



February 2009

CHELAN & DOUGLAS FSA NEWS



Chelan County FSA has moved:

215 Melody Lane
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Phone (509) 664-9385
Fax (509) 664-1779

Douglas County FSA

PO Box 489
Waterville, WA 98858-0489
Phone (509) 745-8561
Fax (509) 745-8758

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Chelan County Committee

Kelly Riedinger, Chairman
Richard Smithson, Vice-Chair
William Clark, Member
Raul Sanchez, Advisor

Douglas County Committee

Randy Mittelstaedt, Chairman
Norman Cavadini, Vice-Chair
Rodney Peterson, 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

March 10 – Douglas
9:00 a.m.

February 25 – Chelan
9:00 a.m.

Website Addresses:

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



LENDER OF FIRST OPPORTUNITY

(Beginning Farmer and Rancher Financing)

The Farm Service Agency is looking to increase Farm Loan Program activity with beginning farmers, ranchers, and socially disadvantaged (SDA) individuals. In many cases, these producers have insufficient net worth, credit history, or farming background to qualify for commercial credit. FSA loan programs are designed to assist these individuals with favorable interest rates and repayment terms. FSA also provides credit counseling and supervision to its direct borrowers by making a thorough assessment of the proposed farming operation.

Loan funding levels were recently increased allowing up to \$300,000 for purchasing real estate, providing for a down payment, or funding a real estate purchase in conjunction with a commercial lender or private contract holder. A separate limitation for an additional \$300,000 is available to purchase equipment, livestock, or to fund operating expenses.

For more information regarding FSA Farm Loan programs, individuals are encouraged to contact the Chelan-Douglas FSA office at (509) 664-9385 or visit the FSA web site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

DISASTER RELIEF AVAILABLE

Recent disaster designations for 21 Washington counties have triggered availability of low-interest loans for farmers and ranchers who suffered losses due to winter storms, floods and landslides. Agricultural producers in Chelan and Douglas Counties may be eligible for emergency loans to help repair damages.

Producers who suffered losses may qualify for FSA emergency loans with 3.75% interest and payment terms of up to 40 years with real estate security. FSA is accepting loan applications until the last week in September, 2009.

Applicants must be United States citizens or non-citizens that have been legally admitted for permanent residence, must be established farmers and must have suffered an agricultural loss due to the disaster named in the designation. An applicant's farm must be family-sized. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. Interested farmers may contact the loan staff in the Chelan County Office for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for emergency loans and other loan programs.

REFERENDUM ON LAMB CHECKOFF PROGRAM

Sheep producers and handlers now have the opportunity to vote on whether to continue to pay an assessment which funds marketing and research efforts of the American Lamb Board. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is conducting a nationwide referendum on whether to continue or terminate the Lamb, Promotion, Research and Information Act of 1996. The referendum ends February 27, 2009.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service will conduct the referendum with the assistance of the Farm Service Agency. Eligible sheep producers and handlers may vote by mail, fax, or in person in the county where their farm records are maintained with FSA. If they do not participate in FSA programs, they may vote at the county FSA office where they own or rent land.

To be eligible to vote, persons must certify and provide documentation, such as a sales receipt or remittance form, which shows they have been engaged in the production, feeding, or slaughtering of sheep during calendar year 2008. Persons eligible to vote may obtain form LS-86 from our office or online at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsmarketingprograms>.

DIRECT & COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM SIGN-UP

FSA is now accepting applications for the 2009 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment (DCP) Program. Farmers may enroll online or at the local FSA office **until June 1, 2009**. The June 1, 2009 deadline is mandatory for all participants. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.

DCP provides payments to eligible producers on farms annually enrolled for the 2009 through 2012 crop years. There are two types of DCP payments - direct payments and counter-cyclical payments. Both are calculated using the base acres and payment yields already established for the farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2009, eligible producers may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price.

Producers who are eligible for the DCP Program will also be eligible to enroll in the new Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program. The enrollment period for the ACRE Program will begin in the spring. Producers may first enroll in the DCP Program, receive advance direct payments and then later modify their enrollment to participate in the ACRE program instead.

The optional ACRE Program provides a safety net based on revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. Details about the ACRE program will be announced at the time of sign-up and after rules for the program have been finalized.

Interested farmers may contact our office for further information or to make an appointment to sign-up. Additional information is also available online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>

CROP DISASTER PROGRAM SIGN-UP ENDS FEBRUARY 27

If you suffered crop losses in any of the years 2005, 2006 or 2007 and have not yet applied for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP), please contact our office immediately for an appointment. **Sign-up for the 2005-2007 CDP will end February 27, 2009**. This applies to the receipt of a signed and completed disaster program application, along with all supporting documentation and required forms. Late filed applications will not be approved if received after the February 27 deadline.

Quality loss applications are also being processed. If you previously submitted an application for production losses and now would like your application to include consideration for a quality loss, please contact us. Different information is required to process a quality loss application. Eligible producers must be able to show an economic loss.

All application determinations will be made by March 27, 2009. For further questions about CDP and the sign-up deadline, producers may contact their county FSA office or visit FSA's website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

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) 664-9390 en el condado de Chelan. La direccion se encuentra al frente.