



# Franklin County FSA News

## NOTICE OF FARM ACREAGE CHANGES & NEW MAPPING SYSTEM

**To all county operators and owners:** For all intents and purposes we've completed phase 1 of our conversion of paper aerial photography farm acreages to the digital/computer version of the same, called Geographic Information System (GIS). This has been a very challenging task to fit in and around our daily workload the past six or so years, but at this point we're 99.99% done. Now we're addressing the new GIS acreages with our Farm Records System (phase 2) which we aim to have completed by the end of this fiscal year. Please be advised that all farm and most tract level acreages will change, which will also result in correctional changes in all CRP contracts as well. Okay, I said "all" twice and even though the odds are that all your farm acreages will change even if nominally, it's possible a very small handful of farms won't (less than 1%). New maps will be distributed to farm operators during the acreage reporting period. The acreage changes and new system are not open to appeal; however, producers can request that tract and field lines be adjusted if there is verifiable evidence specific line positions are in error. Please note that these official acreages and this system are utilized for FSA program purposes only. Producers will be notified of CRP contract changes as soon as that process is completed. It's our intent that these new acreages will be used for 2008 crop acreage reporting.

## CROP ACREAGE REPORTING

We've had a register going for sometime for those having called in about reporting this year. We're calling and scheduling these folks now. Due to the late announcement of the farm bill, upcoming program training and changes and other priority tasks, acreage reporting has been extended to August 15, 2008 and for NAP coverage holders, the earlier of that date or 15 days before crop harvest. There is much to accomplish this year with a late announced farm bill and expected program sign-up. Please call for your crop acreage report appointment now.

## 2008 FARM BILL IS LAW

All provisions of the farm bill pertaining to FSA have been approved into law after months of debate and delays. Though you might have read a number of initial releases on the subject, actual rules and regulations will take some time to develop for many of the programs we will be delivering. In the law, Congress did call on USDA to issue 2008 advance direct payments as soon as practical as it has been confirmed by our state office that the first program priority is the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP). There are numerous changes with prior programs (that are continuing from the last bill) in addition to some new programs. Some of these programs will be delivered this year and some next. Payment Limitation eligibility rules are basically unchanged for 2008 but will see a significant change next year. We encourage you to stay tuned to local and web media regarding the farm bill (including the FSA site). It's likely we will be holding farm bill meetings when the bulk of the bill has been finalized for our agency. Because we will no doubt be squeezed into some tight program delivery time lines – it will be absolutely critical that you have all farm change documentation (i.e. leases, farm entity change paperwork, etc.) available on your next scheduled office visit. We thank you in advance.

## DISASTER PROGRAM NEWS

**Crop Disaster Program (05-07):** Sign-up for the 05-07 CDP is still ongoing with no deadline announced. We're getting closer to the quality loss sign-up aspect of the CDP with numerous crop parameters currently being established at the County Committee and higher levels. Producers that had FSA Noninsured Assistance or Federal Crop Insurance during any one of the three years are eligible to apply. Call our office if you're interested.

**Noninsured Assistance Program:** June 30 is the deadline for turning in 2007 and prior year production for Actual Production History (APH) to properly calculate the 2008 APH. Failure to turn in a production report can result in a zero in the yield data base for 2007 and a reduced production level for the overall approved coverage yield in 2008 and future years.

**Livestock Compensation Program Sign-up Deadline:** The deadline to enroll in the 2005 - 2007 Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) is **July 18, 2008**. The program provides aid to livestock producers who suffered eligible livestock feed/range losses between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007, because of a natural disaster. Franklin County is eligible for 2005 and 2007 participation because of drought conditions.

## NRCS ANNOUNCES JULY 15 CUTOFF DATE FOR EQIP

July 15 is the application contract ranking cut-off date for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Producers can apply for this program at any time but to be considered for 2009 fiscal year funding, applications must be completed by July 15. EQIP is a voluntary cost-share program that assists producers with conservation practices such as improving irrigation efficiency, managing nutrient run-off, animal waste control, controlling erosion and much more. Franklin County has recently received additional funding offering more opportunities for eligible producers in the irrigated area. Don't delay; call 509-545-8546 for more information.

## REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

Special accommodations will be made upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing loss. If accommodations are required, please contact Bruce Clatterbuck at (509) 545-8543.

### Franklin County FSA

1620 Road 44  
Pasco, WA 99301  
Office Phone: 509-545-8543,  
or 8544 or 8546  
Office Fax: 509-547-2007

### Office Hours

Monday – Friday  
7:30 AM – 5:00 PM (Certain  
staff are on flexible schedules.  
Please call ahead when  
needing assistance from  
specific staff members)

### County Committee

Kurt Harder, *Chairman–  
Dryland (LAA-3)*  
Mike Corrales, *Vice Chair–  
Irrig. (LAA-1)*

Terri Hayles, *Regular  
Member-Irrig. (LAA-2)*

### Office Staff

#### Farm Programs:

Bruce Clatterbuck, CED  
Lynda O'Connor, PT  
Bonnie Riehle, PT  
Patty Welch, PT  
Patsy Beck, PT (Temporary)

#### Farm Loan Program:

Jon Wilson, FLM  
Pam Castoldi, FLO  
Joyce Nevins-Ginsberg, FLO  
Beth Farias, PT



### QUICK LOOK

#### KEY DATES AND REMINDERS:

- County Committee Meeting – 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month (subject to change)
- Livestock Compensation Program – Sign-up deadline is **7/18/08**
- Crop Disaster Program – call for appt.
- Call for Crop Acreage Reporting now.
- Office is closed Friday, 7/4/08 for **Independence Day**.

