



September 2008

FERRY & OKANOGAN COUNTY FSA NEWS

Ferry County FSA

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Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Luanne Finley, Chairperson
Dave Konz, Vice-Chairperson
Kathy Olson, Regular Member

Office Staff

Gary Breiler, CED
Virginia Lane, PT



Okanogan County FSA

1251 2nd Ave. S. Rm 103
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Fax (509) 422-0532

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Ray Colbert, Chairperson
Stan Stout, Vice-Chairperson
Jeff Delfeld, Regular Member
Marcia Henneman, Advisor
James McCuen, Advisor

Office Staff

Gary Breiler, CED
Judy Adams, PT
Cliffene Coyne, PT
Stu Skidmore, FLM
Jose Limon, FLO
Sandy Hinger, FLT

Next COC Meetings:

Ferry – Sept. 30, 2008
Okanogan – Sept. 25, 2008

Meetings start at 10:00 AM

CED – County Executive Director
FLM – Farm Loan Manager
FLO – Farm Loan Officer
FLT – Farm Loan Technician
PT – Program Technician

FSA Web Site Address:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

WA State Web Site:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>

ACCESSIBILITY

Persons with disabilities who require special accommodations may contact the county office. FSA is committed to making programs accessible to all customers.



2008 LOSSES

Did you suffer a loss to any of your 2008 crops, pasture, trees or livestock? The 2008 Farm Bill provides for five new disaster assistance programs:

- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payment Program (SURE)
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)

In order to be eligible for any of these programs, producers must have obtained a plan of coverage for each insurable and non-insurable commodity on the farm (including pasture). FSA will allow agricultural producers who had 2008 crop losses (who would otherwise be ineligible for the new disaster assistance program) to become eligible by paying a fee. A waiver is available to allow producers to “buy-in” and be eligible for the new disaster assistance for their 2008 losses. Every producer whose crops, including all grazing lands, are not fully covered by crop insurance or Non-Insurance Assistance Program (NAP) coverage may take advantage of this one-time opportunity. The buy-in fee is \$100 per crop, with not more than \$300 per producer per county, or \$900 total per producer for all counties. All farming interests in all counties must be covered. **An application and the buy-in fee are due no later than September 16, 2008.** A waiver of the fee may be available if you meet the requirements of a socially disadvantaged, limited resource or beginning farmer or rancher. Please contact our office immediately if you have crops that did not have coverage for 2008, or if you have any questions.

2009 CROP INSURANCE OR NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COVERAGE

While a “buy in” waiver is allowed for 2008, producers **must** purchase crop coverage in the 2009 and future crop years in order to qualify for disaster assistance. Beginning with the 2009 crop year, to maintain eligibility for the Supplemental Disaster Programs, producers must obtain Federal Crop Insurance (FCIC) of at least catastrophic (CAT) level coverage. For those crops that are non-insurable, coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be timely obtained from FSA.

Therefore, producers with fall planted commodities need to be making important crop insurance decisions for the upcoming crop year. Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office and visit with a crop insurance agent (a list of agents is available at all USDA Service Centers) to fully understand what crop insurance programs are available in the county and to ensure they are obtaining adequate coverage for eligibility. **The next round of sales closing dates for FCIC is September 30 for all fall planted crops** like wheat, forage production, fall barley and canola. The final date to purchase NAP for 2009 crops (those not covered by crop insurance including pasture) is December 1, 2008. It is encouraged that coverage be purchased as soon as possible because delaying coverage could result in an ineligible loss if the crop suffers a loss after planting but before the NAP is purchased and the coverage attaches (coverage attaches 30 days after purchase of NAP).

2005-2007 CROP DISASTER PROGRAM

Sign-up continues for disaster assistance through the Crop Disaster program (CDP). If you suffered crop losses in any year 2005 – 2007, you may be eligible for benefits. Quantity and quality losses are eligible. In order to apply producers must have had federal crop insurance or non-insured assistance program coverage on their crop, for the applicable year. No ending date has been announced. Please contact our office to make an appointment to sign up or if you have any questions.

NEW CRP WILDLIFE PROGRAM

County producers have an opportunity to voluntarily sign up for a new program to enhance wildlife habitat through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The program is called “State Acres for Wildlife Enhancements” (SAFE), and is a joint project of FSA in association with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Eligible acres in this program will be enrolled in an area called the Eastern Washington Shrub-Steppe located in part of the Colville Indian Reservation in Okanogan County. Qualifying land must be located within one-half mile of an existing remnant shrub-steppe habitat block of 5.0 acres or more in size, and the land enrolled in the program must have been cropped in at least four of the years between 1996 and 2001. Summer fallow as a land use is considered as being cropped in a given year. Cooperating landowners receive cost-shares for habitat establishment and maintenance, incentive payments, as well as annual rental payments in return for the development of wildlife habitation. Producers can submit offers to enroll acres in the SAFE program for 10 to 15 year CRP contracts. Enrollment for SAFE is noncompetitive, and producers may presently sign-up at any time as an ending signup date has yet to be determined. Signup will occur at the Okanogan FSA Office.

2008 DCP SIGN-UP CONTINUES

Producers have until **September 30, 2008** to apply for the 2008 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP). Contracts were recently mailed and need to be signed and returned to our office as soon as possible, but not later than September 30, 2008. If you did not receive yours, please contact us.

JOINT and ASSIGNED PAYMENT AUTHORIZATIONS

Due to the new 2008 Farm Bill, all joint or assigned payment authorizations filed on CCC-36 or CCC-37 must have been signed and filed on or after May 22, 2008, for 2008 DCP. This requirement does not apply to CRP.

FSA ANNUAL GROWERS MEETING

On October 29, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. in the Forest Service Conference room, FSA will conduct the annual growers meeting. Topics will include discussions involving getting ready for our annual analysis meetings and record preparation. We will have Jo Lynn Seuffer from the Risk Management Agency speaking about crop insurance. We will also be discussing the new Farm Bill changes and reviewing the new permanent disaster program and important changes that may impact growers.

The meeting should last three hours and all growers are invited to attend.

EARLY RELEASE OF ENROLLED CRP ACRES

USDA just completed a very thorough review of whether the early release of acres currently enrolled in CRP should be allowed. Consequently, the Secretary of Agriculture has stated that after considering recent crop reports and weather conditions, price trends seen in grain markets, and the likelihood of increasing land for crop production, it was decided to not allow the penalty-free release of CRP land at this time. It should be noted that owners still have the option of taking their acres out of the program early in exchange for returning all payments they have received plus interest and a penalty. Finally, it was believed that this decision strikes the best possible balance between supporting programs that protect our natural resources, and meeting the nation’s need for grain production.