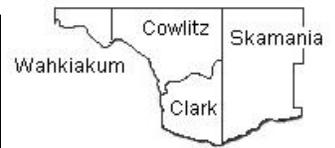




July 2009

Lower Columbia Area FSA NEWS



Lower Columbia Area Farm Service Agency

11104 NE 149th Street, C-500
Brush Prairie, WA 98606
(360) 883-1987 ext 2
(360) 885-2284

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Representing the following counties:

CLARK (LAA #2):

Gary Boldt, Member
Carol Hoffman, Minority Advisor

CLARK/COWLITZ (LAA #1):

George Thoeny, Chairman
Raymond Table, Alternate

COWLITZ (LAA #5):

Joe Shulke, Member

SKAMANIA (LAA #3):

Ken Bajema, Vice Chair

WAHKIAKUM (LAA#4):

Gordon Calvert, Member

Office Staff

Taylor Murray
County Executive Director
taylor.Murray@wa.usda.gov

Wes Taylor
Program Technician

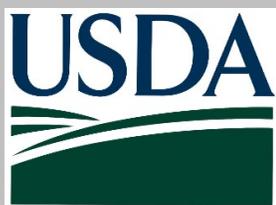
Next COC Meeting

July 30, 2009

FSA Web Sites

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

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



This newsletter can also be accessed on the web at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/>
From the top green menu bar, Click "State Offices", click on Washington State on the map, and then click "newsletters" in the Browse by subject box.

2009 County Committee Nominations Accepted Through August 3, 2009

Eligible voters in Local Administrative Area (LAA) #2 and #5 should have received a nominating petition with their May 2009 FSA newsletter. LAA #2 encompasses the eastern section of Clark County delineated north to south by I-5, NE 10th Ave., and NE 12th Avenue. LAA #5 represents Cowlitz County excluding the portion of Cowlitz south of I-5 commonly known as the Woodland Bottoms area. Please feel free to contact the Area Office for a more detailed description or a copy of the LAA map.

If you live in either of these areas you are eligible to be nominated to be elected to the County Committee. Members serve a three year term and the Committee meets once a month. The positions are paid positions and members are reimbursed for their time and mileage to and from the meetings. Nomination forms can be obtained from the Area Office and they must be submitted by August 3, 2009.

FSA Committee's are a unique arrangement that allow local guidance for federal farm programs and are a direct link between the farm community and the US Department of Agriculture.

Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Closing Date --- Nursery Crops

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance program (NAP) provides coverage for crops ineligible for federal crop insurance. The nursery crop year and application closing date for NAP has been adjusted to reflect changes made to federal crop insurance for nursery crops. Beginning with the 2007 crop year, the Risk Management Agency changed the beginning and ending dates for nursery crops.

The NAP coverage period for 2010 nursery is June 1, 2009 through May 31, 2010. The application closing date for 2010 nursery coverage is September 1, 2009. In future years, the application closing date will be moved to May 1, prior to the coverage period.

The Farm Service Agency Announces New Livestock Indemnity Program

Producers who lost livestock as a result of natural disasters in 2008 or 2009 may apply for financial relief under the Farm Service Agency's Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). The Lower Columbia Area FSA office in Brush Prairie will accept applications starting July 13, 2009. For losses that have already occurred, the sign-up deadline is September 13, 2009.

The program will compensate for disasters, such as the floods that affected the Lower Columbia Area in January of 2009, which may have caused livestock losses in excess of normal mortality rates. Unlike in the past, a disaster designation is not required.

Eligible losses must have occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011. Livestock must have been maintained as part of a commercial farming or ranching operation. Eligible livestock include: alpacas, beef cattle, buffalo and beefalo, dairy cattle, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, llamas, poultry, reindeer, sheep, and swine.

The eligibility of horses is restricted to those that are used for farm and ranch labor.

LIP payments will be based on individual producers' eligible losses due to adverse weather conditions. Payments will be 75 percent of fair market value of the livestock as determined by the agency. As required by the 2008 Farm Bill, adjusted gross income limits apply. Program beneficiaries must not exceed \$500,000 in non-farm average adjusted gross income.

Producers experiencing livestock losses due to natural disasters after July 13, must report their losses 30 days after death is apparent to receive program payments.

Specific provisions for the other supplemental agricultural disaster assistance programs authorized by the 2008 Act - the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP) and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) - will be implemented through separate rulemakings and announced at a later date.

For more information on available supplemental disaster assistance programs, please visit your FSA county office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

Upcoming Deadlines:

Farm Records Change Deadline July 31:

For 2009 the deadline for requesting a record change is July 31, 2009. These changes are for farm records where we must change the structure of the farm because of a land sale or you are no longer farming some land listed on the farm. Changes to ownership should be reported as soon as the change is known or the producer no longer has an interest in the crop or crops being grown on the farm.

Acreage Reporting Deadline Extended from June 30 to August 14:

If you haven't already reported your crop acreage we encourage you to do so. Acreage reporting is required for participation in nearly all of the programs administered by FSA. Do not get caught in a late filed situation, as a late filed fee is required for reporting after the August 14 deadline.

DCP – ACRE Signup Ends August 14:

Signup is currently underway for the 2009 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP), and will continue through August 14, 2009. This deadline also applies to producers wishing to choose to elect and enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program.

Annual Payment Limitation Notice

A number of significant revisions were made to Payment Limitation (PL) rules as a result of the 2008 Farm Bill. Payments for all new contracts and programs approved after this passage date, are now "directly attributed" to the natural person(s) ultimately responsible for payment shares. For example, in a corporation, with two 50% members, each individual stock holder is "attributed" their share of the corporation's program earnings, and the total of all payments "attributed" cannot be in excess of the payment limitation for the applicable program. However, CRP contracts approved and in place prior to October 1, 2008 are covered under the previous PL rules, and eligibility for those payments continues to be governed by the filing of form CCC-502. Payment limitations for programs are as follows:

- Counter-Cyclical and ACRE \$65,000
- Noninsured Assistance Program \$100,000
- Direct Payment under DCP and ACRE \$40,000
- EQIP (2009-2012) \$300,000
- CRP \$50,000
- Disaster, including SURE, ELAP, LFP, LIP \$100,000

Actively engaged determinations are still required to participate in most programs, requiring a contribution of a combination of land/capital or equipment to meet "left hand" and labor and/or management to meet "right hand" contributions. Landowner exception still applies to producers share renting their land, making them actively engaged on share rented land without further contribution needed. A tenant cash-renting land must meet cash-rent tenant eligibility, by providing either active personal labor, or a combination of management and equipment to be actively engaged on cast-

rented land. Foreign person rules are applicable, and limit the eligibility of foreign persons to receive benefits under many of the programs administered through FSA. No program benefits subject to limit can be provided until all required forms are provided, and determinations are completed.

Conservation Compliance

All participants in USDA Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) programs are required to be actively applying a conservation system on all highly erodible land (HEL) they operate. Several areas where problems may arise in complying with a conservation system are: renting new cropland, purchasing new land, breaking out additional cropland, planting different crops and changing or removing existing conservation practices. It is important that you contact the FSA office BEFORE taking any of these actions. Also, it is very important that you contact the county office before modifying, tilling, draining, dredging, filling or leveling any wetland or drainage ditch. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations may result in loss of all USDA payments and eligibility.

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average farm size.

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