



Summer, 2009

Franklin County FSA News

Franklin County FSA

1620 Road 44
Pasco, WA 99301
Office Phone: 509-545-8543,
or 8544 or 8546
Office Fax: 509-547-2007

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
7:30 AM – 5:00 PM (Certain
staff are on flexible schedules.
Please call ahead when
needing assistance from
specific staff members)

County Committee

Mike Corrales, *Chairman–
Irrig.* (LAA-1)
Terri Hayles, *Vice Chair –
Irrig.* (LAA-2)
Chris Herron, *Regular
Member – Dryland* (LAA-3)

Office Staff

Farm Programs:

Bruce Clatterbuck, CED
Lynda O'Connor, PT
Bonnie Riehle, PT
Patty Welch, PT
Patsy Beck, PT (Temporary)

Farm Loan Program:

Serving Franklin and Benton
Counties:
Joyce Nevins-Ginsberg, FLO
Beth Farias, PT



QUICK LOOK

KEY DATES AND REMINDERS:

- County Committee Meeting
– 4th Thursday of each
month (subject to change)
- Phase II MILC Program
Sign-up ongoing. Start
month changes must be
made by the 14th of the
month prior to the desired
payment start month.
- Aug. 3 - LAA-#1 Committee
Nomination for FSA County
Committee
- Aug. 14 - DCP/ACRE Sign-
up deadline
- Aug. 15 – NRCS – EQIP
program sign-up deadline

FSA WEB SITES:

State: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>
National: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>
USDA: <http://www.usda.gov>

Reasonable Accommodations

Special accommodations will
be made upon request, for
individuals with disabilities,
vision impairment, or hearing
loss. If accommodations are
required, please contact
Bruce Clatterbuck at (509)
545-8543.



DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR DCP AND ACRE SIGN-UP

The June 1 deadline to sign up for the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment (DCP) program and the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program has been extended to August 14, 2009 to allow producers more time to evaluate their options. Call now for sign-up appointments for either program.

ACRE is a new revenue assurance program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill. Through ACRE, producers may choose an alternative to DCP payments. ACRE payments are made when both state and farm revenues are below historic levels. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments. Producers also elect to receive a 20-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates. The election of ACRE is made on a farm basis. A producer may have one farm in ACRE and another in DCP. A decision to elect ACRE binds the farm to the program from the program year elected through the 2012 crop year. For more details contact the local FSA office.

CROP REPORTING REQUIREMENTS – DEADLINE EXTENDED

If you've not already reported your crop acreage or called in for a scheduled appointment, we encourage you to do so as soon as possible. Acreage reporting is required for participation in nearly all of the programs administered by FSA. The general reporting deadline has been extended from June 30 to **August 14**. This date now coincides with the extended DCP/ACRE sign-up deadline. NAP producers must report their acreage by the earlier of 15 days before the onset of harvest or Aug 14. Don't delay – call now for your crop reporting appointment and for that office visit, bring with you copies of all new farm leases and other documentation to support farm changes from the prior year.

RISK MANAGEMENT – 2010 SALES CLOSING DATES NEAR

It's easy to forget about important crop insurance and FSA Non-insured Assistance Program sales closing deadlines while busy with summer farming activities and harvest. Remember that linkage to Farm Service Agency disaster programs, particularly the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program (SURE) requires that all of an operation's crops in a crop year are covered by FCIC risk protection products (which also includes AGR and AGR-Lite) or FSA's NAP program (for non FCIC covered crops) for any crop acreage that will be harvested and/or fed, wherever they're grown. Contact your FCIC crop insurance agent and FSA for upcoming August and September crop sales closing dates. Be *sure* you're linked to **SURE!**

NAP Basic Provisions available: NAP policy holders can find a copy of the NAP "BP" at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>. Click on "Disaster Assistance Program" and from there under the "I want to" section, click on "View NAP Basic Provisions".

Loss reporting:

Please timely report crop damage from adverse weather events to your Federal Crop Insurance Agent and then to FSA. In addition to NAP loss reporting requirements, FSA compiles loss damage reports from adverse weather events into one "flash" crop loss report which is forwarded to higher agency levels. This and subsequent reports will in turn often bring about countywide disaster declarations (depending on damage severity). Producers suffering losses due to the June hail event in the irrigated country and low wheat yields in the dryland area should file loss reports with our office asap.

PULSE CROP BASE

Producers with a history of raising dry peas, lentils or chickpeas have the opportunity to add these crops to their crop acreage base for their farm based on the planted history from 1998-2001. Producers on farms with a history of these crops have been sent a notice showing the history based on FSA records. To add pulse crop bases to the farm, all owners must sign CCC-524 by August 14, 2009. This form is available at the county FSA office and may be requested in person or by phone. To the greatest extent possible, we are working through this issue with farm operators (regarding these known pulse base farms) as they visit our office to enroll in the DCP program. The following options are available to applicable pulse base tract owners; 1) Do not add pulse crop bases, 2) add pulse bases up to the effective cropland available, or 3) add pulse bases with a corresponding reduction in other crop bases on the farm. Producers who do not make an election by August 14 will default to option 2.

