payments all recipients will be required to sign a separate form which grants the IRS authority to provide income information to USDA for verification purposes.

In October 2008, the U.S. Government Accountability office (GAO) released a report stating that because the USDA does not have the management controls (such as reviewing tax returns) it could not ensure that payments are made only to qualified individuals. The GAO report also found that of the 1.8 million individuals receiving farm payments over a three year period, more than 2,500 had an average adjusted gross income (AGI) that made them ineligible for farm payments. Because of the inability of USDA to verify income, more than \$49 million was paid to ineligible individuals.

FSA County FSA Count Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established, with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agricultural (USDA).

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to make FSA agricultural program serve the needs of local producers.

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

Election Nominations - June 15, 2009 – The nomination period begins. Request nomination forms from the local USDA Service Center or obtain online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under News & Events/County Committee Elections. August 3, 2009 – Last day to file nomination forms (FSA-669A) at the local USDA Service Center

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee; Individuals may nominate themselves or other as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. Nomination forms are filed for the county committee of the office that administers a producer's farms records.

Nominations & Elections are for LAA area #2, this area is east of the Hopewell Highway, east of the Lafayette Highway, east of Abbey Rd, east of Kuehne Rd, east of Kinney Rd, east of Ribbon Ridge Rd to the intersection of North Valley Rd, east of North Valley Rd, and east of Spring Hill Rd. This takes in Newberg, Dundee, the eastern portion of Lafayette and the Grand Island area.

YOU MAY BE A FARMER IF.....

Your dog rides in your truck more than your wife does

You convince your wife that an overnight, out-of-state trip for parts is a vacation

You have driven off the road while examining your neighbor's fields



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
YAMHILL COUNTY FSA
2200 SW 2ND STREET
McMINNVILLE, OR 97128-5444

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MAY IMPORTANT DATES & OBSERVANCES



MAY 25TH
MEMORIAL DAY
OFFICE CLOSED

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

MAY 10 - Mother's Day

MAY 14 - Last day to purchase buy-in waiver on 2008 crops

JUNE 15 - COC Nomination period begins for LAA #2

JUNE 30 - Last day to report 2009 crop acres

AUGUST 3 - Last day to file COC Nominations

AUGUST 14 - Last day to sign up for DCP - NO LATE FILES



ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER
HERITAGE MONTH

"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 Civil 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."

REVOCABLE TRUSTS

Revocable trusts may use the Social Security number (SS#) during the lifetime of the grantor and while the grantor is serving as the trustee of the trust. However, on appointment of a third party as trustee or successor trustee the trust will be required to apply for and use a new Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) and also file its own tax returns under the new TIN.



"IMPORTANT"

Call before you remove trees, clean ditches or tile. Your eligibility in ALL USDA program can be in *jeopardy!*