



November 8, 2010

## Yakima County FSA

1606 Perry Street, Suite A  
Yakima, WA 98902-5769  
Phone- (509) 454-5746, Ext. #2  
Fax- (509) 454-5682

## Office Hours

Monday – Friday  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

## County Committee

Nadeen Boyle, Chairperson  
Wes Underwood, Vice Chairperson  
Mark Barrett, Member  
Carol Hull, Advisor  
Sergio Marquez, Advisor

## Office Staff

Sandy Christensen, PT  
Maria De La Mora, PT  
Jennifer DeWeese, PT  
Crispin Garza, SCL  
Brian Miller, CED  
Kim Miller, PT  
Lisa Ruff, FLM  
Scott Smith, FLO  
Chris Werner, FLOT  
Clint, Wilson, FA

## Next COC Meeting

November 30, 2010  
9:00 AM

## Dates to Remember

- November 22- NAP application deadline
- December 6- COC Election voting deadline
- November 11- Office closed in observance of Veteran's Day
- November 25- Office closed in observance of Thanksgiving

## FSA Web Sites

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



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

## FSA COMMITTEE ELECTIONS



The final day to vote in the Committee election is **Monday, December 6.**

The elections are being held in Local Administrative Area #3 this year. This area consists of farms located in the lower Yakima Valley (south of the Rattlesnake Ridge), that are south and west of the Yakima River, plus the land situated south of Ahtanum Creek. Producers in this area will be electing a County Committee person and two alternates to serve a three-year term.

- **Nadeen Boyle** farms west of Harrah, and has over 39 years of experience in the production of corn, mint, wheat and hay, and raising cattle. Ms. Boyle is a member of the Farm Bureau, and is an FSA County Committee Member.
- **Carol R. Hull** farms near White Swan, and has 31 years experience in the production of hay and raising cattle. Ms. Hull is an enrolled member of the Yakama Nation, and is an FSA County Committee Advisor.
- **Sergio Marquez** farms between Toppenish and Harrah, and has 31 years experience in the production of apples, apricots, cherries, nectarines and peaches. Mr. Marquez is a member of the Center for Latino Farmers, is on the Board of Directors for the Agricultores Latinos Association, and is an FSA County Committee Advisor.

The election ballots must be returned or postmarked by Monday, December 6, 2010. In addition, voters must sign the certification on the ballot envelope for the ballot to be considered valid! Producers who did not receive a ballot and feel like they should have, should contact our office. **Please take the time to vote for the candidate of your choice!**

## NAP APPLICATION DEADLINE

Producers may now purchase catastrophic crop loss coverage under *Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)*. Upcoming application deadlines for 2011 crops are as follows:

- November 22- Asparagus, berries, and other noninsurable perennial fruit and vegetable crops, and honey.
- March 15- Most spring seeded crops, including vegetables.

The cost of the coverage is \$250 per crop, not to exceed \$750 per producer, per County. Producers interested in this program should call our office for an appointment to apply.

The 2008 Farm Bill created new disaster assistance programs, made others permanent, and made changes to existing programs. Most importantly, Congress tied most disaster assistance eligibility to producers obtaining a minimum CAT level of crop insurance or NAP coverage for uninsurable crops for all crops on all of a producer's farms.

The **Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE)** covers crop losses on the whole farm when the county receives a disaster designation or losses exceed 50% of the farm's total production. Payments are made on 60% of the difference between the SURE guarantee and total farm revenue.

**Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)** provides a payment to ranchers who suffer losses due to drought or fire. The **Tree Assistance Program (TAP)** provides compensation to orchardists and nursery producers to replant trees and vines. The **Emergency Loss Assistance Program (ELAP)** addresses unique disasters not covered by any other program. The **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** provides payment for loss of livestock.

Remember, all disaster assistance eligibility, except for LIP, is subject to producers obtaining a minimum CAT level of crop insurance or NAP coverage for uninsurable crops, for all crops on all of a producer's farms.

## LOANS AVAILABLE

FSA has direct and guaranteed loan programs available for family-sized farm businesses. FSA's loan programs are designed to help farmers

who are temporarily unable to obtain private, commercial credit.

The loan limits for direct operating and farm ownership loans are \$300,000 each. The loan limit for guaranteed operating and farm ownership loans is a combined total of \$1,119,000. Funding is allocated for these programs after October 1 of each year.

Depending on the type of loan, funds can be used to purchase farms, livestock, and equipment, operate the farm, build or repair farm buildings, pay for water development for conservation practices and in some cases refinance debts. For additional information contact 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 operators access to credit to implement conservation techniques that will conserve natural resources.

“This will give farmers who want to implement conservation measures on their lands a chance to do so by providing assistance with their up-front costs,” said Vilsack. “In return, these producers will help to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality and promote sustainable and organic agricultural practices.”

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](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

### **ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER FOR PAYMENTS MADE BY CHECK**

Over the next year, FSA/CCC is moving toward an electronic method for processing producers' checks. This will allow FSA 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. We expect this to begin in our office during FY 2011. 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 more detailed information:  
<https://www.pccotc.gov/pccotc/pcc/usingpcc/Legal%20Notices/legalnotices.htm>

### **BANK 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.

### **SPOUSAL SIGNATURE AUTHORITY**

A husband and wife can sign most documents on behalf 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.

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 encontra encima.