



NEWSLETTER



May 2012

Klickitat County Farm Service Agency

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Office Hours

Mon. – Fri. 8:00a.m - 4:30p.m.

County Committee

Kelly Kreps, Chair
Neal Brown, Vice-Chair
Mary Jean Rishheim, Member

Office Staff

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

Next COC Meeting

May 30, 2012 at 9:00am

Dates to Remember

June 1- DCP/ACRE signup
Deadline

June 15- ECP signup deadline

June 30- Acreage Reporting
Deadline

June 30- 2011 NAP production
reporting deadline

More Information may be
found at

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

2012 DCP/ACRE SIGN-UP

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP)/Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) enrollment began Jan. 23, 2012 and **ends June 1, 2012.**

Common Acreage Reporting Dates

Washington producers may notice changes beginning with the 2012 crop year. Producers of insured crops are encouraged to work closely with their agents to ensure they comply with the requirements of their insurance policies with respect to timely reporting acreages. **No changes will occur to the FSA June 30 final reporting date in 2012.**

Changes will begin with the reporting of 2013 fall planted crops. Crops like winter wheat, winter barley, and fall canola will need to be reported on or before December 15, 2013. Growers of perennial crops like apples, blueberries, cherries, cranberries, apricots, peaches, nectarines, grapes, pears and plums will be required to report by January 15, 2013. All other crops must be reported by July 15, 2013. Crops which will be harvested or grazed before the established reporting date must be reported before harvest or grazing begins.

The adoption of common reporting dates will allow producers to file a complete farm acreage report with either their local FSA office or their crop insurance agent. This adoption process may take time to fully develop.

Currently local FSA offices are accepting acreage reports for all planted crops and the deadline is **June 30, 2012.** Producers are reminded to report any and all acreage changes or losses as they occur.

Deadlines for Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

To be eligible for NAP benefits, production loss must be attributed to adverse weather conditions. Losses must be reported to FSA within **15 days** after the adverse weather event or when the loss becomes evident. You may receive a payment if all eligibility requirements have been met and the crop suffers greater than a 50% production loss for weather related damages.

Some of the basic eligibility requirements include annual reporting of crop acreages and providing actual production evidence on a yearly basis by **June 30th**, obtaining a loss adjustor appraisal if the damaged crop will be destroyed or left unharvested.

New AGI Forms Required for 2012 Participants

FSA and NRCS program participants, including all members of participating entities, must meet certain Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) requirements to qualify for benefits. Starting for the 2012 crop year, a new AGI form has been developed that both reports whether an applicant or member meets the AGI requirements and authorizes the IRS to confirm that information for FSA.

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The new form also reflects an additional AGI limitation applicable only to 2012 direct payments. In addition to the \$500,000 average nonfarm AGI and the \$750,000 average farm AGI limitation, a \$1 million average AGI limitation will be applicable for 2012 direct payments.

New this year, most power-of-attorney authorizations will not work for this form. So the form will have to be signed by the participant or entity member themselves. IRS will not accept FSA power-of-attorney forms. These new AGI forms are available today from your county office or on the FSA internet site.

CRP Maintenance

The primary nesting season for Washington is **April 1 through July 1**. During this time period, prior approval of the County Committee is required to spot treat weeds by mowing, burning, or spraying after the stand is established. Treatment must be limited to areas that have weed problems. Treatment of entire fields for cosmetic purposes is not allowed.

Outside the nesting period, you are allowed to control weeds without any prior approval from FSA. Weed control is a must 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 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. Some existing stands will be old by the time your contract expires, so helping them to maintain vigor and generating new growth periodically is time well spent.

For stands that have been newly planted or are in the first 1-2 years after seeding, weed control during the nesting season is permitted without prior FSA approval. Weed control when the stand is young is important for successful establishment. Weed control that does not maintain the required stand diversity is not permitted.

Failure to control weeds on CRP can result in payment reductions and even termination. CRP contracts may be revised mid-contract to add certain maintenance practices to maintain stand vigor and diversity. Fifty percent cost-sharing is available if these activities are included in your conservation plan and approved by FSA before work begins. Examples of practices include: mowing, herbicide application and fertilization.

FSA Seeks Candidates for County Committee

Local farmers and ranchers have an opportunity to influence federal farm programs. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting nominations for the Klickitat County Committee between **June 15 and August 1, 2012**.

The FSA county committee system provides a unique federal government experience. Farmers and ranchers are elected by their peers to help the agency administer farm programs and provide an important information link between producers and the agency. The three person committee is the place producers can appeal most agency determinations. The committee also makes decisions which can impact program payments. It meets approximately once a month.

To be eligible for involvement, producers must participate or cooperate in at least one FSA program and be of legal voting age. Nomination forms must be submitted to the local FSA office. The committee draws its members from local administrative areas (LAAs). Counties are broken up into administrative areas for the purposes of representation and voting. This year's election is for LAA #1. LAA #1 is the east side of the county from Rock Creek east to the county line. Candidates must live in the local administrative area they will represent and must be eligible to vote in the county election. Members serve on staggered three-year terms so that one-third of the seats is up for reelection each year. Committee members are compensated for official duty hours.

We encourage all producers to consider being a candidate. Producers benefit from a diverse committee representing all of agriculture in our area.

More information about the elections and nomination forms may be obtained from the local FSA office or the Farm Service Agency website - <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>

Local Ranchers to Receive Financial Help with Storm Damage

Financial assistance is available for ranchers to repair damage from the January snow and ice storms in Klickitat County. The Farm Service Agency has authorized funding for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). FSA is accepting applications for ECP at the Klickitat County USDA Service Center until **June 15, 2012**.

Ranchers whose operations were damaged as a result of the storm may be eligible for the program. Problems existing prior to the January disaster are ineligible for ECP assistance. Pictures of the damage must be submitted as part of the application process.

Eligible ranchers will receive cost-share assistance of up to 75 percent of the cost of to repair or replace fence, as approved by the Farm Service Agency county committee. Eligibility does not include horse operations unless the horses are used in the commercial production of food or fiber.

USDA offers additional programs to help farmers and ranchers recover from damages caused by natural disasters. These programs include the Emergency Loan Program, Federal Crop Insurance and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program. More information on ECP and other disaster assistance programs is available at the local FSA office (509) 773-5822 and online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa/>.

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