



February 2010

CHELAN & DOUGLAS FSA NEWS

LENDER OF FIRST OPPORTUNITY (Beginning Farmer and Rancher Financing)

The Farm Service Agency is looking to increase Farm Loan Program activity with beginning farmers, ranchers, and socially disadvantaged (SDA) individuals. In many cases, these producers have insufficient net worth, credit history, or farming background to qualify for commercial credit. FSA loan programs are designed to assist these individuals with favorable interest rates and repayment terms. FSA also provides credit counseling and supervision to its direct borrowers by making a thorough assessment of the proposed farming operation.

Loan funding levels were recently increased allowing up to \$300,000 for purchasing real estate, providing for a down payment, or funding a real estate purchase in conjunction with a commercial lender or private contract holder. A separate limitation for an additional \$300,000 is available to purchase equipment, livestock, or to fund operating expenses.

For more information regarding FSA Farm Loan programs, individuals are encouraged to contact the Chelan-Douglas FSA office at (509) 664-9385 or visit the FSA web site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

DISASTER RELIEF AVAILABLE

Chelan and Douglas Counties were declared a disaster by the Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack, due to drought. Producers who suffered losses may qualify for FSA emergency loans with 3.75% interest and payment terms of up to 40 years with real estate security. FSA is accepting loan applications until July 7, 2010.

Applicants must be United States citizens or non-citizens that have been legally admitted for permanent residence, must be established farmers and must have suffered an agricultural loss due to the disaster named in the designation. An applicant's farm must be family-sized. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. Interested farmers may contact the loan staff in the Chelan County Office for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for emergency loans and other loan programs.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to Kelly Riedinger (Chelan County), and Randy Mittelstaedt (Douglas County) for being elected farmers on the FSA county committees. Both were elected a second three-year consecutive term. Election results are:

Chelan County LAA #3

Kelly Riedinger, COC Member

Raul Sanchez, 1st Alternate

Douglas County LAA#1

Randy Mittelstaedt, COC Member

Anita Sprauer, 1st Alternate

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

CHELAN COUNTY – ASSISTANCE FOR LIVESTOCK WATER SHORTAGES IN 2009

Financial assistance is available to help farmers and ranchers deal with 2009 drought conditions in Chelan County. The agency has allocated funds in the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) for livestock watering. Sign-up will begin on Monday, February 8, 2010.

Eligible producers will receive cost-share assistance of between 50 and 75 percent of the cost of the approved practice (including water hauling), as determined by the FSA County Committee. **FSA will take applications until March 1, 2010.** Please contact the Chelan County Office for more information and to make an appointment to sign up.

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.

Chelan County FSA
(Remember – we've moved!)
215 Melody Lane
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Phone (509) 664-9385
Fax (509) 662-1628

Douglas County FSA
PO Box 489
Waterville, WA 98858-0489
Phone (509) 745-8561
Fax (509) 745-8758

Office Hours
Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

**Chelan
County Committee**
William Clark, Chairman
Kelly Riedinger, Vice-Chair
Richard Smithson, Member
Raul Sanchez, Advisor

**Douglas
County Committee**
Norman Cavadini, Chairman
Rodney Peterson, Vice-Chair
Randy Mittelstaedt, Member
Terri Brandt, Advisor

Office Staffs
Michel Ruud, CED
Mike Cada, FLM
Bill Henry
Anita Perez
Dawn Peaslee
Lori Tabler
Sherry Ramin
Janice Badten

Next COC Meeting
February 16 – Douglas
9:00 a.m.

February 17 – Chelan
9:00 a.m.

Website Addresses:
<http://www.usda.gov>
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>



DISASTER ASSISTANCE FOR 2008 CROP LOSSES

Signup for the 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program (SURE) has begun. This signup period is for producers who suffered crop production losses during the 2008 crop year due to weather related events.

SURE provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred crop production or crop quality losses. The program takes into consideration crop losses on all crops grown by a producer nationwide. SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE farm guarantee and total farm revenue. The farm guarantee is based on the amount of crop insurance and Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on the farm. Total farm revenue takes into account the actual value of production on the farm as well as insurance indemnities and certain farm program payments.

Producers with a farming interest physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Agriculture Secretary must have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance. Producers must meet the risk management purchase requirement by either obtaining a policy or plan of insurance, under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or NAP coverage, for all economically significant crops. For 2008 crops, producers had the opportunity to obtain a waiver of the risk management purchase requirement through a buy-in provision. Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage.

If there is no Secretarial Disaster Designation, individual producers may also be eligible for SURE if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster. For SURE, a farm is defined as all crops in which a producer had an interest nationwide.

For more information on the new SURE program or to make an appointment to sign-up, please contact our offices or visit us on the web at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

SIGN-UP FOR 2010 DIRECT & COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM or AVERAGE CROP REVENUE ELECTION PROGRAM

FSA is now accepting applications for the 2010 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment (DCP) Program. Farmers may enroll online or at the local FSA office **until June 1, 2010**. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.

DCP provides payments to eligible producers on farms annually enrolled through the 2012 crop years. There are two types of DCP payments - direct payments and counter-cyclical payments. Both are calculated using the base acres and payment yields already established for the farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2010, eligible producers may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price.

Producers who are eligible for the DCP Program will also be eligible to enroll in the new Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program. The enrollment period for the ACRE Program will begin in the spring. Producers may first enroll in the DCP Program, receive advance direct payments and then later modify their enrollment to participate in the ACRE program instead.

The optional ACRE Program provides a safety net based on revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. Details about the ACRE program will be announced at the time of sign-up and after rules for the program have been finalized.

Interested farmers may contact our office for further information or to make an appointment to sign-up. Additional information is also available online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>