



November 2008

FERRY & OKANOGAN COUNTY FSA NEWS

Ferry County FSA

P.O. Box 323
84 E. Delaware
Republic, WA 99166
Phone (509) 775-3390
Fax (509) 775-3170

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Luanne Finley, Chairperson
Dave Konz, Vice-Chairperson
Kathy Olson, Regular Member

Office Staff

Gary Breiler, CED
Virginia Lane, PT



Okanogan County FSA

1251 2nd Ave. S. Rm 103
Okanogan, WA 98840
Phone (509) 422-3292
Fax (509) 422-0532

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Ray Colbert, Chairperson
Stan Stout, Vice-Chairperson
Jeff Delfeld, Regular Member
Marcia Henneman, Advisor
James McCuen, Advisor

Office Staff

Gary Breiler, CED
Judy Adams, PT
Cliffene Coyne, PT
Stu Skidmore, FLM
Jose Limon, FLO
Sandy Hinger, FLT

Next COC Meetings:

Ferry – Nov. 18, 2008
Okanogan – Nov. 18, 2008

Meetings start at 10:00 am & will be held at Whistlers Restaurant in Tonasket, WA

CED – County Executive Director
FLM – Farm Loan Manager
FLO – Farm Loan Officer
FLT – Farm Loan Technician
PT – Program Technician

FSA Web Site Address:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

WA State Web Site:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>

ACCESSIBILITY

Persons with disabilities who require special accommodations may contact the county office. FSA is committed to making programs accessible to all customers.



COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Election ballots were sent to all eligible voters earlier this month. In 2008, Local Administrative Area (LAA) #3 in Ferry County and LAA#3 in Okanogan County are up for election. Area #3 in Ferry County includes all land lying south of Township 35 (Southern portion of the county). **William J. Floyd** is the candidate for election. Area #3 in Okanogan County encompasses the northern portion of the county. It includes parts of Omak and runs north to the Border. **Jose R. Luna, Mark Timmerman, Raymond E. Colbert** and **Victor Z. Castro** are the candidates for election.

The deadline for returning ballots is **December 1, 2008**. Polling stations will also be setup in Inchelium at the Community Center and in Nespelem at Tribal Headquarters on December 1, 2008, from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm for the Ferry County election. In Ferry County, the ballots will be counted at the county office on December 2, 2008, at 10:00 am. In Okanogan County, the ballots will be counted at the county office on December 4, 2008, at 10:00 am.

If you have any questions when you receive your ballot, or if you don't receive a ballot and believe you should have, be sure to call our office.

2009 CROP INSURANCE OR NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COVERAGE

The 2008 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, with the exception of LIP. 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 bee losses and the honey was not covered under crop insurance or NAP, you will not be eligible to obtain assistance through ELAP.
- If you have insured apples and suffer apples losses and did not have grapes covered by crop insurance or NAP, you will be unable to apply for disaster programs on any of your crops under SURE.
- If you suffer fruit tree losses, and you do not have all of your 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 can apply for disaster assistance on your wheat under SURE, but will not be eligible for pasture loss under LFP.
- If you have a loss to your insured wheat crop and did not have barley or oats covered under crop insurance or by NAP (if the barley or oats were intended for forage), 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. Fees for the NAP policies have increased from \$100 to \$250 per crop with a limit of \$750 per county and \$1,875 per producer for all counties. Give us a call if you have any questions.

2005-2007 CROP DISASTER PROGRAM

Sign-up continues for disaster assistance through the Crop Disaster Program (CDP). If you suffered crop losses in any year 2005 – 2007, you may be eligible for benefits. Quantity and quality losses are eligible. In order to apply producers must have had federal crop insurance or non-insured assistance program coverage (NAP) on their crop, for the applicable year. No ending date has been announced. Please contact our office to make an appointment to sign-up or if you have any questions.

FSA's AGRICULTURAL LENDING PROGRAM

The new Farm Bill increased loan limits for Operating and Real Estate purchase loans to \$300,000. This is the first increase in over 20 years. FSA offers several types of loans, including both direct and guaranteed loans. FSA also has loan funds which are specifically allocated for beginning farmers, minorities, women and youth loans. For more information, please contact FSA's loan department, located at the FSA office in Okanogan.

HARVEST AGAINST HUNGER

The **Harvest Against Hunger** project seeks to glean and distribute produce to thousands of hungry families throughout Washington State. **Harvest Against Hunger** will arrange for a volunteer force to harvest and for the transport of gleaned produce. All produce collected will be offered to local food banks first. If they are not able to use the donation, the produce will be offered to the next closest group that can make use of the produce.

There is an urgent need for farm contacts. Harvest Against Hunger is asking farmers, hunger response agencies and community leaders statewide to help identify growers in their local communities who might be interested in participating in this project.

Contact Information

Harvest Against Hunger
Program Director, Julie Fine
1.800.457.4483

Email: harvestagainsthunger@gmail.com

<http://www.firstharvest.org/harvestagainsthunger.asp>

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- November 20, 2008 - Deadline to purchase Federal Crop Insurance for fruit crops. Contact your agent.
- December 1, 2008 - Deadline for returning completed Committee Election ballots.
- December 1, 2008 - Deadline to purchase 2009 NAP coverage for fall crops.

OFFICE CLOSURE

This office will be closed on November 27, 2008, in observance of Thanksgiving Day.