



February/March 2008

CHELAN & DOUGLAS COUNTY FSA NEWS

Chelan County FSA
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Office Hours
Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Chelan County Committee
Richard Smithson, Chair
Kelly Riedinger, V-Chair
Phyllis Gleasman, Member
Raul Sanchez, Advisor

Douglas County Committee
Rodney Peterson, Chair
Randy Mittelstaedt, V-Chair
Norman Cavadini, Member
Terri Brandt, Advisor
Jesus Limon, Advisor

Office Staff
Michel Ruud, CED
Mike Cada, FLM
Bill Henry
Anita Perez
Dawn Peaslee
Lori Tabler
Sherry Ramin
Janice Badten
Paul Daling

Next COC Meeting
Douglas County – March 11th
at 9:00 a.m.

Chelan County – March 12th
at 8:00 a.m.

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



COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The County Committee (COC) elections for the Wenatchee River Valley area in Chelan County and the Northeastern portion of Douglas County have been completed. Richard Smithson of Peshastin and Norman Cavadini of Bridgeport were elected to represent their respective local administrative areas and counties. They assumed their committee duties on January 1, 2008. Both will serve a three-year term.

Mr. Smithson was re-elected to the Chelan COC. His alternate will be Kelly Griffiths. In Douglas County, Roger Wesselman and Larry Nordby will serve as the alternates to Mr. Cavadini. Alternates serve in the absence of the elected committee member. Thank you to all who took the time to vote! The COC is your voice in USDA programs.

THANK YOU

Roger Wesselman has served on the Douglas County FSA Committee for the past three years. We owe many thanks to him for serving the farmers and ranchers of Douglas County. He made many contributions to the agency, the only branch of government with grass-roots input. His hard work and dedication was greatly appreciated!

LOSSES DUE TO DISASTER CONDITIONS

Sign-up continues in the Crop Disaster Program, Livestock Indemnity Program and the Livestock Compensation Program. Losses that can be directly attributed to weather related conditions may be eligible for benefits. This includes crops (quantity and quality), livestock and feed losses from 2005 through 2007. Producers can receive benefits for only one year per administrative county in each program. If you suffered losses during any of these years, please contact our offices for an appointment.

NEW FARM BILL

Both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate have passed their versions of the Farm Bill, and have sent them to joint committee to work out the differences. Once the bill is finished in committee it must be approved by both houses and signed by the President. Unfortunately FSA does not have any insight when the new farm bill will be completed; we are patiently waiting like all of you. As soon as we know more we will be sure to announce it.

REPORT STORM DAMAGE

Farmers who suffer damage due to weather events throughout the year are encouraged to contact our offices. This includes farm related buildings, fencing, trees, as well as crop and animal losses. We collect this information in order to secure disaster designations when needed, which could potentially provide programs to help you. Any information is valuable to us, so please remember to report any damage as soon as possible after the event has occurred.

2008 CROP YEAR WOOL, MOHAIR AND UNSHORN PELTS

Market assistance loans and loan deficiency payments are being accepted for 2008 crop wool, mohair, and unshorn pelts. Producers must have beneficial interest (title, control & risk) in the commodity. **March 15th** is the last day these applications can be accepted. Please contact us if you have any questions.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing loss. If accommodations are required, please contact Michel Ruud.

NONINSURED CROP LOSS COVERAGE

Producers may now purchase catastrophic crop loss coverage for noninsurable 2008 spring planted crops under the Noninsured Crop Assistance Program (NAP). The cost is \$100 per crop, not to exceed \$300 per producer, per county. The application closing date is March 15th for most spring planted crops. Producers interested in this program should call our offices for an appointment.

COMMENTS SOUGHT FOR CRP MANAGED HAYING AND GRAZING

The Farm Service Agency will collect input on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) managed haying and grazing provisions at a public scoping meeting in Ritzville, WA on March 11, 2008. The meeting starts at 1:30 p.m. and will be in the American Legion Hall. This will be the only one of its kind in Washington State. In October of 2006, FSA changed managed haying and grazing on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres from once every four years to once in every ten years. The change was part of a settlement with the National Wildlife Federation. It also changed the definition of primary nesting and brood rearing season back to pre-2002 Farm Bill dates. The public scoping meeting is part of the required Environmental Assessment to meet the conditions of the settlement.

IRS REPORTING OF PAYMENTS

Producers who receive FSA payments will get a CCC-1099G (Report of Payments to IRS) and Farm Loan Program borrowers will be receiving Form-1098 (Mortgage Interest Statement) mailed from our Kansas City Office. The CCC-1099G indicates the total amount of payments made to you during 2007. Form 1098 indicates that amount of principal and interest paid to FSA during 2007. Please check the information.

BANK ACCOUNT CHANGES

If you receive FSA payments by direct deposit, please remember to inform us if your account or bank information changes. Failure to do so will delay your payments.

2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

The 2007 Ag Census was mailed to producers in early January. Your response provides vital information that impacts decisions about community development, funding availability, farm policy, and other key issues. This is your chance to share your voice to help ensure a better future for your operations, your family, and your community. Our offices can assist you with information requested on the form. Please feel free to call us with your questions.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR LAND OWNERSHIP

Please notify your local FSA office of all deaths, land ownership and address changes as soon as possible so your farm records can be updated timely. A copy of the applicable recorded deed should be provided to complete the land ownership changes.

SPOUSAL SIGNATURE AUTHORITY

Husbands and wives can sign most FSA documents on behalf of each other, unless written notification denying this authority has been provided to our office.

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) 664-0283 en el condado de Chelan. La direccion se encuentra al frente.