



June 25, 2009

YAKIMA COUNTY FSA NEWS

Yakima County FSA

1606 Perry Street, Suite A
Yakima, WA 98902-5769
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Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Daniel T. Martinez, Chairperson
Nadeen Boyle, Vice-Chairperson
Wes Underwood, Member
Gilbert Gonzalez, Jr., Advisor
Carol Hull, Advisor

Office Staff

Sandy Christensen, PT
Maria De La Mora, PT
Jennifer DeWeese, PT
Sherry Fadden, PT
Crispin Garza, SCL
Brian Miller, CED
Kim Miller, PT
Todd Munson, FA
Lisa Ruff, FLM
Scott Smith, FLO

Next COC Meeting

June 30, 2009
9:00 AM

Dates to Remember

- June 30- Acreage reporting deadline
- August 3- COC election nomination deadline
- August 14- DCP & ACRE signup deadline
- August 15- EQIP application deadline

FSA Web Sites

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



FSA COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Nominating petitions for the FSA County Committee elections are now being accepted. The elections are being held in Local Administrative Area #1 this year. This area consists of farms located in the upper valley (north of the Rattlesnake Ridge), minus the land situated south of Ahtanum Creek. Producers in this area will be electing a County Committee person to serve a three-year term.

Farm owners, operators and tenants of legal voting age, in LAA #1 can run for a committee position and vote if they are eligible to take part in any FSA program. Spouses are generally eligible to participate in committee elections. Any producer who feels that they may not have received an election ballot in the past should contact our office to ensure that they are on the list of eligible voters. Nominations from minority, female, and producers from under-represented groups are encouraged. A petition form signed by the nominee is needed to nominate a farmer-candidate. The petition includes a certification that the candidate agrees to serve if elected.

The deadline to file a nominating petition for the FSA County Committee election is August 3, 2009.

ACREAGE REPORTING DEADLINE

Producers who wish to maintain eligibility for the following programs need to file an acreage report with our office by June 30:

- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) participants
- Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) & Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) participants
- Wheat, feed grain, honey & wool producers who wish to maintain eligibility for price support loans and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's)
- Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) participants

Planting dates are needed for the crops being reported. Please make note of your planting dates, and have them with you when you come in to file your acreage report. Late-file acreage reports require a fee for a farm visit.

NONINSURED CROP LOSSES?

Producers who purchased catastrophic crop loss coverage for noninsurable 2009 crops, under the *Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)*, need to remember the reporting requirements for crop losses. NAP participants must file a written notice of loss within 15 days after the disaster event occurred, or damage to the crop became evident. Also, if you do not intend to harvest the crop, you must request an appraisal by an FSA representative prior to destruction or abandonment of the crop. **Failure to adhere to these timelines will result in ineligibility for NAP benefits.**

EMERGENCY LOANS

Producers in Yakima County may be eligible for emergency loans under the following disaster declarations. The declarations cover damages and losses caused by the following conditions:

- Winter storms which occurred December 14, 2008 through January 15, 2009; (*September 26, 2009 application deadline*).
- Severe winter storms, landslides, mudslides, and flooding which occurred January 6-16, 2009; (*October 13, 2009 application deadline*).
- Drought, unusually cool weather, and freeze which occurred January 1 through December 31, 2008; (*October 13, 2009 application deadline*).
- Severe winter storms and record or near record snowfall which occurred December 12, 2008 through January 5, 2009; (*November 2, 2009 application deadline*).

For more information on emergency loans please contact our office.

EQIP SIGNUP DEADLINE

The application deadline and ranking cut-off date for the Environmental

Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) is **August 15, 2009**. The August application ranking cut-off date represents an on-going agency effort to provide landowners and NRCS adequate time to develop comprehensive conservation plans for implementing the various practices and activities funded through the program for the 2010 year. The program is intended to address resource problems by providing financial incentives for landowners to solve them by implementing the appropriate conservation practices. Funds are divided into several different funding pools to allow all land uses opportunity for the program in Benton, Yakima and Klickitat Counties. Prospective applicants are encouraged to contact their local NRCS office as soon as possible to ensure eligibility and to begin the application process.

DCP & ACRE SIGNUP DEADLINE

Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) participants must enroll and submit the signature of all parties with a share of the crop, by August 14, 2009.

ACRE is an alternate to DCP participation. ACRE participants earn direct payments, but with a 20% reduction. Grain loan rates on ACRE-enrolled farms are also reduced by 30%. The benefit of ACRE is potential revenue protection payments on **planted crops** when market prices, state yields, and/or farm yields are below established guarantees. The opportunity to elect ACRE will be offered each year 2009-12, but once elected the decision is irrevocable through 2012. All producers on a farm must agree to the election.

PAYMENT LIMITATION & ELIGIBILITY

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. 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.

All payment eligibility forms are subject to spot check through an 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.

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.

Se habla español en esta oficina de FSA. Si quiere información tocante a los programas de crédito, conservación y otros programas que suministra esta oficina, por favor visite o llame la oficina de FSA. El número de teléfono es (509) 454-5746. La dirección se encuentra encima.