



November 2010

Klickitat County FSA

1107 S Columbus Avenue
Goldendale, WA 98620-9296
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Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Kelly Kreps, Chair
Karl Enyeart, Vice-Chair
Neal Brown, Member
Susan Powers, Advisor

Office Staff

Virginia Klein, CED
Betty Fahlenkamp, PT
Norene Bartkowski, PT

Farm Loan Staff

Lisa Ruff, FLM
Crispin Garza, SCL
Scott Smith, FLO
Sandy Christensen, FLT

1606 Perry Street, Suite A
Yakima, WA 98902-5769
(509)454-5746

Next COC Meeting

November 24, 2010
9:00 AM

Dates to Remember

November 11, 2010-Veterans Day- **Office Closed**

November 20, 2010 -NAP
Deadline for Perennial tree crops & grapes

FSA Web Sites

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



CRP CONSERVATION PLANNING INFORMATION

For those persons with acceptable offers for enrolling land into the Conservation Reserve Program during the recently completed signup period, the next question(s) involve what to expect and plan on completing as your interim conservation plan is formalized during the upcoming months. The following guidelines will govern your plans when completed.

For new cropland offers currently in fallow- Cropland which was summer fallow during the 2010 growing season will be expected to be seeded during the fall dormant overwinter period of November 2010 to January 31, 2011, using an approved seeding mixture with the appropriate EBI point value for your offer. Any variance from seeding during this period on land currently in fallow would need to be approved by FSA on a case by case basis (eg. chemical residue which limits seeding in the current year). Seed mixture charts are available in the Service Center; NRCS will assist with questions on which mixtures and varieties are best adapted to your site. Seedbed preparation activities performed during the time leading up to seeding are eligible for cost-share on approved contracts. Seeding may commence as soon as soil temperatures reach 42 degrees or less; typically in the first half of November. The seeding cutoff date may only be modified past January 31, 2011 if weather conditions dictate.

For new cropland offers currently in stubble- Cropland which was harvested during the 2010 growing season will be expected to be fallowed, either chemically or mechanically during the 2011 growing season, with the intention of seeding grasses during the 2011-2012 overwinter dormant period, using an approved seeding mixture with the appropriate EBI point value. Activities you complete to prepare the seedbed throughout the upcoming growing season are eligible for cost-share. You may initiate any summer fallow activities you normally would (ie. fall chisel/disk, harrowing, chemical application, or similar measures) immediately without these activities being specifically identified in a formal conservation plan.

Offers with existing cover that requires destruction/reestablishment on part/all of the offer- On those accepted offers where you agreed to reestablish new cover on the offer, you are authorized to begin any primary seedbed preparation operations you deem appropriate (eg. fall light disking or chiseling, mowing, chemical application, harrow) to ensure good germination of weed seed, and to initiate breakdown of permanent residue. All acreage to be reestablished should have an initial activity from those listed above started by early next spring. It is not necessary to wait for an NRCS field inspection before beginning activities on these offers. If you have questions on identifying the amount and/or locations of cover you agreed to convert, please visit the FSA office, and we can assist you with mapping.

Evaluations of existing cover offered without enhancement- On offers where you indicated that some/all of the existing cover would meet certification/EBI point offer criteria, we expect that an inspection will be completed by NRCS this fall, prior to your requirement to complete any enhancement activities. On those areas, our recommendation is to withhold any action until you receive further information on whether the existing cover meets certification criteria, or if additional activity is required.

Wildlife Watering Facility installation- On those offers where points were awarded for installation of a wildlife watering facility, please do not begin installation until such time as the technical agency has worked with you to establish the location/number of facilities required. Once the location is identified, FSA will need to complete consultation actions with the State and Tribal Historical Preservation Office(s) to verify the acceptability of the locations, and if required to enter into consultation for protection of any cultural resource issues identified.

