



May 2008

## CHELAN & DOUGLAS FSA NEWS

**Chelan County FSA**  
301 Yakima Street, Room 303  
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**Douglas County FSA**  
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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**  
June 11 – Chelan  
8:00 a.m.

June 10 – Douglas  
9:00 a.m.

**Website Addresses:**  
<http://www.usda.gov>  
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>  
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>



### CRP WEED CONTROL

Please remember to be diligent in controlling your weeds on CRP contract acreages. For Washington State, the established primary nesting period is April 1 through August 1. The COC has granted permission in advance for CRP participants who were identified with weeds during the Re-Enrollment/Extension process, to complete the **spot treatment activities** (including border spraying of 100 feet). For other maintenance activities, permission can be granted by the local County FSA Committee in advance of the treatment for those areas on your contracts that need some “spot” spraying or mowing. These written spot treatment requests are reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and only approved for the problem areas.

CRP managed haying or grazing is prohibited, as well as any maintenance activity on the established CRP contracts during this time period. CRP acreage in Washington State may not be used for “managed” haying and grazing more than one out of every 10 years (outside of nesting period dates). Failure to comply with the above dates can result in a violation of your CRP contract for non compliance. We would like to thank those producers who are being proactive in keeping their weeds under control.

### ANNUAL ACREAGE CERTIFICATION

2008 crop acreage reports are now being accepted. **June 30** is the last day to timely certify your acreage. Planting dates need to be provided. Several programs require the filing of an acreage report in order to remain in compliance. They include:

- ❖ Farms enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program
- ❖ Crops for which benefits may be requested under the Non-Insured Assistance Program

In the past, acreage reporting has been required for producers who participated in the Direct & Counter Cyclical Program and if you wanted to participate in the Commodity Loan Program or obtain a Loan Deficiency Payment. Since the 2008 Farm Bill has not yet been passed, there is some uncertainty as to what programs it may contain. Reporting your planted acreage is simply a good idea for history purposes and to ensure eligibility in any future programs. **We are taking appointments for certification. Please contact our offices to schedule yours.**

### EQIP SIGN-UP DEADLINE

July 15 is the application cut-off date for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) in order to be considered for 2009 fiscal year funding. This program is a voluntary cost-share assistance program through the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The program provides private landowners with conservation of natural resources on grazing land, dry cropland, forestland, irrigated cropland and orchard. EQIP is designed to improve productivity, conserve resources plus enhance habitat for local, native wildlife. This earlier than normal sign-up deadline provides an advantage of allowing sufficient time to develop a high quality conservation plan and allow producers more time to consider the costs and benefits of the practices before making a final commitment. Additional details about the program can be found on the Washington NRCS website at: <http://www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov> You can contact NRCS using the same telephone number as FSA, then dialing extension three.

### ARE YOU OPERATING UNDER A DBA?

Program participation is limited to producers who are legally recognized individuals, joint operations and partnerships, and other entities (corporations, trust, estates, LLC, etc.). Producers may not participate or receive payments through a DBA (doing business as), even with a tax identification number because income is not reported using these numbers, it is tied to the individual. This change is effective for all 2008 programs and payments.

### FAXED SIGNATURES

FSA will accept producer’s faxed signatures, without having any other authorization form on file.

## **SIGN-UP FOR CROP DISASTER PROGRAM**

Sign-up continues in the 2005, 2006, 2007 Crop Disaster Program (CDP). Production loss applications are currently being processed for damage due to weather related conditions. Eligible producers must have obtained Federal Crop Insurance or NAP coverage for the applicable year. We will soon be receiving training on processing quality losses. Please contact our offices for an appointment or if you have any questions. No sign-up ending date has been announced.

## **LIVESTOCK ASSISTANCE AND INDEMNITY PROGRAM**

Sign-up continues in LIP and LCP for livestock and feed losses due to weather related conditions. The National Office is considering establishing an ending date for these programs in the near future. Please contact our offices for an appointment if you suffered animal or pasture losses, or if you have any questions.

## **BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER FINANCING**

FSA's loan programs are designed to help family farmers who are temporarily unable to obtain commercial credit. In many cases, these are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for commercial credit. The law also requires FSA to reserve or target loan funds for exclusive use by beginning farmers. Funds remain targeted for beginning farmers in the guaranteed programs until April 1 of each year. In the direct programs, funds are targeted for beginning farmers until September 1 of each year.

A beginning farmer or rancher is an individual or entity who:

- Has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years
- Substantially participates in the operation
- For Farm Ownership loan purposes, does not own a farm greater than 30 percent of the average size farm in the county
- For Farm Ownership loan purposes, must have participated in the business operation of a farm for at least three years.

Maximum amounts of indebtedness are \$200,000 for Direct Loans and \$949,000 (amount varies annually based on inflation) for Guaranteed Loans. FSA has a special down payment program to assist beginning farmers and ranchers to purchase a farm or ranch. This program also provides a means for retiring farmers and ranchers to transfer their land to a future generation. Also, beginning farmer or rancher applicants may choose to participate in a joint financing plan. In this program, FSA lends up to 50% of the amount financed, and another lender provides 40% or more. The borrower then provides 10% of the total amount. FSA will charge a reduced interest rate on the loan. Eligible beginning farmers and ranchers are given first priority to purchase FSA acquired properties at the appraised market value for the first 135 days after acquisition. For more information about FSA loan programs, please call us.

## **REPORTING CROP LOSSES**

Producers who suffered damages due to recent weather events are urged to notify FSA. Please remember that this is required if you are a participant in the Non-Insured Assistant Program. It also helps us gather information to report the extent of crop losses when a disaster occurs. FSA's reports are used to determine what types of future assistance might be provided. Your information is very valuable, please help us help you!

## **FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE**

The Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 requires FSA and Risk Management Agency (RMA) employees to work together to improve program compliance and integrity within the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA will assist RMA and insurance providers in monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season and will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse about the Federal Crop Insurance Program to RMA. FSA will also assist RMA with auditing claims.

**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.**

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