



July 2009

FERRY & OKANOGAN FSA NEWS

Ferry County FSA

P.O. Box 323
84 E. Delaware
Republic, WA 99166
Phone (509) 775-3390
Fax (509) 775-3170

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Dave Konz, Chairperson
Kathy Olson, Vice-Chairperson
Bill Floyd, Member
Luanne Finley, Advisor

Office Staff

Gary Breiler, CED
Virginia Lane, PT



Okanogan County FSA

1251 2nd Ave. S. Rm 103
Okanogan, WA 98840
Phone (509) 422-3292
Fax (509) 422-0532

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Stan Stout, Chairperson
Jeff Delfeld, Vice-Chairperson
Mark Timmerman, Member
Marcia Henneman, Advisor
Mike Watts, Advisor
Victor Castro, Advisor

Office Staff

Gary Breiler, CED
Stu Skidmore, FLM
Jose Limon, FLO
Sandy Hinger, FLT
Cliffene Coyne, PT

Next COC Meetings:

Ferry – TBA
Okanogan – TBA

Meetings start at 10:00 am

CED – County Executive Director
FLM – Farm Loan Manager
FLO – Farm Loan Officer
FLT – Farm Loan Technician
PT – Program Technician

FSA Web Site Address:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

WA State Web Site:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>

ACCESSIBILITY

Persons with disabilities who require special accommodations may contact the county office. FSA is committed to making programs accessible to all customers.



FARM SERVICE AGENCY SEEKS LOCAL REPRESENTATION

Agricultural producers who would like to guide federal farm programs at the local level have a chance to do so. The USDA Farm Service Agency is seeking candidates for an upcoming grower-elected County Committee election. Nominations are due to the FSA county office by August 3, 2009.

Nominees are being sought to represent the central portion of Ferry County, Local Administrative Area 2; and the lower western portion of Okanogan County, Local Administrative Area 2. Committee members for the county's three LAA's serve for three years.

When the Farm Service Agency implements nationwide farm programs, we count on local committees to ensure the federal farm programs fit our area's agricultural conditions as much as possible. FSA encourages all interested agricultural producers including women, minority growers and beginning farmers to seek nomination. Persons interested in holding office as a county committee member are encouraged to check eligibility requirements with our office. For additional information or to obtain a nomination forms, visit us online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>.

ELIGIBILITY – ANNUAL NOTICE TO PRODUCERS

Producers participating in certain FSA programs are subject to limitations on the total annual payments that can be received. Under the 2008 Farm Bill, payments are limited by direct attribution. The maximum amount persons or entities can receive per year are: Direct payments - \$40,000; Counter-Cyclical (CC)/ACRE payments - \$65,000; SURE, LFP, LIP, and ELAP - \$100,000 combined; TAP - \$100,000; NAP - \$100,000; CRP and CREP rental/incentive payments - \$50,000; GRP - \$50,000; LDP and market loan gains - unlimited. With ACRE participation, the direct payment limitation will reflect a 20% direct payment reduction. The DCP CC/ACRE payment limitation will then be increased by the direct payment reduction amount.

The following provisions apply to certain programs: actively engaged in farming, cash rent tenant, foreign person, and average adjusted gross income (AGI). No program benefits will be provided until all required forms are filed and determinations are complete. Producers determined not actively engaged in farming are ineligible for any payment which requires such a determination. Determinations may be initiated by COC or requested by a producer.

All payment eligibility forms are subject to spot check through the end-of-year review process. Producers selected for spot check must provide adequate documentation to support that: inputs used to determine contributions to the farming operation were significant; contributions were at risk and were commensurate with claimed shares of the farming operation; applicable "common attribution" determinations were correct; land ownership was accurately reported when the landowner rule was used; the producer was in compliance with applicable AGI limits; and any other factors pertinent to the original determinations are substantiated.

