



November 2009

# CHELAN & DOUGLAS FSA NEWS

*(New Address)*

## Chelan County FSA

215 Melody Lane  
Wenatchee, WA 98801  
Phone (509) 664-9385  
Fax (509) 662-1628

## 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

## Next COC Meeting

December 9 – Chelan County  
December 14 – Douglas County  
Both @ 9:00 a.m.

## Website Addresses:

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



## EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR LIVESTOCK, HONEYBEES AND FARM RAISED FISH

FSA is currently accepting applications for the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP). The program provides financial relief to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather or other conditions, including blizzards and wildfires. Losses could have occurred as far back as January 1, 2008.

Assistance for producers through ELAP is for 2009 losses not covered under other Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance programs established by the 2008 Farm Bill. These include the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). LFP provides payments to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses due to qualifying drought in Chelan and Douglas Counties. LIP provides benefits to ranchers who lost livestock as a result of a natural disaster.

Eligible livestock include beef cattle, alpacas, buffalo, beefalo, dairy cattle, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, llamas, poultry, reindeer, sheep and swine in addition to honeybees and farm-raised fish. **Prior purchase of crop insurance or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage is required for LFP and ELAP eligibility.**

Due to a program funding cap, ELAP payments may be pro-rated depending on the number of applications. Individuals or entities are ineligible for payment under ELAP or LFP for 2009. Producers must certify that average adjusted gross nonfarm income is \$500,000 or less. Payment limitations for all disaster programs are totaled at \$100,000.

FSA has set a December 10, 2009 notice of loss deadline for losses that occurred between January 1, 2008 and September 10, 2009. **Sign-up for 2009 LFP (pasture losses) ends January 30, 2010.** Please contact our offices for an appointment to sign up.

## COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

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 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. Election ballots were recently mailed to all eligible voters in the applicable local administrative area by our Kansas City Management Office. **Ballots must be returned by December 7, 2009.** Remember to sign the label in the ballot. Please also remember that Powers-of-Attorney cannot be used for signing ballots.

In Chelan County: **Kelly Riedinger** and **Raul Sanchez** are candidates for election in the Wenatchee area (LAA No. 3).

In Douglas County: **Anita Sprauer**, **Jesus Limon** and **Randy Mittelstaedt** are candidates for election in the north eastern portion of the county (LAA No. 1).

## DEADLINE FOR 2010 CROP COVERAGE - FRUIT

The application closing date to purchase coverage for 2010 fruit crops is **November 20, 2009**. Contact your insurance agent for more information. Non-insured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage is available from FSA for crops where insurance is not available. Since catastrophic level coverage is not available for cherries, NAP can be purchased. November 20, 2009 is also the deadline for 2010 NAP for fruit. To apply for NAP coverage, an application fee of \$250 per crop, up to a \$750 cap per county must be paid. The maximum for multiple crops in more than one county is \$1,875 per crop year. To be eligible for crop disaster benefits under the new disaster programs, producers are **required** to have Federal Crop Insurance or NAP on **all crops** of economic significance.

## BIOMASS CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Biomass Crop Assistance Program provides matching funds to contractors who deliver biomass materials used to generate heat, power or fuel to qualified biomass conversion facilities. The first step in the process is for the receiving facility to register with FSA. Once registered and an allocation is received, contractors may begin applying for matching funds not to exceed \$45 per ton. The matching funds are available for 24 months from the time of first application. Please contact our office for details.

## **FSA PAYMENTS**

Producers are encouraged to closely monitor farm program payments for fiscal year 2009. FSA has been transitioning from an old IBM System/36 computer system to online software systems to make payments. The transition to the new system has created temporary problems for issuing payments, as some of you may have experienced. Final 2009 DCP and ACRE direct payments were recently issued. If you received an advance payment, that amount was offset from your final direct payment. However, it may have been offset from a different farm or by a different county office. In limited cases, these advance payments may have been offset from one or more of your CRP annual rental payments. Individual amounts may look different than you expected but the total of all payments should be similar to previous years, if nothing has changed in your farming operation. Please know that we are trying to issue your payments as quickly as possible. Transaction statements are mailed directly from our Financial Services Center in Kansas City and may reach you after your payment is deposited in your bank account. If the total of all your payments is not what you expected, please let us know. Thank you for your patience!

## **DCP/ACRE SIGNUP UNDERWAY FOR 2010**

Applications are now being accepted for the Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) for 2010. To be eligible for program payments and benefits, producers must sign-up each year. Producers who elected the ACRE program last year will, remain in ACRE through 2012. Once ACRE is elected, the farm remains in ACRE through the end of the farm bill (2012).

DCP direct payment rates remain unchanged from last year: \$.52/Bu wheat, \$.24/bu barley. ACRE direct payments are reduced by 20%. Advance direct payments are available under either program at 22% of the total payment rate for the year. Payments are earned on 83.3% of the farm's established base acreage, times the farm's established yield, times the producer's share. Producers are free to plant any crop on their base acreage with the exception of fruits & vegetables and wild rice. Please call in advance for an appointment to signup for DCP or ACRE.

## **FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN PROGRAM**

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program has been implemented in accordance with the 2008 Farm Bill, which will allow producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) administers FSFL on behalf of the USDA Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). The maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15%, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85% of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department. Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. A FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin. Eligible producers must show a need for increased storage, for crops produced on their farm. Please contact our office if you are interested in a facility loan. The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, oats, wheat, barley or minor oil-seeds.
- Pulse crops (lentils, small chick-peas and dry peas).
- Hay.
- Renewable biomass.
- Fruit and vegetable cold storage facilities (CA cold storage facilities are ineligible).

Se habla español en esta oficina de la FSA. Si necesita información tocante a los programas de crédito, conservación y otros programas que se administran en esta oficina, por favor llame o visite esta oficina de la FSA. El número de teléfono es (509) 664-9390, en el condado de Chelan. La dirección se encuentra al frente.

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