



NEWSLETTER



COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION DEADLINE

Nov/Dec 2010

Spokane Pend Oreille County FSA

8815 E Mission AVE STE B
Spokane Valley, WA 99212
(509) 924-7350
Fax (509) 924-7787

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
Lorri Anderson, PT
Kay Kjack, PT
Betty Diedesch, PT
Dave Olson, PT

Farm Loan Staff

Houston Bruck, FLM
Houston.Bruck@wa.usda.gov
Chris Sletager, FLO
Jo Anne Krupke, FLT

Next COC Meeting

December 10, 2010 @ 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:

Dec. 6, 2010 Deadline for Ballots

Office Closures:

Dec. 24, 2010 – X-Mas Day Observed

Dec. 31, 2010- New Years Day Observed

Jan. 17, 2011 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Observed



Spokane County voters in Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2 and Pend Oreille County voters in LAA 4 should have received their FSA COC ballots in the mail. Ronald Soliday is running unopposed in Spokane and Charlotte Yergens is running unopposed in Pend Oreille County. The deadline for returning ballots is Monday, December 6, 2010 or ballots must be postmarked by 12/6/2010. Thank you to all who take the time to vote.

CRP GENERAL SIGNUP 39 RESULTS ANNOUNCED

In Spokane County 98% of all bids submitted during the 39th general signup period for CRP were accepted as meeting a score of 200 EBI points or better. For those approved contracts the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will be contacting the operator and owners to establish the final Conservation Plan of Operation (CPO). The deadline for completing the CPO is 12/31/2010. All participants (owners and operator) on the CRP contract will be required to sign the CPO prior to approval by the FSA County Committee.

NRCS will be conducting field visits on farms with already existing stands to determine if they meet the stand density requirements and contain the required mixes of grasses and legumes as bid. Those applications that must be seeded in the spring will not be evaluated in the field. If your established grass stand does not meet the density and diversity as bid you will have the opportunity to re-establish the grass stand by seeding the required mix. If you chose not to re-establish the stand you will be required to withdraw from the program. Those contracts will not be assessed liquidated damages for terminating their contract. If you have questions please contact the office for assistance.

2009 ACRE PAYMENTS ISSUED

Spokane County issued the 2009 ACRE payments for those farms opting to participate in the ACRE program in 2009. Spokane County had 380 farms elect to enroll in this option. For 2009, wheat, barley and dry peas met all the trigger requirements to earn a payment. Lentils did not meet the state trigger requirement and thus earned no ACRE payments for lentils. Payments were paid on 83.3% of the planted acres if your farms combined crop acreage base supported those acres. Payment rates were at least \$91.00/acre for wheat, \$56.14/acre for barley and \$31.47/acre for dry peas. If the farms historical average yield was greater than the state average yield your farm received a proportionately larger payment. The payment limitation is \$65,000 plus possibly some or all of the 20% of the direct payment if you reach the \$65,000 limit not to exceed \$73,000 maximum.

SIGN UP FOR 2011 DCP/ACRE PROGRAM CONTINUES

Our office is accepting appointments for the 2011 annual sign up for the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP). Each year producers who wish to participate in the annual program **MUST** enroll their farm either in the DCP or the DCP/ACRE option to receive benefits in 2011. Program requirements and benefits remain the same as in 2010. Producers are paid on 83.3% of their crop acreage base times the direct yield times the following rates; Wheat \$.52/bushel, barley \$.24/bushel. Producers participating in ACRE will receive 80% of the guaranteed direct payments. Advance payments are 22% of the authorized amount for any month. We will complete signup and review/update eligibility paperwork during this meeting. We will also provide you an opportunity to report you winter wheat acreage so bring your planting dates. Please call our office to set up an appointment.

PAPER CHECK CONVERSION – OVER THE COUNTER (PCC – OTC)

Over the next year, FSA/CCC is moving toward an electronic method for processing producers' 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. Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the Service Center or visit the following U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site for detailed information:

<https://www.pccotc.gov/pccotc/pcc/usingpcc/Legal%20Notices/legalnotices.htm>

ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME CERTIFICATION LETTERS

Numerous producers have received letters from our national office informing them that they have not submitted either form CCC-927 (individual) or CCC-928 (entity) to the IRS for 2009 or 2010. These forms are part of the Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) certification spot check process. All individuals and entities as well as their members who received payments directly or indirectly from FSA or NRCS are required to file these authorization forms for IRS to complete the required spot check process. Failure to provide this authorization could make you ineligible to retain your program benefits received for those programs subject to AGI provisions. If you got the letter you need to complete the appropriate form(s) and return them to the IRS office listed on the form. Our office will be providing 2011 AGI certifications as well as the spot check forms (CCC-927 and/or CCC-928) to be completed as part of the sign up process. If you have questions concerning these forms please contact our office. Please remember these forms must be submitted to IRS not to our office.

CONSERVATION LOAN PROGRAM

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced the launch of a Conservation Loan (CL) program that will provide farm owners and farm-related business operator's access to credit to implement conservation techniques that will conserve natural resources. CL funds can be used to implement conservation practices approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), such as the installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; implementation of manure management; and the adaptation of other emerging or existing conservation practices, techniques or technologies. Funds can also be used in conjunction with enhancement practices called for under approved CRP contracts. Direct CLs can be obtained through local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices with loan limits up to \$300,000. Guaranteed CLs up to \$1,119,000 are available from lenders working with FSA. For more information on the Conservation Loan program, contact our office or visit the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

BANK CHANGES OR FARM RECORDS CHANGES

If you have a direct deposit request on file with our office, please remember to let us know if you change banks or account numbers. Sending funds to a closed account will delay your payments.

Owners and operators are reminded that now is a good time to provide legal notification of land sales, change of operator and/or formation of new entities for crop year 2011. Your farm records must be updated for us to correctly administer a sign up. Please bring legal documents with you for documentation of these changes.

THANK YOU JIM RYAN

The staff and fellow committee members would like to thank Jim Ryan for all his service to the producers of Spokane and Pend Oreille County while on the FSA committee. Jim has served 9 consecutive years on our committee and is not eligible for re-election due to term limits. Jim is a dedicated committee member and he will be missed.