ACRE PAYMENTS

The 2009 ACRE payment process is expected to begin in November of 2010. Prior to issuance of ACRE payments, all 2009 production records, and any 2004-8 records for those producers proving beyond county plug yields must be entered into the ACRE software, by tract, type, irrigation practice, and whether spring versus winter. This is a significant job, which we are working in conjunction with final direct payment issuance, CRP annual rental payment issuance, and potentially, 2011 DCP/ACRE enrollment processes. Therefore, this notice is provided to give some general idea when payments can be expected for your planning purposes. There is no ability to request deferral of these payments through our office. Once payment data is loaded, and payments are authorized, we are required to issue payments within 30 days.

COC ELECTION DEADLINES

Producers who want to have a direct impact on the makeup of the FSA Klickitat County committee have until December 6 to do so. The three person committees are the place that producers can appeal most agency decisions. Committees also make decisions helping to determine program payments. Voting helps guarantee the committee truly represents the agricultural producers in Klickitat County.

This election is for a person to serve on the County Committee representing LAA #3, which is the western 1/3 of Klickitat County. The West boundary is county line. The east boundary is beginning at the Columbia River go north on the range line dividing Range 13 & 14 until it intersects with highway 142. Follow highway 142 until you reach section line two miles east of line dividing Range 14 & 15, follow section line north to the Yakima Indian Reservation, then follow the Reservation boundary in a general NW direction until the County line is reached. The south boundary is the Columbia River and the north boundary is the county line.

Ballots will be sent in early November, and must be returned to the County office, or postmarked by Monday, December 6, 2010 to be valid. Ballots will be counted at the County Committee meeting on Thursday, December 9, 2010, beginning at 10:00 a.m. during the regular session, which is open to anyone from the public interested in attending.

TRANSITION INCENTIVES PROGRAM (TIP)

Beginning farmers have a new option for acquiring farmland. Farmers can enroll in the Transition Incentives Program (TIP) - a new program under the Conservation Title of the 2008 Farm Bill. The program encourages retired or retiring owners or operators with Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to transition their land to beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

The Transition Incentives Program provides annual rental payments to eligible retiring farmers for up to two additional years after the date of the expiration of a CRP contract, provided the transition is not to a family member. Program eligibility requires that the retiring farmer has CRP land that will expire September 30, 2011. The farmer must also agree to sell or lease for a minimum of five years the land under CRP contract to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher. The farmer must also agree to allow the beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher make conservation and land improvements. The farmer or rancher acquiring the CRP acreage may return the land to production after the current CRP contract expires. To be considered eligible, beginning or DSA farmers or ranchers and CRP participants must enroll in TIP during the period beginning 1 year before the CRP contract expiration date and September 30 of the year when the CRP contract is scheduled to expire.

An example: CRP-1 is scheduled to expire on September 30, 2012. The TIP signup period applicable for that contract is October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012. Agricultural producers interested in applying and participating in TIP should visit the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office.

CONSERVATION LOAN PROGRAM

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced the launch of a Conservation Loan (CL) program that will provide farm owners and farm-related business operators access to credit to implement conservation techniques that will conserve natural resources.

CL funds can be used to implement conservation practices approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), such as the installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; implementation of manure management; and the adaptation of other emerging or existing conservation practices, techniques or technologies. Funds can also be used in conjunction with enhancement practices called for under approved CRP contracts.

Direct CLs can be obtained through local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices with loan limits up to \$300,000. Guaranteed CLs up to \$1,112,000 are available from lenders working with FSA.

For more information on the Conservation Loan program, contact a local FSA office or visit the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

CUSTOMERS MAKING PAYMENTS BY CHECK TO FSA

Over the next year, FSA/CCC is moving toward an electronic method for processing producer's checks. This will allow us to process collections faster. When you present checks, they will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). Funds will be debited from the producer's account, usually within 24 hours of receipt. We expect this to begin in our office during FY 2011 and have posted legal notices prepared by the Department of Treasury in the Service Center further explaining the process. For more information on this, you may also visit check the web at <https://www.pccotc.gov/pccotc/pcc/Legal%20Notices/legalnotices>

ACCESSIBILITY

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in any meeting, event or function should contact the county office. FSA is committed to making programs accessible to all customers.