



NEWSLETTER



May 2012

Chelan County

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Office Hours

Mon – Fri 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Chelan County Committee

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

Douglas County Committee

Randy Mittelstaedt, Chairman
Norman Cavadini, Vice-Chair
Rodney Peterson, Member
Porfirio Covarrubias, Advisor
Terrie Brandt, Advisor

Office Staff

Michel Ruud, CED
Jose Limon, SFLO
Lori Tabler
Sherry Ramin
Paul Daling
Dawn Peaslee
Anita Perez

Next COC Meeting

Chelan – 06/13/2012
Douglas – 06/12/2012

Dates to Remember

May 28 - Office closed for federal holiday
June 1 - DCP/ACRE signup deadline
June 1 - SURE 2010 loss signup deadline
June 30 – Acreage reporting deadline

FSA Web Sites

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

SURE 2010 SIGN-UP DEADLINE

The **deadline** for producers to submit applications for **2010** crop year Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) is **June 1, 2012**. The application and all required documentation must be on file and signed by close of business on that day.

The SURE program provides benefits for crop losses due to eligible weather related disaster conditions affecting crops grown from 2008 through 2011 crop years. A farmer or rancher is eligible for the program when a disaster designation has been made for their county or when actual production is less than half of the normal established production. Producers who suffer eligible losses must have crop insurance or a Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy for all crops of economic significance to be eligible for SURE benefits. Socially disadvantaged, limited resource, or beginning farmers and ranchers are exempt from the insurance linkage requirement.

A fact sheet with more detailed information is available on the FSA website. Maps of disaster designations by county are on the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/wa. For more information, please contact our offices.

2012 DCP/ACRE SIGN-UP DEADLINE

The 2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) **enrollment ends June 1, 2012**. DCP provides payments to eligible producers on farms annually enrolled through the 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. All producers with a crop share interest on DCP base acres must have a share in direct and counter-cyclical payments.

Eligible producers may choose to enroll in DCP or in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program. Please contact the county office prior to June 1, 2012 for more information.

Changes on the farm before or after enrolling in DCP/ACRE must be immediately reported to the local FSA office. No changes are allowed after September 30, 2012. Interested farmers may contact our offices for further information or to make an appointment to sign-up. Additional information is also available online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>

CERTIFY YOUR CROP ACREAGE

2012 crop acreage reports are currently being taken. **June 30, 2012 is the last day to timely certify your acreage**. Several programs require the filing of an acreage report. They include:

- ❖ Farms with a DCP or ACRE Contract.
- ❖ Farms enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program.
- ❖ Crops for which benefits may be requested under the Non-insured Assistance Program

Crop disaster programs also require that an acreage report be on file. These programs are normally offered further down the road. In order to avoid a late-filed acreage report fee in the future, please timely certify all your crops. This includes fruit crops, pasture, etc. Please contact our offices for an appointment.

RURAL YOUTH LOANS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes operating loans to individual rural youths age 10 through 20 to establish and operate income producing projects. These projects must be of modest size and be initiated, developed, carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H Clubs, FFA, or a similar organization or with a vocational teacher or county extension agent. The project must be an organized and supervised program of work. It must be planned and operated with the assistance of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. Contact the Chelan County office for more details.

FSA SEEKS CANDIDATES FOR COUNTY COMMITTEE

Local farmers and ranchers have an opportunity to influence federal farm programs. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting nominations for the FSA County Committee between June 15 and August 1, 2012. The FSA county committee system provides a unique federal government experience. Farmers and ranchers are elected by their peers to help the agency administer farm programs and provide an important information link between producers and the agency.

To be eligible for involvement, producers must participate or cooperate in at least one FSA program and be of legal voting age. Nomination forms must be submitted to the local FSA office. The committee draws its members from local administrative areas (LAAs). Counties are broken up into administrative areas for the purpose of representation and voting. This year's election is for LAA #3 in Chelan County, the Southern portion of the county including Wenatchee, Malaga, and Squilchuck areas. In Douglas County, this year's election is in LAA #1, north of Highway 2, east from the Columbia River to one mile past Mansfield. Candidates must live in the local administrative area they will represent.

We encourage all producers to consider being a candidate. Producers benefit from a diverse committee representing all of agriculture in our area. Please contact our office for more information or for a nominating petition.

EXPIRING CRP CONTRACT ACREAGE

If you have Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contract acreage that is scheduled to expire on September 30, 2012, please remember that any action taken regarding breaking out the cover must be pre-approved by the County FSA Committee. Early land preparation provisions are available. The request form must be signed by **all** participants on the contract. A revised conservation plan must then be established by NRCS, **before** any field activity. No haying or grazing or other use of the acreage can occur.

We wish to caution producers about taking out expired CRP acreage. Please be very sure about the expiration dates of your contracts. We have had several situations where producers have destroyed the cover on land they believed was no longer under contract, only to find they were mistaken. Tearing out the established cover before contract expiration is considered a violation. Please contact our office if you are interested in taking out CRP cover before the contract expires on September 30, 2012 or if you are unsure about the specific expiration date of contract acreage.

TREE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 authorized a Tree Assistance Program (TAP) to provide financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers. Producer who previously applied for benefits to replace trees that were damaged by the freeze in November of 2010, need to report replanting their orchards. If trees were not available this spring and replanting did not occur, please contact our office in order to obtain an extension of the planting deadline requirement. Please contact our office if you have any questions.