



# NEWSLETTER



## November 2010

### Ferry County FSA

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

### Okanogan County FSA

1251 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

### Ferry County Committee

Kathleen Olson, Chairperson  
Bill Floyd, Vice-Chairperson  
Jerry Larson, Member  
Luanne Finley, Advisor

### Okanogan County Committee

Jeff Delfeld, Chairperson  
Mark Timmerman, V-Chair  
Stan Stout, Member  
Jade Gabriel, Advisor  
Victor Castro, Advisor

### Office Staff

Gary Breiler, CED  
Stu Skidmore, FLM  
Jose Limon, FLO  
Sandy Hinger, FLT  
Cliffene Coyne, PT  
Virginia Lane, PT  
Blanca Alvitres, FLOT

### Next COC Meeting

December 7 – Ferry  
10:00 a.m.

December 9 – Okanogan  
10:00 a.m.

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.



## COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The County Committee is a unique system under which Federal farm programs are to be administered locally. County Committees ensure the fair and equitable administration of FSA programs. Voting is the way for producers to ensure that the committees reflect their demographics. The County Committee assists the agency with implementing programs. Committees also make decisions which help to determine program eligibility. The committees meet approximately once a month. Producers who are eligible to participate in FSA programs elect a three person county committee, which reviews county office operations and makes some of the decisions on how to apply the programs. This grassroots approach gives you a much-needed say in how Federal actions affect your operations. Your vote is important! Election ballots were recently mailed to all eligible voters in the applicable local administrative area.

**Ballots must be returned by December 6, 2010.** Please remember to sign the label in the ballot. Please also remember that Powers-of-Attorney cannot be used for signing ballots.

In Ferry County: **Kathleen R Olson** is the candidate for election in Local Administrative Area No. 1, which is located in the northern portion of the county encompassing lands lying within Townships 38 and 40.

In Okanogan County: **Jeff J Delfeld** is the candidate for election in Local Administrative Area No. 1, which is located within the Colville Indian Reservation and portions of Omak and Okanogan lying west of the Okanogan River.

## CONSERVATION LOAN PROGRAM

FSA is now accepting applications for its new Conservation Loan Program. This program will give farmers who want to implement conservation measures on their lands, a chance to do so, with FSA providing financial assistance for up-front costs. Conservation Loan (CL) funds can be used to implement conservation practices approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), such as the establishment of wildlife habitat; installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; establishment or conversion to organic production; implementation of manure management; and the adaptation of other emerging or existing conservation practices, techniques or technologies. Direct CL funds can be obtained from Farm Service Agency (FSA) with loan limits of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed CL funds of up to \$1,119,000 are available from lenders working with FSA. For more information on the Conservation Loan Program, contact the Okanogan County FSA office at (509) 422-3292. They administer farm loan programs for both Ferry and Okanogan Counties. You can also visit FSA on the web at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## DCP/ACRE SIGNUP UNDERWAY FOR 2011

Applications are now being accepted for the Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) for 2011. To be eligible for program payments and benefits, producers must sign-up each year. Producers who elected the ACRE program in the past will remain in ACRE through 2012. Once ACRE is elected, the farm remains in ACRE through the end of the current farm bill.

DCP direct payment rates remain unchanged from last year: \$.52/Bu for wheat, \$.24/Bu for barley. ACRE direct payments are reduced by 20%. Advance direct payments are available under either program at 22% of the total payment rate for the year. Payments are earned on 83.3% of the farm's established base acreage, times the farm's established yield, times the producer's share. Producers are free to plant any crop on their base acreage with the exception of fruits, vegetables and wild rice. Please call in advance for an appointment to sign-up for DCP or ACRE.

## **PROGRAM PAYMENTS**

FSA offices experienced many problems last fall with issuing program payments, particularly those involving CRP. Not all, but the greater part of these problems were corrected for this year's payment cycle as most of the 2010 CRP and DCP payments have been made. The ACRE payments for 2009 have also been issued, as well as 2008 SURE payments with the exception of those that require additional work.

Payment transaction statements are mailed from our Financial Services Center in Kansas City, but may reach producers one to two weeks after program payments are directly deposited into bank accounts, or checks received in those minimal instances. Please realize that 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.

## **PAPER CHECK TRANSACTIONS**

Over the next year, FSA/CCC (Commodity Credit Corporation) is moving toward an electronic method for processing producer checks. This will allow FSA/CCC to process collections faster. When producers present checks, either in person or through the mail, the checks will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The funds will be debited from the producer's account, usually within 24 hours of receipt. Checks given in person will then be voided and returned to the producer. Mailed checks will be voided and held for up to 14 days, then shredded if not picked up by the producer.

## **FSA LETTERS**

Several producers have received letters from FSA reminding them to submit a form CCC-927 (Individual), or CCC-928 (Entity) to the IRS. Our FSA office initially provided all producers with the proper form to complete and mail directly to the IRS. IRS compares FSA records with their records to verify that producer's certification to Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) are accurate. Failure to submit this form will delay payments and can result in FSA requiring refund of previously issued payments. We've had instances reported where producers were sure they sent their form to IRS, only to find their name on the list of people who have not submitted the form. We have been instructed to tell these producers to re-file the applicable form to IRS. These forms are available at our office, and apply to 2009 and 2010 payments.

## **CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR OWNERSHIP**

Please notify your local FSA office of all land ownership and address changes as soon as possible so your farm records can be updated timely. A copy of the applicable recorded deed should be provided to complete the land ownership changes.

## **SPOUSAL SIGNATURE AUTHORITY**

A husband and wife can sign most documents on be-half of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office. There are limited exceptions to the spousal signature provisions for specific programs and for farm loans.

## **UPCOMING APPLICATION DEADLINES FOR NRCS PROGRAMS**

The Natural Resources and Conservation Service has announced signup deadlines for several of their programs. The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Special Initiatives application cutoff date for fiscal year 2011 funding consideration is January 7, 2011. The EQIP Special Initiatives include Organic, Conservation Reserve Program Takeout and Wildfire special initiatives. To make application please contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service office at either Okanogan (422-2750 ext 3), Nespelem (634-2320), or Republic (775-3473).

Se habla español en esta oficina de la FSA. Si necesita información tocante a los programas de crédito, conservación y otros programas que se administran en esta oficina, por favor llame o visite esta oficina de la FSA. El número de teléfono es (509) 422-3292, en el condado de Okanogan. La dirección se encuentra al frente.