



# NEWSLETTER



**February/March 2013**

**Spokane-Pend Oreille  
County FSA Office**

8815 E. Mission Ave. Ste. B  
Spokane Valley, WA 99212  
Phone 509-924-7350  
Fax No. 509-924-7787

**Office Hours**

Monday – Friday  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

**County Committee**

Charlotte Yergens, Chair  
Ronald Soliday, Vice-Chair  
Regina Clausen, Member  
Larry Cordes, Member  
Louise (Lou) McLam, Member

**Office Staff**

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

**Farm Loan Staff**

Houston Bruck, FLM  
[houston.bruck@wa.usda.gov](mailto:houston.bruck@wa.usda.gov)  
Chris Werner, FLO  
Joanne Krupke, FLT

**Next COC Meeting**

March 21, 2013 @ 9:00 a.m.

**Dates to Remember**

**March 31, Deadline for Loans  
for wheat and barley.**  
**CRP Sign up May 20 – June 14**  
**May 27, Memorial Day Holiday**  
**May 31, Deadline for Legumes  
and Corn loans**  
**ACRE sign up ends June 3**  
**DCP sign up ends August 2**

**FSA Web Sites**

State- <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>  
National- <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>  
USDA- <http://www.usda.gov>

**County Committee Elections Results**

Lou McLam was elected to a 3-year term representing Local Administrative Area #1 during the December 2012 election. In January the committee held their election of officers and Charlotte Yergens was selected the Chair. Ron Soliday was selected Vice-Chair.

**Farm Bill Extended One Year**

The 2008 Farm Bill was extended through September 30, 2013. Most major Programs were extended including DCP/ACRE, MILC, NAP, commodity loans and CRP. All producers with crop acreage base (CAB) on the farm have the option to enroll their farm(s) in either DCP or ACRE for 2013. Adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions will continue to apply in 2013.

Signup for DCP/ACRE began February 19, 2013. Please contact the office for an appointment before you come in to sign up. DCP signup runs through August 2, 2013, while the ACRE signup only goes through June 3, 2013. Producers are required to determine if they want to be in the 2013 ACRE or DCP Program. Producers previously enrolled in ACRE are not required to continue in ACRE. The 2013 provisions are the same as 2012 with no advance payments and similar signature requirements. With the budget issues the payment rates are the same but could be reduced depending on what Congress does with sequestration and other budget issues.

**General CRP Sign up Announced**

Secretary Vilsack announced a general CRP Signup 45 will be conducted May 20 thru June 14, 2013. Not all provisions of the signup are known but we do know that it will use the cropping years 2002 – 2007 for cropping eligibility and that the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) method of calculating a score will remain the same. Contracts accepted and approved would begin October 1, 2013 and will remain in effect for 10 years.

Information concerning continuous signup provisions hasn't been announced yet but is expected to be released soon. If you are interested in the general signup please call for an appointment. Contracts expiring September 30, 2013 are eligible to be bid during Signup 45.

**2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Signup Continues**

Signup for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) program opened October 22, 2012, and continues through June 7, 2013. SURE covers weather related crop losses suffered during the 2011 crop year through September 30, 2011.

## **USDA Announces Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period Continues Through March 25th**

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced a claims process open to Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA between 1981 and 2000 due to denial of application for loan or loan servicing assistance. The claim period began September 24, 2012, and will continue through March 25, 2013. Information related to applying for consideration under the claim process may be obtained by calling 1-888-508-4429 or on the web at [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov).

### **New Microloan Program Announced**

In January, FSA started offering more flexible access to credit through the new microloan program. The program is an attractive loan alternative for smaller farming operations like specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA). Microloans can be used for all approved operating expenses as authorized by the FSA Operating Loan (OL) Program, including but not limited to seed costs, equipment purchases, livestock purchases, fertilizer costs, minor farm improvements, and marketing expenses.

