



September 2008

KLICKITAT COUNTY



Farm Service Agency

Klickitat County FSA

1107 S Columbus Avenue
Goldendale, WA 98620-9296
(509) 773-5822
Fax (509) 773-6046

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Kelly Kreps, Chair
Karl Enyeart, Vice-Chair
Susan Powers, Member

Office Staff

Virginia Klein, CED
Betty Fahlenkamp, PT
Norene Bartkowski, PT

Farm Loan Staff

Lisa Ruff, FLM
Crispin Garza, SCL
Scott Smith, FLO
Sandy Christensen, FLT

1606 Perry Street, Suite A
Yakima, WA 98902-5769
(509)454-5746

Next COC Meeting

September 24, 2008
9:00 AM

Dates to Remember

- **Sept. 30** - DCP Deadline
- **Oct. 13** - Columbus Day; Office Closed
- **Oct. 20-23** - FSA Statewide Training; Office Closed
- **Nov. 4** - Informational Meeting in Goldendale
- **Nov. 5** - Informational Meeting in Bickleton with Klickitat Co. Wheat Growers
- **Nov. 11** - Veteran's Day; Office Closed
- **Nov. 27** - Thanksgiving; Office Closed
- **Dec. 1** - NAP 2009 Deadline

FSA Web Sites

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



2008 DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM DEADLINE NEARS

Signup for the 2008 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) began on June 25, 2008 and will continue through September 30, 2008. The deadline to take signed applications is **September 30, 2008**. Remember, you must sign an FSA-509 contract each year in order to receive payment. Producers can elect to take 22% of the annual direct payment in advance with the remainder being paid in October. We no longer will be paying farms with 10 acres or less of base. Contracts have been mailed out. Please sign, date and return as soon as possible. If you have not received your contract, please let us know!

DISASTER ASSISTANCE REQUIREMENTS CHANGE

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill), was enacted on June 18, 2008. The 2008 Farm Bill created several new disaster programs. Producers **must purchase** at least CAT level of insurance for all insurable crops and/or NAP coverage for non-insurable crops to be eligible for these programs. As a result, 2009 NAP application closing dates that fall before December 1 have been extended to **December 1, 2008**. This will allow producers to meet the NAP eligibility criteria for the new disaster programs. Crops with the December 1 closing date include but are not limited to: perennial grazing crops; perennial forage crops; tree fruit crops; grapes; and grain forage.

The rates have also changed for 2009. For each crop, the NAP coverage rate is \$250.00 not to exceed \$750.00 per county and \$1,875 per producer for all counties.

Another change for 2009 is that all grazing/harvested acres must be insured including any pasture used for horses, goats, sheep, etc. This means pastures used for horses must also be insured or you will not receive the benefits from the disaster programs.

NAP/ crop insurance **is required** for the following programs: Emergency Assistance for Livestock (ELAP); Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP); Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE); and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP). The more crop insurance coverage a producer has, the more the SURE guarantee will be.

Producers with fall planted commodities need to be making important crop insurance decisions for the upcoming crop year. Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office and visit with a crop insurance agent to fully understand what crop insurance programs are available in the county and to ensure they are obtaining adequate coverage for eligibility. The next round of sales closing dates for federal crop insurance is **September 30** for fall planted crops like wheat, forage production, (fall) barley and mint (with winter coverage).

If there is no crop insurance coverage in a county for a specific crop, and that crop is insurable in another county under the traditional federal crop insurance program, a producer may seek coverage by asking an agent whether they would be eligible for crop insurance coverage under a written agreement.

2008 FARM BILL UPDATES LOAN PROGRAM

The following 2008 Farm Bill provisions are effective immediately:

1. The maximum loan amount authorized for direct Farm Ownership assistance is increased from \$200,000 to \$300,000.
2. The maximum loan amount authorized for direct Farm Operating assistance is increased from \$200,000 to \$300,000.
3. The Farm Ownership Down Payment Program has been expanded to include socially disadvantaged farmers as well as beginning farmers and ranchers. In addition, the maximum amount of the loan has been changed to an amount not to exceed 45% the lesser of 1) the purchase price of the farm to be acquired, 2) the appraised value of the farm to be acquired, or 3) \$500,000. The amount of the down payment amount is reduced from 10% to 5% and the maximum term of the loan is extended from 15 to 20 years.
4. The guaranteed operating loan term limit waiver is extended through December 31, 2010.

There are other statutory changes included in the legislation, but require regulations to be written before implementation. Contact our office if you have any questions on the above changes or on the loan program in general.

NEW TERMINOLOGY FOR FARM PROGRAMS

The 2008 Farm Bill grants exceptions to certain program rules for beginning, socially disadvantaged and limited resource farmers/ranchers. This statutory terminology is not new to FSA's loan programs but it is new for most other programs. Definitions may differ slightly depending on the program.

A beginning farmer/rancher is an individual or an entity who has operated a farm for 10 years or less and who participates substantially in the farm/ranch operation. For loan purposes of purchasing a farm, the farm must be no more than 30 percent of the median size farm in the county. All members of an entity must meet the definition for the entity to be considered beginning farmers or ranchers. This definition applies to the purchase of a 2008 risk management waiver for disaster assistance programs.

A socially disadvantaged farmer/rancher is a member of a demographic group whose members have historically been subjected to racial, ethnic, or for some programs, gender prejudice. Groups include: American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asians, Blacks or African Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Hispanics/Latinos. For DCP, ACRE and farm loans, women meet the socially disadvantaged definition. Socially disadvantaged, without the gender consideration, is applicable for the purchase of a 2008 risk management waiver for disaster assistance programs.

A limited resource farmer/rancher is an individual who, in the previous two years, has had gross farm sales of not more than \$100,000 (base year 2004) adjusted for inflation. Additionally, the farmer/rancher must have a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four or less than 50% of county median household income. A tool that adjusts for inflation and county can be found at <http://www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/tool.asp> or ask for assistance at our office. The limited resource definition applies to DCP, ACRE, ECP, NAP, farm loans and the purchase of a 2008 risk management waiver for disaster assistance programs.

COUNTY LOANS ANNOUNCED FOR 2008

2008 County Loan Rates have been announced for grain crops.

SWW Wheat	\$2.80/Bu	HRS Wheat	\$3.38/Bu
HRW Wheat	\$3.42/Bu	Barley	\$2.28/Bu

JOINT AND ASSIGNED PAYMENT AUTHORIZATIONS

Due to the new Farm Bill, all joint or assigned payment authorizations filed on CCC-36 or CCC-37 must have been filed on or after May 22, for 2008 DCP. This does not apply to 2008 CRP Payments.

OFFICE CLOSED DURING STATEWIDE TRAINING

Statewide training for the 2008 Farm Bill provisions will take place on **October 20-23**. The Klickitat County office will be closed during this time for staff to attend the training. If you need assistance during these dates, please leave a message with the Conservation District or a phone message on (509) 773-5822 ext. 115. We will be checking messages.

STRATEGIC PLANNING TO ASSURE FUTURE AVAILABILITY OF LOCAL LANDS FOR KLICKITAT COUNTY AGRICULTURE PUBLIC MEETINGS

Klickitat County will be conducting public meetings to seek input on the future of agriculture in the county. Tentative meeting dates and times are as follows. Please confirm final dates with Don Stuart, American Farmland Trust; (206) 860-4222.

Centerville Grange-October 21 & November 18

White Salmon Grange-October 22 & November 19

Alder Creek Grange (Bickleton)-October 23 & November 20