



June 2009

# Spokane-Pend Oreille COUNTY FSA

## Spokane Pend Oreille County FSA

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**Pend Oreille County Producers for which 447 is a local call can dial 447-4216 for a toll free call.**

### Office Hours

Monday – Friday  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

### County Committee

Jim Ryan, Chairman  
Charlotte Yergens, Vice-Chair  
Regina Clausen, Member  
Louise (Lou) McLam, Member  
Larry Cordes, Member

### Office Staff

Randy L. Primmer, CED  
[randy.primmer@wa.usda.gov](mailto:randy.primmer@wa.usda.gov)  
Lorri Anderson, PT  
Kay Kjack, PT  
Betty Diedesch, PT  
Dave Olson, PT  
Connie Klein, Temp

### Farm Loan Staff

Steven King, FLM  
[steve.king@wa.usda.gov](mailto:steve.king@wa.usda.gov)  
Chris Sletager, FLO  
Jo Anne Krupke, FLT

### Next COC Meeting

**June 18, 2009 @ 9:00 a.m.**

FSA/USDA National Website:  
<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/>

Washington State FSA Site  
<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>

### Important Deadlines:

June 30

- Acreage Reporting Deadline
- NAP Production Deadline

August 3

- COC Nomination Petition Deadline

August 14

- DCP and ACRE Sign up Deadline
- Pulse Crop Acreage Base Establishment Deadline



## 2009 COUNTY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS ACCEPTED THROUGH AUGUST 3, 2009

Eligible voters in Local Administrative Area (LAA) #1 in Spokane County should have received a nominating petition with their last newsletter. LAA #1 in Spokane County lays north of I-90 to the State Line and north to the Pend Oreille County Line then west to the Stevens County Line. The west boundary follows the Spokane River and intersects with I-90. If you live in this area you are eligible to be nominated to be elected to the County Committee. Members serve a three-year term and the committee meets once per month. The position is a paid position and members are reimbursed for time and mileage to and from the meetings. Nominations must be submitted by August 3, 2009.

## ACREAGE REPORTS DUE JUNE 30

If you have not already reported your crop acreage or scheduled an appointment, we encourage you to do so as soon as possible. Acreage reporting is required for participation in nearly all of the programs administered by FSA. Do not get caught in a late filed situation as a late filed fee is required for reporting after the June 30 deadline. We currently are scheduling appointments so please call. At this time the staff is concentrating on acreage reports rather than completing DCP or ACRE contracts due to the extension of the ACRE and DCP sign up to August 14, 2009.

## DCP – ACRE SIGNUP ENDS AUGUST 14

Even though the DCP and ACRE Program signups end on August 14, producers who are interested in participation in ACRE are encouraged to start well before that date for the election and signup process. There are two steps that must be completed to participate in ACRE. First, all producers on the farm must **“elect”** the ACRE program in writing on form CCC-509 ACRE. After these signatures are obtained, then producer may **“sign up”** for ACRE. An ACRE contract requires signatures of all producers on the farm. Also, if you are adding pulse crop acreage bases to your farm your DCP contract will have to be revised to include these new acres prior to the August 14 deadline. Please call for an appointment to go over these options

## 2008 NAP PRODUCTION DEADLINE IS JUNE 30

Producers wishing to turn in prior year production for proving their Actual Production History (APH) for NAP purposes have until June 30 to turn in that production to be used for their 2009 APH.

## PULSE CROP BASE ESTABLISHMENT

With the 2008 Farm Bill, pulse crops are now a covered commodity and are eligible to possibly receive counter cyclical or ACRE payments. Pulse crops include Dry peas, Lentils and Large and Small Chickpeas. Our office recently received the forms to complete the selection of which Crop Acreage Base (CAB) designations you would like to select. We are in the process of completing those forms to be mailed to each owner and operator on record for those farms with history in crop years 2001 – 1998. There are three options to choose from and they are as follows: 1) Add no pulse crops, 2) Add the maximum pulse crops, 3) Reduce current CAB's of other program crops and add the maximum pulse crops. We think most producers will select option 2. You also have the option of proving your yield or using the state plug yield for your farm. Your proven yield will be factored similarly to the yields established under the 2002 Farm Bill. Actual lentil yields less than 1200 pounds per acre are better off using the state plug yield. Our office staff does not have the time or resources available to work up your farms production history to determine the yield for your farm. Those producers proving their yields will complete form CCC-658P and turn-in the form for approval. Production evidence does not have to be provided but should be maintained because all proven yields are subject to spot check. We will be typing up the CCC-524 (Base Acre and Yield Election Form) indicating that you want to use option 2. If you choose a different option we will need to get you a blank form for you to complete. All elections have to be returned by August 14, 2009 or the farm will be defaulted to option 2. All approved DCP contracts will be required to be revised to include the new pulse CAB's and the operator and all owners whose CAB's changed must sign the revised contract.

