



OCTOBER 2008

CHELAN & DOUGLAS FSA NEWS

Chelan County FSA

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Douglas County FSA

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Waterville, WA 98858-0489
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Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Chelan

County Committee

Richard Smithson, Chair
Kelly Riedinger, V-Chair
Phyllis Gleasman, Member
Raul Sanchez, Advisor

Douglas

County Committee

Rodney Peterson, Chair
Randy Mittelstaedt, V-Chair
Norman Cavadini, Member
Terri Brandt, Advisor
Jesus Limon, Advisor

Office Staffs

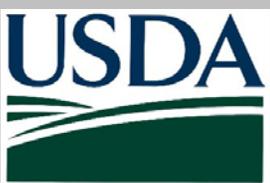
Michel Ruud, CED
Mike Cada, FLM
Bill Henry
Anita Perez
Dawn Peaslee
Lori Tabler
Sherry Ramin
Janice Badten
Paul Daling

Next COC Meeting

October 14, 2008; Joint meeting
Chelan & Douglas
9:00 a.m.

Website Addresses:

<http://www.usda.gov>
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>



PUBLIC MEETING FOR CHERRY GROWERS

In 2009, The USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) is implementing a pilot plan of insurance for sweet cherries based on Actual Revenue History rather than the Fixed Dollar Plan. This plan is to be implemented in Adams, Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Franklin, Grant, Klickitat, Okanogan, Walla Walla and Yakima counties.

On **October 15, 2008** at the Chelan County Courthouse, Commissioners Chamber Meeting Room (400 Douglas Street) in Wenatchee at **7:00 p.m.**, RMA representatives will be on hand to explain why this new plan is superior and better protects growers against losses from low yields, low prices, low quality or any combination of these events. Representatives will field questions from cherry growers about the plan.

It is strongly advised that cherry growers in the pilot counties contact their local crop insurance agent well ahead of the November 20, 2008 sales closing deadline to rewrite their crop insurance policies for the 2009 crop year since the Fixed Dollar Plan will no longer be available. For a listing of crop insurance agents in your area, visit the RMA web site at <http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents/companies/>.

Catastrophic level coverage is not available for cherries under this pilot program. So FSA will be on hand to explain **Non-insured Assistance Program coverage for cherries**. For questions about the meeting or if you require special accommodations to participate, please contact FSA.

2009 CROP INSURANCE OR NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COVERAGE

The new Farm Bill provides for 5 new disaster assistance programs:

- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payment Program (SURE)
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)

For any crop to be eligible for these programs, all crops (including pasture) must have crop insurance or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage. NAP is available for crops that are not insurable or not fully covered by Federal Crop Insurance. If you suffer a loss to one crop and all crops do not have some type of coverage, no crops will be eligible for disaster assistance. Some examples:

- If you suffer livestock or bee deaths and your pasture or honey was not covered under NAP, you will not be able to obtain assistance through LIP or ELAP.
- If you have insured your apples and suffer apple losses and did not have your grapes covered by NAP, you will be unable to apply for disaster programs on any of your fruit losses under SURE.
- If you suffer fruit tree losses, and do not have all your fruit crops covered by crop insurance or NAP, you cannot apply for disaster assistance through TAP.
- If you have a loss to your insured wheat crop and did not have your pasture land that you graze insured under NAP, you cannot apply for disaster assistance on your wheat under SURE.
- If you have a loss to your insured wheat crop and did not have your barley or oats covered under crop insurance or your canola or peas covered by NAP, you cannot apply for disaster assistance on your wheat under SURE.

Please remember, **ALL** crops must have some type of coverage in order for **ANY** to be eligible for disaster assistance. The final date to purchase NAP from our office is **December 1, 2008** for 2009 crops that are non-insurable. Give us a call if you have any questions.

COST SHARE ASSISTANCE FOR FENCING LOSSES DUE TO FIRE

The Farm Service Agency in Douglas County recently received \$532,000 in federal funding for the Emergency Conservation Program. Producers who suffered damages from the fires in July may be reimbursed for conservation expenses related to the disaster. The program makes available cost-share dollars for repairing/replacing fence as a result of the fire. Farmers and ranchers may sign up for the program at the Farm Service Agency office in Waterville until **November 21, 2008**. Cost-share assistance of up to 75 percent of the cost is available. The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) may provide technical assistance for the program to repair/replace livestock fencing in pastures or deer fencing around orchards.

For a producer's land to be eligible, the disaster must create new conservation problems that, if untreated, would impair or endanger the land and affect its productive capacity. Conservation problems existing prior to the applicable disaster are ineligible for ECP assistance. For additional information about the ECP and other disaster assistance programs, contact the Farm Service Agency at (509) 745-8561 or check online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

FSA'S AGRICULTURAL LENDING PROGRAM

Each year Congress allocates dollars to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to operate an Agricultural Lending program. We presently have priority funding set aside to assist beginning farmers with their farming operations. Also, a portion of the funds is specifically allocated for minority and women. While FSA farm loans are available to all qualified applicants, by setting aside funds specifically for minorities and women, it ensures that they will receive a portion of available funds.

FSA has direct lending authority in which FSA makes a real estate or operating loan directly to farmers and ranchers. FSA also puts a federal guarantee on loans made by banks and other agricultural lending institutions.

Funding availability relies on Congressional authorizations. Contact the Chelan County Farm Service Agency office (509-664-0285) if you have questions about availability of loan funds or other questions about FSA's loan programs.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Election ballots will be sent to all eligible voters in the applicable local administrative area by our Kansas City Management Office in early November. Producers need to return the ballots to the local FSA Office by December 3, 2008.

In Chelan County: **William Clark, Pasqual Rodriguez** and **Edna Stocker** are candidates for election in the Entiat, Chelan and Manson areas (LAA No. 1).

In Douglas County: **Terry Ludeman, Carolyn Meenach** and **Rodney Peterson** are candidates for election in the area south of State Highway No. 2 (LAA No. 2).

WE ARE MOVING.....

The Chelan County FSA Office is moving from the Federal Building at 301 Yakima Street in Wenatchee, to the Forest Service Building at 215 Melody Lane on the north end of town. This move will take place in early November. We will notify producers of new telephone contact information once we have it. Stay tuned!

Se habla español en esta oficina de FSA. Si quiere informacion tocante a los programas de crédito, conservacion y otros programas que se administran en esta oficina, por favor visite o llame la oficina de FSA. El número de teléfono es (509) 664-0283 en el condado de Chelan. La direccion se encuentra al frente.