Statute requires that entities earning program benefits that are subject to limitation provide members' names, addresses, and tax identification numbers to COC. After 2009, a farm operating plan is not required to be filed annually, if the farming operation continues to be conducted as reflected on the operating plan and supporting documents are on file in the County Office. If any changes occur that could affect the determinations, producers must timely notify the County Office by filing revised forms and applicable supporting documentation.

AGI noncompliance, either by exceeding applicable limitations or failure to submit a certification statement, will result in ineligibility for all program benefits subject to AGI provisions. Program benefits to legal entities shall be reduced by an amount that is commensurate with the direct and indirect interest held by ineligible members.

NON-INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

For crop losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), you must contact the local FSA office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent to file a Notice of Loss. Producers should contact our office before abandoning or destroying NAP covered crops. Producers with crop insurance should contact their local agent when losses occur and before destroying the crop.

ACREAGE REPORTING

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. The final date to timely certify has been extended until August 14, 2009. Beyond that date, fees will be assessed for late-filed acreage reporting.

CROP MARKETING TOOLS AVAILABLE

FSA offers 9-month CCC loans, using the harvested commodity as collateral. The loans enable producers to extend their marketing season by allowing them to hold their commodity beyond harvest when prices are usually lowest. Producers must maintain beneficial interest in the commodity for the entire length of the loan. The commodity may be stored on the farm or in CCC licensed warehouses. The commodity must be provided safe storage through loan maturity. The structure must allow for safe inspection, measurement, and sampling of the commodity.

Producers may choose a Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs) in lieu of a loan. The LDP payment amount is determined by comparing the posted county price (PCP) for a commodity to the county loan rate for that commodity in the county. If the PCP is less than the county loan rate, the producer may file for a payment of the difference between the two prices on the date of application, or the date beneficial interest is lost. Producers must have beneficial interest when applying for an LDP.

Anyone raising the following crops is eligible for commodity loans or LDPs: barley, oats, wheat, corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, canola, crambe, flaxseed, mustard seed, rapeseed, safflower seed, sesame seed, sunflower seed, dry peas, lentils, and chickpeas. Honey, wool, and mohair are also eligible. Unshorn pelts are eligible for LDP only.

Final availability date for loans and LDP's are January 31 for mohair, wool and unshorn pelts; March 31 for barley, canola, crambe, flaxseed, honey, oats, rapeseed, wheat and sesame seed; May 31 for corn, dry peas, lentils, mustard seed, safflower seed, chickpeas, soybeans and sunflower seeds. For more information and for loan rates, contact our office or visit us online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=prsu&topic=lor>.

DCP AND ACRE PROGRAM SIGN-UP

FSA is accepting applications for the 2009 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment (DCP) Program or the new Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program. Farmers may enroll online or at the local FSA office **until August 14, 2009**. This extended deadline is mandatory for all participants. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.

DCP provides payments to eligible producers on farms annually enrolled for the 2009 through 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 2009, 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.

ACRE is available for producers who are eligible for the DCP Program. An FSA agency sponsored calculator has been provided for producers to use in estimating payments. The calculator can be found at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp>.

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. 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>

FSA ANNOUNCES NEW LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM

Ranchers who lost livestock as a result of natural disasters in 2008 or 2009 may apply for financial relief under the Farm Service Agency's Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Eligible losses must have occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011. Livestock must have been maintained as part of a commercial farming or ranching operation. Eligible livestock include: alpacas, beef cattle, buffalo and beefalo, dairy cattle, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, llamas, poultry, reindeer, sheep, and swine. The eligibility of horses is restricted to those that are used for farm and ranch labor. For losses that have already occurred, the signup deadline is September 14, 2009. LIP payments will be based on individual producers' eligible losses due to adverse weather conditions. Payments will be 75 percent of fair market value of the livestock as determined by the agency. For losses in 2009 and later, new Farm Bill payment limitation provisions apply. Old rules apply to losses in 2008. Producers experiencing livestock losses due to natural disasters after July 13, must report their losses 30 days after death is apparent to receive program payments. For more information on available supplemental disaster assistance programs, please visit your FSA county office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotapes, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."