## **CERTAIN CRP CONTRACTS EXTENDED**

USDA recently announced that certain Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts would be extended for 3 or 5 years. Producers with contracts that expire on September 30, 2009 have been notified whether they have received one of the extension offers. The 2008 Farm Bill requires a reduction in the total CRP nationwide to 32.0 million acres. If all of the contracts in the country that were scheduled to expire came out of CRP, the national level would have been reduced to approximately 30.5 million acres. Rather than a general signup to fill the 1.5 million acres available, USDA determined that contract extensions would be offered to the highest ranking contracts based on the original environmental benefits index that were used when the contracts were enrolled initially. Using this method will ensure that the most environmentally sensitive land will remain in CRP. Producers who were selected for extension must sign a CRP-1F Addendum by June 30, 2009 for the extension to take affect.

## **OPTIONS FOR EXPIRING CRP CONTRACTS**

For those producers with expiring CRP contracts on October 1, 2009 you have a couple options if the land is going to be returned to annual crop production. If you will be seeding a fall seeded crop (winter wheat, barley or triticale) you can request to start field work July 1, 2009 without any reduction in your CRP payment. If you are going to seed a spring seeded crop you could apply a chemical to the land on or after August 1, 2009 and still receive your full CRP payment. Both of these activities require that you make application with FSA to do these activities and are approved by the committee prior to performing any actions that would destroy the current CRP stand. Those contracts that are going to remain in permanent cover will have to wait until October 1, 2009 to take any action on those acres.

## **10 ACRE RULE REVISED**

Farms with 10 acres of crop acreage base or less may not receive payments under the DCP or ACRE programs unless the owners meet certain exceptions. Previously, owners on farms with 10 acres of base or less could not receive payments unless all of the owners met the requirements of socially disadvantaged or limited resource producers. The new rule now allows farms to receive payments if only 50% of the ownership is represented by one of the above groups. What does that mean? Land that is owned by a husband and wife (or other group of individuals that are at least 50% female) now qualifies since the land is owned 50% by a female (member of a socially disadvantaged group).

## **FARM RECORDS CHANGE DEADLINE JULY 31**

For 2009 the deadline for requesting a record change is July 31, 2009. These changes are for farm records where we must change the structure of the farm because of a land sale or you are no longer farming some land listed on the farm. Changes to ownership should be reported as soon as the change is known or the producer no longer has an interest in the crop or crops being grown on the farm.

## **AVERAGE CROP REVENUE ELECTION (ACRE) PROVISIONS**

Participation in the 2009 ACRE program is voluntary and is made on a per farm election. Once the election is made it remains with the farm for the rest of the farm bill. Our office can't provide guidance on whether you should participate or whether you shouldn't participate in this program. This is an individual decision based on each farms yield and what you feel the price of grain will do in the next couple of years which helps to determine if you will receive ACRE payments or not on the farm. There are a number of resources available to put your estimates into the software and determine whether it is better to be in ACRE or not. FSA has a new ACRE calculator that can be reviewed and used. The location of the web site is: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp>. You also can Google ACRE and you will get a number of results to look at. If you decide to participate remember there are two steps that must be completed to participate. First, you must elect and get all the owners signature and then you must sign up for ACRE and get all the signatures.

## **2009 COUNTY LOAN RATES ANNOUNCED**

Soft White Wheat \$3.07/bu, Hard Red Spring \$ 3.71/bu, Hard Red Winter \$2.89, and Barley \$2.06/bu (\$85.83/ton)