#### 2008 Crop Loan Rates:

**Wheat Varieties –**  
HRS = \$3.28/ HRW = \$3.31  
SWW = \$2.75  
**Barley** - \$2.19  
**Oats** - \$1.26  
**Corn** - \$2.38 (\$85/ton)

#### FSA WEB SITES:

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



“Return Service Requested”

## CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM NEWS

**CRP Critical Feed Use – Grazing and Haying:** On May 27, 2008, USDA announced that certain acreage enrolled in CRP would be available for haying and grazing after the August 1, primary nesting season through no later than November 10. Beginning June 2, 2008 CRP participants may request to voluntarily modify CRP contracts for critical feed use for haying or grazing. This provision is authorized due to the high prices for hay and tight supplies across the nation. Standard county sign-up introduced and native stands that have been established (CP1, CP2, CP10 and CP4D practices) are eligible. Filterstrip (waterway) contracts are not eligible under this authorization and must be fenced off if adjacent CRP is being grazed. Producers are authorized to hay up to 50% of each eligible field. When grazing, participants must leave at least 25% of each field ungrazed for wildlife or graze all of the CRP acreage at no more than 75% of the stocking rate, as determined by the NRCS office. The cost is a \$75 fee per contract utilized. No payment reduction will be assessed. All participants on the contract must agree and sign the application and applicable conservation plan. A fact sheet is available upon request and/or information is available at the national FSA website.

**Expiring CRP – Early Land Preparation Options:** Contracts expiring September 30, 2008 that will not or cannot be continued in the program can be worked up for a fall crop planting as early as May 1 through June 30 with a payment reduction (calculated from the date of approval through June 30). As another option, producers can do the same after July 1 without a reduction. The key is that a fall crop must be planted and producers must officially apply for this modification of the contract, or the contract is in violation. The only other option is for those intending to spring plant a crop. These producers are allowed to mow the acreage and/or apply a destructive herbicide application after August 1, the difference here being that the cover cannot be tilled up before contract expiration. Contact our office for a helpful informational sheet on this program.

**The Nesting Season and CRP Weed Control:** The primary nesting season for this state is April 1 – June 1 for most CRP contracts. During this time, CRP maintenance activities are limited. In addition, more intrusive activities such as mowing, harrowing, disking or chiseling are restricted through July 1 and burning through August 15. For CRP contracts approved after September 26, 2006 and for contracts that have mid-contract management practices first added after September 26, 2006, the nesting season is April 1-August 1. Spot treatment may be authorized, but only upon request. Questions? Give us a call.

**Expiring Filterstrip Contracts:** We're currently on hold with this task until we're trained in a new software program for producing the new 10 to 15 year contracts and because of some higher priority activities. NRCS will be inspecting the fields in these expiring contracts soon. New conservation plans and contract paperwork packets are expected to be sent out to contract operators in the next couple months with September 30 as our final date to approve the new contracts. Please keep an eye out for these mailings and attend to them promptly when they arrive. Thanks.

## COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION – DRYLAND DISTRICT

A County Committee election will be held this December for the large dryland farm area east of Interstate 395. Kurt Harder (our current Committee chair) is the representative for this area and in December will have completed one three year term. Nominations are now open for eligible candidates for the election. County Committee members are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA. Committee members help guide FSA farm programs at the local level. They make FSA agricultural programs fit the needs of the local producers. The County Committee operates with official regulations designed to carry out Federal laws. Committee members serve for three years and are reimbursed for their committee time. The election of responsible agricultural producers to FSA county committees is important to all farmers and ranchers especially in a new farm bill year like this one. All eligible producers are encouraged to run for the position including under-represented producers and beginning farmers and ranchers. **Important dates:**

June 15, 2008 - Nomination process begins. Forms were mailed out to this newsletter mailing list and you can request nomination forms from the FSA office or obtain online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>.

**August 1, 2008 - Last day to file nomination forms.**

November 3, 2008 - Ballots mailed to eligible voters.

December 1, 2008 - Last day to return ballots.

January 1, 2009 - Elected committee members and alternates take office.

Contact our office for a more detailed description of the election area.

## STATEWIDE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR WASHINGTON AGRICULTURE

During 2008, the Washington State Dept. of Agriculture is assembling a statewide strategic plan for Washington agriculture. The work is based upon the vision of producers and the realities of the industry now and into the foreseeable future.

This plan is being developed with information provided by farmers for farmers. The plan will be used by the Governor, the Legislature and others to help guide future actions. WSDA is currently obtaining input online. Also, listening sessions are being conducted throughout the state.

If you wish to have input on the state's strategic plan for agriculture, check The Future of Farming project website for a link for the online survey and a list of listening sessions. The site is: <http://agr.wa.gov/fof/default.htm>