



April 2011

Klickitat County FSA

1107 S Columbus Avenue
Goldendale, WA 98620-9296
(509) 773-5822
Fax (509) 773-6046

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Kelly Kreps, Chair
Neal Brown, Vice-Chair
Karl Enyeart, 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

April 27, 2011
9:00 AM

**Dates to Remember
May 30, 2011- Office Closed**

June 1, 2011-DCP/ACRE
signup deadline

June 30, 2011-Acreage
Reporting Deadline

July 15, 2011- ACRE
production due for 2010 crop

FSA Web Sites

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



2011 DCP/ACRE SIGNUP UNDERWAY

We are currently taking appointments to sign up for 2011 DCP/ACRE program. You can receive a 22 percent advance with the remainder being paid in October. The deadline to sign up is **June 1, 2011**. Please call the office to set up an appointment. For those of you who have received a DCP/ACRE contract in the mail, please review the contract to insure the information is correct, then sign, date, and return it as soon as possible. Don't wait, deadline is approaching fast!

ACREAGE REPORTS

If you have finished planting for crop year 2011, please call the office and set up an appointment to complete your acreage report for 2011. Acreage reports are required under the 2008 Farm Bill to maintain eligibility for the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program. They continue to be required for CRP, NAP and on any farm in which production will be used for a commodity loan or loan deficiency payment. We have new software for this report and it will take longer to record the information and the deadline is June 30. A head start on the process would be greatly appreciated.

REPORT YOUR ACRE PRODUCTION FOR 2010

July 15 is the final reporting day for 2010 production for ACRE. It is important to report your production in order to maintain your yield history and be eligible for payments. **Please bring in your information as soon as possible!** Once again we need the 2010 ACRE production for all grain crops of wheat, barley, corn, and dry/seed peas in net bushels.

REPORT YOUR NAP PRODUCTION FOR 2010

June 30 is the final reporting day for 2010 production for NAP so please turn in your hay and fruit production for last year. It is important to report your production in order to maintain your yield history in the event there is a disaster in the future.

CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE

All participants in USDA Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) programs are required to be actively applying a conservation system on all highly erodible land (HEL) they operate. Several areas where problems may arise in complying with a conservation system are: renting new cropland, purchasing new land, breaking out additional cropland, planting different crops and changing or removing existing conservation practices. It is important that you contact the FSA office BEFORE taking any of these actions. Also, it is very important that you contact the county office before modifying, tilling, draining, dredging, filling or leveling any wetland or drainage ditch. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations may result in loss of all USDA payments and eligibility.

DISASTER RELIEF AVAILABLE FOR FARMERS AND RANCHERS

Farmers and ranchers in central Washington may be eligible for financial relief due to physical losses. A Presidential Disaster Designation has been made for Kittitas and Klickitat counties as primary disaster areas due to severe winter storms, flooding, landslides and mudslides that occurred January 11 through January 21, 2011. The designation triggers availability of low-interest loans in the affected areas.

Emergency loans may be used to replace essential property or pay production costs associated with the disaster year. They may also be used to pay essential living expenses, reorganize a farming operation or refinance certain debts.

Farmers and ranchers who suffered severe physical losses in the designated and adjacent counties may qualify for Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency loans with 3.75% interest and payment terms up to 40 years with real estate security. FSA is accepting emergency loan applications for these events until November 25, 2011.

Interested farmers and ranchers may contact the FSA loan staff in the Yakima County office, which services the affected areas, at (509) 454-5746 for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for emergency loans and other programs. Additional information is also available online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>.

**NOTICE TO HISPANIC OR WOMEN FARMERS AND RANCHERS:
COMPENSATION FOR CLAIMS DISCRIMINATION**

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation. You may be eligible if:

1. you sought a farm loan or farm-loan servicing from USDA during that period; and
2. the loan was denied, provided late, approved for a lesser amount than requested, approved with restrictive conditions, or USDA failed to provide an appropriate loan service; and
3. you believe these actions occurred because you are Hispanic or female.

If you want to register your name to receive a claims package, you can call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or access the following website: www.farmerclaims.gov.

In 2011, a Claims Administrator will begin mailing claims packages to those who have requested one through the Call Center or website. The claims package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process. In order to participate, you must submit a claim to the Claims Administrator by the end of the claims period.

If you are currently represented by counsel regarding allegations of discrimination against USDA or in a lawsuit claiming discrimination by USDA, you should contact your counsel regarding this claims process. USDA Cannot Provide Legal Advice to You. You are not required to hire an attorney to file a claim, but you may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider in your community for additional guidance.

TREE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)

The Tree Assistance Program (TAP) provides help to commercial fruit, nursery and Christmas tree growers. To be eligible for TAP, producers must have lost more than 15 percent of their stock due to the natural disaster after adjustment for normal mortality. TAP is a cost-reimbursement program with payments covering up to 70 percent of replant costs and 50 percent of pruning, removal, and other costs for re-placing or salvaging damaged trees.

Producers can receive assistance for up to 500 acres of trees, bushes or vines. Producers must also have purchased a policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program; or for 2008, obtained a waiver of the risk management purchase requirement through the buy-in provision. Eligible losses must have occurred on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011. For losses occurring after May 7, 2010, applications and supporting documentation must be filed within 90 calendar days of the disaster event or the date when losses become apparent to the producer.

CRP MAINTENANCE

The primary nesting season for Washington is April 1 through July 1. During this time period, prior approval by the County Committee is required to treat weeds by mowing, burning, or spraying on contracts that have been established. Treatment must be limited to areas that have weed problems or need enhancement.

Outside the nesting period, you are allowed to perform treatment without prior approval from FSA. Weed control is required on CRP land. While prior approval may be required during certain times, FSA will grant it for any legitimate weed problems. Also, activities such as harrowing or chopping of dried up mustards and Russian thistle after the nesting period has ended can be a valuable tool to keep these weeds from getting on your neighbor's property. These activities help maintain grass vigor and ensure that you have a viable cover for the entire contract period.

Failure of your stand due to lack of weed control may lead to payment reductions or contract termination. CRP contracts may be revised to include certain maintenance practices in mid-contract to maintain stand vigor and diversity. Fifty percent cost-sharing is available if these activities are approved by FSA before work begins. Examples of practices include: mowing, herbicide application, inter-seeding or fertilization.

REPORTING WEATHER DAMAGE

Prompt weather-related disaster reporting is crucial for FSA to determine the need for disaster declarations. Some recent examples include flooding in Snohomish County and excessive rain and cold in Clark and Skamania counties. Eastern Washington has also been hit with inclement weather, having freeze, high wind and heavy rain. Damage reports aren't just limited to crops. They can include damage to structures, eroded farmland, or livestock mortality. Helpful documentation includes the specific location of farm damage, date and time of the disaster event, the type of damage (hail, wind, etc), what was affected and the estimated percent of loss. Photographic evidence of significant damage will also be helpful as both FSA and insurance agents use them in support of future program applications and cumulative damage reports.

Disaster designations trigger availability of low-interest loans and direct payments under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payment Program (SURE) for farmers and ranchers in the county. SURE benefits help offset the loss of farm revenue associated with the disaster year. Emergency loans may be used to replace essential property or pay production costs associated with the disaster year. For more information or to report damage, please call the local office.