

August 2013



Chelan/Douglas County FSA Updates

Chelan County FSA Office

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Farm Loan Staff:
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Dawn Peaslee

Chelan COC:
William Clark, Chair
Richard Smithson, V-Chair
Gordon Goodwin, Member
Raul Sanchez, Advisor

Douglas COC:
Norman Cavadini, Chair
Randy Mittlestaedt, V-Chair

NAP APPLICATION SALES CLOSING FOR 2014 CROPS

August 31st is the last day for producers to apply for Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for fall planted crops, not covered by federal crop insurance. Form CCC-471 Application for Coverage must be completed, along with payment of the NAP fee, and provided to your local FSA county office. The service fee is \$250 per crop per county or \$750 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$1,875 per producer with farming interest in multiple counties. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of service fees. To qualify, a producer must be a landowner, tenant or sharecropper who shares in the risk of producing an eligible crop. The following are other sales closing dates:

- **9/30/2013** – Perennial grazing, forage, mixed forage, and forage seed crops.
- **11/20/2013** – Berries, honey and tree fruits.
- **3/15/2014** – Small grain forages (wheat, barley, oats, peas) and any other spring planted crops.

NAP coverage should be purchased at least 30 days before the crop is planted, but no later than the application closing date. NAP coverage cannot be offered on any crop for which Federal Crop Insurance is available in the county. Please contact the County Office for more NAP information.

SIGN-UP #45 CRP CONSERVATION PLANS AND CONTRACTS

Producers with accepted offers under CRP Sign-up #45 have been or will be contacted in the near future by personnel from their local NRCS office. The purpose of this contact will be to discuss and develop conservation plans that are required as a result of being accepted into CRP. These plans will document the necessary steps needed for producers to follow in preparing, enhancing and/or seeding their respective CRP acreage. The plans must be developed and signed by all owners receiving a share of the CRP payment by September 13, 2013. Please do your part in assisting NRCS with this

Rodney Peterson, Member process.
Terri Brandt, Advisor
Porfirio Covarrubias, Advisor

Next County Committee

Meetings (9:00 a.m.):

Chelan - Sept. 18

Douglas - Sept. 17

MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOANS

Marketing Assistance loans; also referred to as commodity or price support loans, are available for producers who have eligible warehouse and/or farm stored commodities. These loans can provide temporary cash flow for operating expenses or paying down bank notes. Current interest rates are favorable, with any loans disbursed in August at 1.125% interest.

Loans will mature no later than the last day of the ninth month following the month the loan was disbursed. Loans can also be paid off prior to maturity. Lien searches and UCC filings will need to be completed prior to loan disbursement.

Producers may self certify to the quantity on farm stored loans or pay a measurement service fee for office personnel to physically measure the quantity. Certified farm loans are subject to later spot-checks. Producers who take out farm stored loans are responsible for maintaining the quality of the crop through the term of the loan. Producers with loans must receive prior authorization from the county office prior to feeding, selling, or hauling of the stored commodity. Unauthorized dispositions carry severe penalties. Warehouse loans will be secured with a warehouse receipt.

Loan rates for eligible commodities in Douglas County are \$2.63/bu for white wheat, \$2.17/bu for barley, \$1.37/lb for oats, \$7.93/cwt for canola and \$5.55/cwt for dry peas. The white wheat loan rate in Chelan County is \$2.68/bu. Please contact the County Office for more commodity loan details.

NOMINEES AGREE TO SERVE ON FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE

Pamela Kiehn and Melvin Weythman have agreed to serve if elected to the Chelan County FSA Committee. One of these producers will be replacing Richard Smithson, who, due to term limitations, cannot serve again. We thank Dick for his 9 years of committee service and for his important input in helping to administer the various farm programs through the Chelan County Office. In Douglas County, Norman Cavadini, Derek Hunt and Connie McKay have been nominated and have agreed to serve on the 2014 Douglas County FSA Committee if elected.

FSA county committees make decisions which impact program payments. They bring local knowledge of farming practices, prices and conditions to program implementation. Also, producers can appeal most agency determinations to the local county committee.

Ballots will be mailed beginning November 4, 2013 and must be postmarked or returned to the County Office by December 2, 2013.

FSA INTRODUCES NEW MICRO-LOAN PROGRAM

FSA is offering more flexible access to credit through the new microloan program. The program is an attractive loan alternative for smaller farming operations like specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Microloans can be used for all approved operating expenses as authorized by the FSA Operating Loan Program, including but not limited to:

- * Initial start-up expenses;
- * Annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents;
- * Marketing and distribution expenses;
- * Purchase of livestock, equipment, and other materials essential to farm operations;
- * Minor farm improvements such as wells and coolers.
- * Hoop houses to extend the growing season.

The application process for microloans will be simpler, requiring less paperwork to fill out. Requirements for managerial experience and loan security have been modified to accommodate smaller farm operations, beginning farmers and those with no farm management experience. Applicants will need to have some farm experience; however, FSA will consider an applicant's small business experience as well as any experience with a self-guided apprenticeship as a means to meet the farm management requirement.

Eligible applicants may obtain a microloan for up to \$35,000. The repayment term may vary and will not exceed seven years. Annual operating loans are repaid within 12 months or when the agricultural commodities produced are sold. Interest rates are based on the regular OL rates that are in effect at the time of the microloan approval or microloan closing, whichever is less. Currently the rate is 1.25%. Contact the county office for more information. Please contact our Farm Loan staff in the Chelan County Offices, serving both Chelan and Douglas County producers, for more micro loan details.

CONTINUE TO REPORT CROP LOSSES

Prompt weather-related disaster reporting is crucial for FSA to determine the need for disaster declarations. If you experienced crop damage or other agriculture losses due to recent weather events, contact this FSA office and if applicable, your crop insurance agent. Disaster declarations trigger availability of emergency loans and in some instances, additional disaster assistance programs. Timely reporting to FSA and your insurance agent is also important for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) payments or crop insurance indemnities.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).