

Wallowa County Harvester USDA Ag Service Center

USDA SERVICE CENTER

88401 Hwy 82, Box B
Enterprise, OR 97828-3042
(541) 426-4521
(541) 426-4789 FAX

Hours:

Monday – Friday
7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

FSA

Bill Williams ext. 5104
bill.williams@or.usda.gov

Lela Kunkle ext. 5102
lela.kunkle@or.usda.gov

Susie Madigan ext. 5103
susie.madigan@or.usda.gov

FSA Committee Members

Wes Wilsey
Melvin Stonebrink
Donna Smith

County Committee Meeting

3rd Thursday of every month
@ 10:30 a.m.

NRCS

Tom Smith ext. 5101
tom.smith@or.usda.gov
Nathan James ext. 5107
nathan.james@or.usda.gov

SWCD

Cynthia Warnock ext. 5106
cynthia.warnock@or.nacdnet.net
Lisa Mahon ext. 5108
lisa.mahon@or.nacdnet.net

Controlled Substance

Any person who is 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 personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact Bill Williams, CED at (541) 426-4521, ext. 5104.

Wilsey Re-elected to Committee

Wes Wilsey was re-elected to the Wallowa County FSA Committee in the recent Committee election. He will begin his second 3-year term on January 1, 2010 and will represent the agricultural producers from the Flora/Troy area. Other members of the Committee are: Melvin Stonebrink (Lostine/Wallowa) and Donna Smith (Joseph/Enterprise).

Nancy Cannon was elected as the 1st Alternate for this area and would represent the Flora/Troy ag producers at any Committee Meeting that Wes is unable to attend.

The County Office staff would like to thank all agricultural producers who voted in this election. The County Committee meets on the 3rd Thursday of every month at the USDA Service Center at 10:30 a.m. All meetings are open to the public.

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, where 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.

Customer Statement

January signals the beginning of a new year, and a time to starting thinking about filing taxes. Producers who have signed up for a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account will be able to access their farm data via their Customer Statement.

The Customer Statement puts a range of USDA services and programs into a single report that's at your fingertips and available online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It allows USDA customers to view their participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation programs; information on farm loans; and conservation plan and land unit information.

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.

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.

New Employee for Wallowa SWCD

The Wallowa SWCD hired Lisa Mahon to fill their Watershed Technician position. She was born and raised on a farm in Western Ohio where her parents raised hogs and continue to grow corn, soybeans, and wheat.

Lisa earned an associate degree from Hocking Technical College in Recreation and Wildlife Management. She then moved out west to attend the University of Idaho where she received Bachelor degrees in Conservation Biology and Wildlife Management.

She married Drew Mahon and moved to Wallowa where Drew resumed logging for his dad. Lisa will be working on CREP and youth education while providing technical assistance to landowners.

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Signups

- Signup for the 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program (**SURE**) began on January 4, 2010. This signup is for Wallowa County ag producers who suffered crop production losses during crop year 2008.
- Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (**DCP**) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2010. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2010 DCP contract.
- The optional **ACRE** Program provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. The June 1, 2010, deadline is mandatory for all participants. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications. The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.

For more information on these programs, call Susie @ 541-426-4521 ext. 5103.

2009 Crop Loan Rates

Wallowa County loan rates for 2009 grain crops are:

Soft White Wheat - \$3.07/bu.	Barley - \$2.12/bu. (\$88.34/ton)
Hard Red Spring - \$3.76/bu.	Oats - \$1.30/bu (\$81.25/ton)
Hard Red Winter - \$2.91/bu.	Canola - \$7.30/cwt.
Rapeseed - \$9.14/cwt.	Dry Peas - \$6.12wt.

To be eligible for a commodity loan, you must:

- have filed an acreage report for 2009, and
- have beneficial interest in the commodity that is tendered for loan

For warehouse loans, the rate is based on the county where the grain is initially stored, except when the grain is physically moved to another location for storage. If the grain is moved, documentation of paid or provided for transportation charges must be filed before the grain is eligible for loan. If you are considering a loan, please remember that it usually takes 7-10 days from the date of request until the loan is disbursed. The deadline to request a 2009 commodity loan is March 31, 2010.

FARM LOANS AVAILABLE

Loan applications are being accepted for farm operating and ownership purposes. Operating loans include annual operating expenses, farm equipment and livestock purchases, and refinancing related debt. Ownership loans include the purchase or enlargement of a farm, or the construction and/or repair of buildings. Loan guarantees are available to lenders where FSA provides up to a 90% guarantee of loss on the principal of a farm loan. FSA can provide for just a portion of your credit needs i.e. a tractor purchase, etc. when we work in consultation with your commercial lender. Direct and Guarantee loan assistance is available for Beginning Farmers (have not operated a farm for more than 10 years) and Socially Disadvantaged producers. Youth loans are available for 4-H and FFA members' ages 10 through 20 who want to start any income producing enterprise recommended by their leader. For more information call Kevin Jorden (541) 278-8049 ext. 111 or Houston Bruck ext. 122.

The United States 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 part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (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 USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication and Compliance, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.