



May 2011

New County Executive Director

Umatilla County FSA Office

200 SE Hailey St., Ste 112
Pendleton, OR 97801

541-278-8049 phone
541-278-8048 fax
darcy.sexson@or.usda.gov

Hours

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

County Staff

Farm Program Staff:

Darcy Sexson, CED
Donella Smith, CPT
Kellie Frank, COT
Jessica Westberg, PT
Emma Lee Demianew, PT
Blair Keithley, PT
Kayci Sharp, PT
Amanda Wight, PT

Farm Loan Staff:

Kevin Jordan, FLM
Kari Walker, FLO
Kyle Pottala, FLO
Virginia Lundberg, FLPT

District Director:

Charles Newhouse

County Committee:

Ed Burlingame, Chair
Bud Schmidtgall, Vice Chair
Dave Patton, Member
Richard Kopp, Member
Clyde Nobles, Member
Bette McLean, Advisor



There's a new face in the Umatilla County FSA office. Darcy (Vial) Sexson was recently hired as the County

Executive Director. Prior to joining the team in Umatilla County, Darcy was the CED in Buffalo-Sherman County in Nebraska and prior to that she was the CED in the Morrow County, Oregon office. Darcy is excited about being back in the Columbia Basin, and working with the wonderful farmers and ranchers we have here. If you're in Pendleton, please stop by and introduce yourself. Her door is always open!

Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

Did you lose fruit trees or vines to the freezing weather in February 2011? If so, you may be eligible for the 2011 TAP program. TAP provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists to replace eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters.

Replacement costs for the trees, vines or bushes including replanting and cost of the seedlings are calculated at the lesser of the following:

1. 70% of the actual cost of the practice
2. The amount calculated for each practice using established rates. (Ex. Fruit tree replacement = \$8/tree)

Eligible trees, bushes and vines are those from which an annual crop is produced for commercial purposes.

To qualify for TAP, orchardists must:

1. Suffer qualifying tree, bush or vine losses in excess of 15% mortality in an individual stand.
2. Have owned the eligible trees when the disaster occurred.
3. Replace eligible trees within 12 months from the date the application was approved.

Important: To be eligible for TAP, producers must meet Risk Management Purchase Requirements (RMPR) and have all insurable crops insured with federal crop insurance or NAP.

A fact sheet and backgrounder are also available online. 2011 TAP losses must be reported within **90 days of realizing the loss** so if you think you may be eligible, contact Blair at blair.keithly@or.usda.gov to learn more about the program.

Hispanic and Women Farmers

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans is being established.

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you during certain time periods between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

For additional information on this claims process and other settlement issues contact:

Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process www.farmerclaims.gov or 1-888-508-4429

Pigford - Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation www.blackfarmercase.com or 1-866-950-5547

Keepseagle - Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement www.IndianFarmClass.com or 1-888-233-5506

**NOTICE
TO HISPANIC
AND/OR
WOMEN
FARMERS OR
RANCHERS
COMPENSATION
FOR CLAIMS OF
DISCRIMINATION**

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

To register your name to receive a claims packet, call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or visit: www.farmerclaims.gov

The claims package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

2011 FSA County 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, large or small. 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 Agriculture.

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the producers and to represent all constituents. This means wherever possible, minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for these underrepresented groups.

County committees provide local input on commodity price support loans and payments, conservation programs, incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities, emergency programs and payment eligibility.

FSA county committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decision and operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal rules, regulations and laws. For more information about county committee elections, contact the county office staff.

Nominations

Nominees must complete and sign form FSA-669A available at USDA Service Centers and online at: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_commiteelectform.pdf

A copy of the form is also included in this newsletter. Nomination forms for the 2011 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on **Aug. 1, 2011.**

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy.

Nominations should be submitted for producers located in the following Local Administrative Area's (LAA) up for election this year:

- LAA 1 – Milton Freewater Area**
- LAA 4 – Pilot Rock Area**

2011 DCP/ACRE Sign Up

We are fast approaching **June 1, 2011** which is the deadline to sign up your farm into the 2011 DCP/ACRE program. If you haven't done so already, please contact Amanda at amanda.wight@or.usda.gov to make your appointment!

Farm Reconstitutions

At FSA, farms are "constituted" to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. If multiple owners and/or operators do not agree about program participation and want to separate acres by programs, for example to enter only a segment of property into the new ACRE program, then producers should inquire about a reconstitution of the farm at the local FSA office.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. NOTE: to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1, 2011** for farms enrolled in specific programs. To recon a farm, contact Emma Lee at emmalee.demianew@or.usda.gov.

2011 Acreage Reports

June 30, 2011 is the deadline to report your acreage to the FSA office. Remember, to be eligible for USDA programs (including crop insurance) all acres must be reported by the deadline. To make an appointment to report your acres, please contact Kayci at kayci.sharp@or.usda.gov.

2009 SURE Crop Disaster

Farms in Umatilla County that had a 50% or greater total crop loss or farmed in a county designated as a 2009 Secretarial Disaster County have until **July 29, 2011** to sign up for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue (SURE) Crop Disaster program. Producer who sign up for SURE must meet eligibility requirements, and have purchased crop insurance on all crops (excluding grazed crops) that produce 10% or more of the farms income. To see if you qualify for 2009 SURE, contact Blair at blair.keithley@or.usda.gov.

FSA-669A
(03-24-10)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency

NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

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	
	5. COUNTY	
	6. LAA	7. STATE

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> <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>
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3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE	3B. DATE	8A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR	8B. DATE
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.		<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"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White	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.***

Umatilla County FSA Office
200 SE Hailey, Ste 112
Pendleton, OR 97801



PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
TUALATIN, OREGON
PERMIT #71

Did Your Bank Change?

If you have changed banks and not notified FSA, your payment could be delayed. Payments are now electronically transferred into your bank account. If we are not aware of changes to your account and have incorrect routing numbers, there could be problems. For FSA to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in producer's account such as type of account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

Do you want to receive weekly FSA email updates?

To receive weekly updates of important FSA news, send an email to darcy.sexson@or.usda.gov

Dates to Remember	
June 1	Deadline for Farm Record Changes
June 1	DCP & ACRE Sign Up Ends
June 30	Acreage Reporting Deadline
July 15	Deadline to Submit NAP & ACRE Production for 2010
July 29	Deadline to Sign Up for 2009 SURE Crop Disaster
August 1	Deadline to Submit Nominations for the Pilot Rock & Milton Freewater LAA COC Elections
Ongoing	Continuous Conservation Reserve program, NAP Notice of Loss

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