Eligible applicants may obtain a microloan for up to \$35,000. The repayment term may vary and will not exceed seven years. Annual operating loans are repaid within 12 months or when the agricultural commodities produced are sold. Currently the rate is 1.25 percent. Contact a Farm Loan representative for more information on this new loan program.

### **2013 Acreage Reporting Changes**

Farm Service Agency and the Risk Management Agency have established joint acreage reporting dates; the changes will be effective beginning for the 2013 reporting year. Unfortunately, what that means is that FSA dates will now match the "earliest" acreage reporting date for insurable crops, rather than having one date for all crops in the county which had previously been the case. The dates for Washington State for 2013 are as follows:

Fall planted wheat/small grains	12/15/2012	Fall planted canola	12/15/2012
Mint	12/15/2012	Fall planted onions	12/15/2012
Alfalfa seed	12/15/2012	Perennial fruits and grapes	01/15/2013
Spring planted crops	07/15/2013	CRP	07/15/2013
Perennial forages	07/15/2013 *	Buckwheat	08/15/2013

\* Perennial forage crops covered under a Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP) policy are required to be reported not later than 15 days after the beginning of harvest of the crop; for range policies within 15 days of the beginning of the NAP grazing season; for hayed crops, within 15 days of first cutting, as established by the County Committee.

Acreage reports accepted after the date(s) specified will be considered late filed, and subject to late filing provisions including a late filing fee. Due to the timing of announcing these changes, USDA has instituted a process to waive late filing fees for fall seeded crops and perennial fruit crops.

Producers are reminded that July 15, 2013 is the final date to certify their 2013 crops. Acreage reports after this date are considered late filed and a fee will be charged for those reports after July 15, 2013.

## **Farm Changes and Reconstitution of Farm Records**

Any changes in your farm's physical makeup, such as adding or removing land, can impact your acreage base. Farm reconstitutions must be requested by August 1 to be effective for the 2013 program year. Your farm must currently be complying with program requirements as it is structured, including required signatures and acreage reporting completed.

## **2012 ACRE Farms Production Reports Required**

Operators are reminded that those farms enrolled in the ACRE program for 2012 are required to provide the county office a completed production report for each 2012 program crop planted. The deadline for completing this requirement is July 15, 2013.

Production reports are supplied by farm, by commodity on form FSA-658. Now is a good time to be assembling this information and completing this requirement. Failure to submit production evidence will require the termination of your 2012 contract resulting in a requirement to repay all funds disbursed for the farm.

## **Is Your E-mail Address Up-to-Date?**

Please keep the office informed of changes to your e-mail address because this is the only manner in which our office provides newsletters. If you have changes please let our office know. Also, talk to your neighbor and see if they have provided our office with their e-mail address. Your assistance is really appreciated.

## **Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Compliance**

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions is required. Farmers with HEL determined soils must comply with tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified in their conservation plan. Producers should notify FSA prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. If you intend to clear any trees to create new cropland, these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure any work will not jeopardize your eligibility for benefits.

Landowners and operators can complete form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is necessary. For more information on Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation provisions, contact a FSA County Office or visit the FSA website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/).

## **2012 Commodity Loan Deadlines Approaching**

Eligible producers that want to take out a 2012 commodity loan have until March 31, 2013 to apply for wheat, barley, canola or oats loans. Producers with dry peas, lentils, or corn have until May 31, 2013 to apply for their commodity loans. The current interest rate for February is 1.125 percent. Interest rates are the rate in effect when you take out the loan and are set for the 9 months loan.

## **CRP Cost Share Paperwork**

CRP participants that signed up last year and had contracts approved effect October 1, 2012 will soon be receiving their cost share paperwork for work scheduled in the conservation plan this spring/early summer. As a general reminder, producers need to review their conservation plan and take the necessary actions outlined in their plan. With all the different contracts and different practices needing to be carried out the office staff can't remind each applicant that they have work to be completed. If you have questions please call our office or the NRCS office if you have technical questions.