



SEPTEMBER 2008

CHELAN & DOUGLAS FSA NEWS

Chelan County FSA

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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

September 16, 2008; Douglas
9:00 a.m.

September 10, 2008; Chelan
8:00 a.m.

Website Addresses:

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



2008 LOSSES

Did you suffer a loss to any of your 2008 crops, pasture, trees or livestock? 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)

In order to be eligible for any of these programs, producers must have obtained a plan of coverage for each insurable and non-insurable commodity on the farm (including pasture). FSA will allow agricultural producers who had 2008 crop losses (who would otherwise be ineligible for the new disaster assistance program) to become eligible by paying a fee. A waiver is available to allow producers to “buy-in” and be eligible for the new disaster assistance for their 2008 losses. Every producer whose crops, including all grazing lands, are not fully covered by crop insurance or Non-Insurance Assistance Program (NAP) coverage may take advantage of this one-time opportunity. The buy-in fee is \$100 per crop, with not more than \$300 per producer per county, or \$900 total per producer for all counties. All farming interests in all counties must be covered. **An application and the buy-in fee are due no later than September 16, 2008.** A waiver of the fee may be available if you meet the requirements of a socially disadvantaged, limited resource or beginning farmer or rancher. Please contact our office immediately if you have crops that did not have coverage for 2008, or if you have any questions.

2009 CROP INSURANCE OR NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COVERAGE

While a "buy in" waiver is allowed for 2008, producers **must** purchase crop coverage in the 2009 and future crop years in order to qualify for disaster assistance. Beginning with the 2009 crop year, to maintain eligibility for the Supplemental Disaster Programs, producers must obtain Federal Crop Insurance (FCIC) of at least catastrophic (CAT) level coverage. For those crops that are non-insurable, coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be timely obtained from FSA.

Therefore, 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 (a list of agents is available at all USDA Service Centers) 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 FCIC is September 30 for all fall planted crops** like wheat, forage production, fall barley and canola. The final date to purchase NAP for 2009 crops (those not covered by crop insurance including pasture) is December 1, 2008.

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 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.

2008 DCP SIGN-UP CONTINUES

Producers have until **September 30, 2008** to apply for the 2008 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP). Contracts were mailed in July and need to be signed and returned immediately. If you did not receive yours, please contact us.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

County Committee elections are underway. Ballots will be mailed out in November to all eligible voters. The County Committee is a unique system under which Federal farm programs are to be administered locally. Producers who are eligible to participate in these programs elect a three-to five-person county committee, which reviews county office operations and makes some of the decisions on how to apply the programs. This grassroots approach gives you a much-needed say in how Federal actions affect your operations. After more than 70 years, it remains a cornerstone of FSA's efforts to preserve and promote American agriculture. This year, the election includes the following:

- **Chelan County:** LAA No. 1 (area position currently held by Phyllis Gleasman, her final term). This area encompasses the Eastern portion of the county to include Entiat, Chelan and Manson.
- **Douglas County:** LAA No. 3 (area position currently held by Rodney Peterson). This area includes the southern portion of the county, everything South of State Highway No. 2.

Candidates are nominated by local farmers and ranchers, and must live in the county or local administrative area they will represent and must be eligible to vote in the county election. This year's candidates are:

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| <p><u>Chelan County</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • William Clark • Pasqual Rodriguez • Edna Stocker | <p><u>Douglas County</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terry Ludeman • Carolyn Meenach • Rodney Peterson |
|--|--|

Watch for your ballot and please remember to vote! Ballots must be returned to the county office or post-marked by December 1, 2008.

COMMODITY LOANS ANNOUNCED FOR 2008

FSA offers 9-month CCC loans, using the harvested commodity as collateral. The loans enable producers to extend their marketing season by allowing them to hold their commodity beyond harvest when prices are usually lowest. Producers must maintain beneficial interest in the commodity for the entire length of the loan. The commodity may be stored on the farm or in CCC licensed warehouses. The commodity must be provided safe storage through loan maturity. The structure must allow for safe inspection, measurement, and sampling of the commodity. Loan rates are as follows (**small/feed grain rates are in bushels & oilseeds are in hundred-weights**):

	Durum <u>Wheat</u>	HRS <u>Wheat</u>	HRW <u>Wheat</u>	SW <u>Wheat</u>	<u>Barley</u>	<u>Oats</u>	<u>Corn</u>	Mustard <u>Seed</u>	<u>Canola</u>
Chelan	----	3.28	3.47	2.70	2.18	1.26	2.47	8.25	6.92
Douglas	2.90	3.28	3.37	2.65	2.18	1.26	2.41	8.36	7.07
Grant	2.90	3.28	3.37	2.70	2.20	1.26	2.41	8.36	7.07
Okanogan		3.23	3.37	2.65	2.18	1.26	2.41	8.36	7.07

Se habla español en esta oficina de FSA. Si quiere informacion tocante a los programas de credito, 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.