

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

TILLAMOOK - CLATSOP COUNTY NEWS

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Clatsop (503) 325-4571

TILLAMOOK - CLATSOP COUNTY COMMITTEE

John Svensson, Chairperson
Linda Neahring, Vice Chairperson
Regular Member - Vacant

OFFICE STAFF

Jim Worledge, CED
Vacant PT

July 2008

2008 County Committee Election – The Tillamook/Clatsop County Farm Service Agency will be holding a County Committee election in two Local Administrative Areas (LAA's) this year. LAA 1 which is Clatsop County is a three year term. LAA 3, which is the southern half of Tillamook County and is a two year term to fill Xavier Avila's position. LAA 3 is from the Trask River south to the Tillamook/Lincoln County line.

County committees play a crucial role in helping county office staff implement the 2008 Farm Bill. Due to the importance of county committee members and their roles, producers are encouraged to participate in the 2008 FSA county committee election process by nominating an eligible candidate by the August 1 deadline.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The form and other information about FSA county committee elections are available online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>; click on News & Events, then County Committee Elections. Nomination forms for the 2008 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on August 1, 2008.

FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms. Nationwide, there are more than 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees. Committees consist of three to five members who are elected by eligible local producers.

Ballots will be mailed to producers beginning Nov. 3. Voted ballots must be post marked or received in our office by December 1, 2008. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office January 1, 2009.

NOTICE: 2008 Disaster Programs Requires Crop Insurance or NAP Eligibility "Buy-In" Deadline is September 16, 2008

The recently-enacted Farm Bill legislates 2008 disaster programs covering losses to crops, trees/vines/bushes, forage, and other losses due to adverse weather. These programs require the crops you planted, grew, produced or were prevented from planting to have been covered by federal crop insurance or FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). *All of your crops on all of your acreage must be covered, not only those acres that suffered losses.*

Due to the late passage of the Farm Bill in May, you will be given an opportunity to "buy-in" to the disaster program by paying a \$100/crop catastrophic crop insurance or NAP service fee for any 2008 crops that are not already covered by crop insurance or NAP.

This eligibility "buy-in" must be completed by September 16, 2008 at your FSA Office to satisfy the requirement for total CI/ NAP coverage. Note that it does not provide you with crop insurance indemnities or NAP benefits. Once this requirement is met, you may be eligible for one or more of the following programs:

- **Supplemental Revenue Program (SURE):** Covers crop revenue losses from quantity or quality deficiencies in disaster declared counties, contiguous counties, or in cases where the overall production loss exceeds 50%
- **Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP):** Compensates livestock owners for forage losses due to drought. Additionally, losses due to wildfire will be covered on public lands.
- **Tree Assistance Program (TAP):** Provides for partial reimbursement for replanting, salvage, pruning, debris removal and land preparation for orchardists and nursery tree growers if losses exceed 15%.
- **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (EALHF):** Emergency relief to producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish. Covers losses from disasters such as adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires not adequately covered by any other disaster program. This program is authorized at the discretion of the Secretary.

Another disaster program authorized by the Farm Bill is the **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality. This is the only disaster program that does not require crop insurance or NAP coverage.

Further details of all of these disaster programs, including signup information, will be provided at a later date. Note that additional requirements exist for disaster programs eligibility.

Bottom Line: To be eligible for Disaster Programs in 2008, you must pay the fees for the eligibility buy-in at your FSA Office by September 16, 2008.

FSA Farm Loans

The new Farm Bill provides increased limits on loans through FSA's Farm Loan Program. The maximum loan amount authorized for direct Farm Ownership (FO) loans and direct Operating Loans (OL) has been increased from \$200,000 to \$300,000.

In the FO program, the maximum loan term for the revised down payment program has been extended from 15 years to 20 years. Changes in the Down Payment Program mean the required down payment amount has been reduced from 10 percent to 5 percent and interest rates have been reduced to as low as 1.5% depending on the present FO interest rate. This program allows the agency to loan up \$225,000 which can not exceed 45% of the purchase price with another lender providing at least 50% of the financing and the applicant contributing at least 5%.

FSA makes both direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank, Farm Credit System institution or other lenders. FSA loans can be used to purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed and supplies. The loans can also be used to construct buildings or make farm improvements.

If you're having problems obtaining commercial credit, check with our FSA County Office staff concerning an FSA loan.

Beginning and /or Socially Disadvantaged Farmers - FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups (women & recognized minorities) 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 that 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

For FO loans:

- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size. Clatsop County median size is 51 acres, not able to own more than 15 acres. Tillamook County median size is 95 acres, not able to own more than 29 acres.
- Has operated or materially participated in the business operation of the farm for at least three years

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed.

DO YOU NEED A FARM LOAN?

We have the following programs available for those qualified
individuals in need of financing:

Operating Loans
Equipment Loans
Real Estate Loans
Debt Refinancing
Loans for Minorities and Women
Loans for Beginning Farmers
Youth Loans for FFA or 4-H Members
Land Sale Contract Pilot Program

Call (503) 648-3174 Nancy Thompson – Ext. #107
Suzanne Hayes – Ext. #116



Are you a foreign owner of land? - Foreign investors who acquire, transfer, or hold interest in agricultural land must report these holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture **within 90 days**. This may be done by completing form FSA-153, available at any Farm Service Agency. The report is required by law and persons who fail to report, or who are late reporting, face possible fines.

EQIP Cutoff Announced - The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced an October 3rd, 2008 application cutoff date for the current Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) sign up in Clatsop and Tillamook Counties.

Interested landowners and operators should contact the Tillamook NRCS service center at: (503) 842-2848 ext 107 or 109.

EQIP is a USDA Conservation Program that offers financial and technical assistance to help farmers and ranchers implement working lands conservation.

NRCS accepts applications for EQIP year-round. Funding decisions are made at cutoff points during the year, when applications are evaluated and ranked on their potential to address local conservation priorities. The number of applications accepted will be based on ranking and available funding.

For more information about EQIP, including local ranking information, enrollment requirements and program payments, please visit the Oregon NRCS web site at <http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov>.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY
Tillamook/Clatsop County FSA Committee
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