“Return Service Requested”

CRP REVISIONS

It's been a busy year with contract servicing, sending out CRP revisions and forms involving 2009 expiring contracts offered 3 and 5 year extensions, 2009 expiring filter strip contracts offered 10-15 year reenrollment, acreage change contracts for conversion from paper aerial photos to our digital imagery mapping system and for operator/owner – producer changes. Please do not delay signing and returning these important documents. CRP expiring filter strip reenrollment inspections will be occurring within the next couple months. Resulting reseed plans are a requirement for reenrollment approval. Please sign and return conservation plans promptly to the NRCS office who will forward the results to our office. 2009 extension and reenrollment contracts and plans must be signed and returned no later than September 30, 2009.

On the inspection note; all producers should be reviewing their stands regularly (at least once annually and twice, recommended). A number of producers and the county weed board have reported heavy rye infestation this year. Spot control of rye as well as other noxious and obnoxious weeds can be requested of our office during the nesting season. Submit a letter to our office with contract number, a map with locations identified, approximate acres and general control measure(s) to be applied before you begin any control measure during the nesting season. Follow up with a performance report when completed.

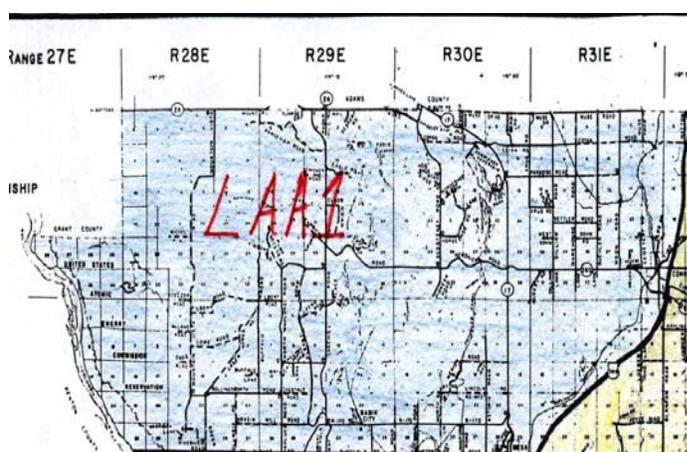
ANNUAL PAYMENT LIMITATION NOTICE

The 2008 Farm Bill eliminated the three-entity and in general the combined person rules for programs other than for CRP contracts approved prior to 10/1/08. Instead, program payments are limited by direct attribution to individuals or entities. A legal entity is defined as an entity created under Federal or State law that owns land or an agricultural commodity, product or livestock. Through direct attribution, payment limitation is based on the total payments received by the payee and by legal entity members, both directly and indirectly. Shares not held by an individual at the third member level of an entity are ineligible for payment. Qualifying spouses are eligible to be considered separate persons for payment limitation purposes, rather than being automatically combined under one limitation. Payment eligibility for certain programs still requires being “actively engaged in farming,” defined by significant contributions of: (1) land, capital, equipment, or a combination; and (2) active personal labor or active personal management, or a combination. New provisions make it easier for spouses and minors to meet active personal labor and active personal management contribution requirements. Major program limits are as follows; Counter-Cyclical and ACRE = \$65,000, DCP Direct = \$40,000, CRP = \$50,000, NAP = \$100,000, EQIP (2009-12) = \$300,000, Disaster (multiple programs) = \$100,000. Payment eligibility also requires compliance with average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) provisions. Starting in 2009, AGI will be computed using the three tax years preceding the most recently completed tax year (for 2009 – use 2005, 2006, 2007). Three qualifying levels will be used: \$500,000 average **non-farm** AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 average **farm** AGI for DCP/ACRE direct payments; and \$1 million average **non-farm** AGI for conservation programs, unless at least 2/3 of average AGI is from farm income. The 2009 changes also include an expanded definition of farm income to incorporate processing, packing, storing, shedding, and transporting of farm, ranch and forestry commodities and on-farm renewable energy production.

LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE AREA #1 – COUNTY COMMITTEE NOMINATION PERIOD OPEN

Nominating petitions for the north irrigated county committee voting district (pictured at right) were mailed out as part of the last FSA county newsletter. Nominations will be accepted through **August 3, 2009**. This area consists of farms located south of the Franklin/Adams county line, west of I-395 and north of the Bellflower and Sheffield road line.

Farm owners, operators and tenants (and those persons representing eligible farm entities and joint operations) of legal voting age in this Local Administrative Area can run for this position as well as vote in November for the candidate of choice. Any producer not receiving an election ballot in this district in years past are advised to contact our office promptly so our records can be updated before ballots are sent out in November. Nominations from all producers including underrepresented groups are strongly encouraged. Eligible voters in the district can nominate themselves. Contact our office for a blank nominating petition.



SAD NEWS

We are deeply saddened by the recent passing of Franklin County FSA Committeeman, Kurt Harder and his brother Eric Harder. Having been reelected in January, Kurt had begun his second 3-year term on the Committee with very high praise from his dryland farming and ranching constituents. Kurt hit the ground running, playing an active role as committee member and was appointed the chair position by his committee peers in 2008. Our most heartfelt sympathies and prayers are extended to the Harder family. In lieu of gifts, the family would appreciate donations to the Kurt and Eric Harder Memorial Scholarship Fund (a perpetual fund for Kahlotus highschool students) at the Bank of Whitman, P.O. Box 623, Washtucna, WA 99371.