



# NEWSLETTER



January 2013

## 2013 NAP

**Lake County  
Farm Service Agency  
17612 Hwy 395  
Lakeview, OR 97630  
(541) 947-2367 Ext 2  
FAX: (541) 947-2070  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/OR](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/OR)**

### Hours

**Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

### County Committee

**Jim McNeley  
Martin Landa  
Alice Dinsdale**

### Office Staff

**Marti Hamilton**

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is designed to provide catastrophic coverage for all crops not covered by Federal Crop Insurance. These include alfalfa, grass hay, rye crops, grain hay and pasture. Producers interested in purchasing coverage for the 2013 crop year must do so by the following deadline:

- Oat hay—**03-15-2013**

The application fee is \$ 250 per crop, \$ 750 per county and \$ 1,875 for multi-county

Production records for all crops must be reported to FSA no later than the acreage reporting date for the crop for the following year. FSA requires that any production reported in a loss year be verified according to agency specifications. NAP losses must be reported within 15 days of loss.

## County Office Staff Change

For those of you who were not aware of the impending change in the county office staff, Maryanne's last day in the office was January 4, 2013. Maryanne transferred to the Elko County FSA office in Elko, Nevada in order to relocate her family where her husband has been working for the past 9 months. Maryanne was a great asset to Lake County and Oregon FSA as a whole. She will be sorely missed, but we wish her luck with her new adventure in Nevada!!

Due to the staffing limitation there will be times when the office will be closed (lunch hour, alternating Fridays, employee attendance of training meetings, employee illness, etc). FSA voicemail will be updated with office closure information. When the office is closed messages can be left with the staff in the SWCD/NRCS office or on the FSA office voicemail (541) 947-2367 Ext 2.

## Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period

Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims until March 25, 2013.

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied their applications for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000.

As announced in February 2011, the voluntary claims process will make available at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

USDA will continue reaching out to potential Hispanic and female claimants, around the country to inform those who may be eligible for this program.

**Website:** [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov)

**Phone:** 1-888-508-4429

**Deadline for Claims: March 25, 2013.**

Claimants can obtain a claims package in the mail by calling 1-888-509-4429 or by visiting the website [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov).

## Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into a bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office when an account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases the bank where payments are sent. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to bank accounts and bank routing numbers.

## **Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Compliance**

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions is required. Farmers with HEL determined soils must comply with 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 insure 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 jeopardize 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.

For more information on Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation provisions, contact the county office or visit the FSA website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/).

## **FSA Signature Policy**

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule. Spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

For more clarification on spousal signature authority, contact the county office.

## **Controlled Substance**

Any person convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium poppies and other drug producing plants.

## **Power of Attorney**

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that allows producers to designate another person to conduct business at the office.

## **2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program Applications**

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will continue to accept SURE applications for 2011 crop losses through June 7, 2013. The SURE Program provides payments to producers when crop revenues are less than the crop guarantee. The SURE Program payment is equal to 60 percent of the difference between the crop guarantee and revenue. To be eligible, the producer must have at least one crop with a 10 percent production loss.

To determine the guarantee and revenue for the SURE Program, all crops on all farms for a producer are included in the calculation. Payments under the SURE Program are limited to \$100,000.

To be eligible for the 2011 SURE Program, producers must have crop insurance on all insurable crops or NAP coverage for non-insurable crops.

## **Special Accommodations**

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should notify the county FSA office staff in person or by phone. This service is provided for office visits and any special event sponsored by FSA.

## **Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers**

FSA assists beginning farmers and members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size.

Additional program information, loan applications and other materials are available at the county office. You may also visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

## **Electronic News Delivery**

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices have moved to a paperless news distribution system.

Producers are asked to enroll in the new *GovDelivery* system, which provides notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail.

FSA, like many other organizations, is trying to work smarter and be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via email helps conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars. Producers can now subscribe to receive free email updates by going to [www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe).

## **Foreign Buyers Notification**

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their purchases or sales of property to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

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 within 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 purchased property is needed to maintain accurate records with FSA. Failure to report changes 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.

Selected Interest Rates for January 2013	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	1.25%
Farm Ownership - Direct	3.125%
Limited Resource	5.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency	1.25%
Farm Storage Facility – 7 year	1.125%
Farm Storage Facility – 10 year	1.625%
Farm Storage Facility – 12 year	1.875%
Sugar Storage Facility	2.125%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%

Dates to Remember	
January 21	MLK birthday holiday
March 15	Deadline to purchase 2013 NAP

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.