



September 2008

Franklin County FSA News



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 – 4th Thursday of each month (subject to change)
- Crop Disaster Program – call for appt.
- Key September Deadlines – In this newsletter

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>

Reasonable Accommodations

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.



SEPTEMBER 30 - DCP DEADLINE FAST APPROACHING

Producers interested in enrolling base crop acreage farms in the annual DCP program have until September 30 to get that accomplished. As a result of the late passage of the farm bill and DCP program announcement and the limited amount of time for enrollment, we are conducting a mail-out of those contracts we are reasonably sure that contract participant and share information could be determined. Contracts are being mailed to the operator, who is being asked to acquire necessary signatures from landowners, and then to return all contract signature pages and other forms to the County Office before the above referenced deadline. **Please review any contracts received carefully, and if you have any questions, or see discrepancies in the listed producers on the contract or assigned shares, contact our office immediately for correction and/or a scheduled appointment. DO NOT DELAY RESPONDING TO THIS PACKET WHEN RECEIVED.**

Please note that final payments will be issued in October for all approved contracts less any 22% advance payments issued. A fact sheet containing payment rates for the DCP program for applicable base crops is available at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/DCP>.

CROP ACREAGE REPORTING

Acreage reports covering **ALL** cropland on an FSA farm is required in order for DCP payments to be issued for any enrolled DCP farm. Payments will remain unpaid until a complete farm crop report is filed. Crop acreage reports are also required for the CRP, NAP, commodity loan and LDP programs. Those calling in for acreage report appointments after August 15 are required to pay a late filed fee to cover the cost of a required field visit. Physical evidence of the reported crops is required. We are still working through appointments for producers that called in before August 15 and provided these producers keep their scheduled appointment, they will be free of the late filed fee.

Exception to the 8/15/08 Deadline: Due to late farm bill passage, and the requirement to report all acreage on all farms to qualify for the new Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) and other applicable farm bill disaster programs, late filing crop report fees will be waived for 2008. Eligibility for the waiver will be evidenced through your application for NAP and/or Crop Insurance coverage for all crop interests in all counties (see Crop Insurance/NAP articles on the flip side). Producers filing under this exemption are required to provide (in support of the late filed crop report), clear documentation of the existence and disposition of all crops reported.

NEW WILDLIFE PROGRAM TARGETS IRRIGATED ACREAGE IN THE COLUMBIA BASIN

A portion of the Columbia Basin is one of four project areas in the state approved for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's new Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) wildlife initiative – State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE). Field edges and center pivot corners with cropping history (which includes reported fallow fields) in specified areas of **Franklin**, Adams and Grant counties are included in the "Columbia Basin Irrigation Project" SAFE program. Through 10-15 year contracts, producers receive annual rental payments, up to 90% practice establishment assistance through cost shares and incentives as well as a one time \$100 an acre contract signing incentive payment. The CRP SAFE program is a combined effort of the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Farm Service Agency, and is administered by FSA. Interested producers should contact FSA at (509-545-8543) and/or local WDFW representative, Mike Keller at (509) 521-3099 for assistance.

DRYLAND FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION- NOMINEES ANNOUNCED

Eligible nominees willing to run for this year's election in the dryland area (LAA#3) are:

- Kurt Harder, the incumbent who farms and ranches in north eastern Franklin County.
- Chris Herron, past Committee member who farms near Connell and Kahlotus.

Election ballots will go out in early November, sent directly from our Kansas City office. Eligible ballots must be postmarked by December 1, 2008. Ballots will be tabulated on December 4, 2008. We appreciate Kurt and Chris's willingness to run.

FSA LOANS

Farm Loan Limits Increased: The new farm bill increased loan limits for Operating and Real Estate purchase loans to \$300,000. This is the first increase in over 20 years. If you had reached the maximum loan amount previously, you might now qualify for additional credit under the direct loan program. Contact FSA's loan department to find out if you qualify.

Farm Facility Loan Program: The farm bill has changed the Farm Facility Loan program to include Hay Storage facilities. The amount that can be loaned has been changed from \$100,000 to \$500,000 over a 12 year term with annual payments. This loan can be made to you, even if you can get commercial credit. Operating policy for these changes is unavailable at this time. Contact Jon Wilson for more information and to be placed on a register to be called when new procedures are released.

ALL FARM CROP RISK COVERAGE NEEDED FOR 2008 FARM BILL DISASTER ELIGIBILITY

Congress tied all disaster assistance eligibility to producers obtaining a minimum CAT level of crop insurance or NAP coverage for uninsurable crops for all crops on all of a producer's farms. Due to the late farm bill arrival, a one-time waiver allows you to purchase buy-in CAT or NAP **by September 16** for all crop interests in all counties not already covered by NAP or a Federal Multiperil Crop insurance product. The following clarifications have been provided based on producer questions received and apply for 2008 and future years under the new farm bill:

- Producers with 2008 AGR or AGR-Lite coverage for **all** farm crop interests maintains eligibility for 2008 farm bill supplemental disaster assistance. NAP or CAT "buy-in" fees through FSA are not required.
- Producers with **uninsured** (through multi-peril, AGR or AGR-Lite federal crop insurance coverage) 2008 re-crop or continuous crop wheat acreage (non-irrigated wheat in 2007 followed by wheat on the same acreage in 2008), must obtain 2008 NAP buy-in to maintain eligibility for farm bill supplemental disaster assistance programs for any crop suffering an eligible loss in 2008 including insured acreages of any crop.
- Grazing is considered to be harvest of a crop; therefore, if you have rangeland or pastures in your farming operation, and graze livestock including horses, a NAP policy covering grazing or payment of the "buy-in" fee would be needed to maintain your eligibility for SURE.

RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY REMINDS GROWERS - 2009 COVERAGE DEADLINES NEAR

USDA's Spokane Risk Management Agency (RMA) Office reminds producers of the important link between Federal crop insurance and FSA's Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance programs including the new SURE program. While a "buy in" waiver is allowed for 2008, producers must purchase insurance 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 a policy or plan of insurance of at least catastrophic (CAT) level coverage for 2009. Note: the more crop insurance coverage a producer has, the more the SURE guarantee will be. For those crops that are non-insurable, coverage under FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be timely obtained. 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 Federal crop insurance is September 30 for fall planted crops like wheat, forage production, (fall) barley and mint (with winter coverage). FSA has announced a 2009 sales closing deadline extension of December 1 for all fall and winter sales closing deadline crops under the NAP program (only). However, we strongly encourage producers to stick with established NAP sales closing deadlines to, one; ensure fall planted NAP crops are covered from fall/winter freeze, as NAP coverage attaches the later of 30 days after application and fee payment or the date the crop is planted (not to exceed the county established final crop planting date) and two; to better remember our annual crop specific deadlines that rarely change. Call our office for September 30 and November 20 NAP sales closing deadline crops. The 2009 spring crop NAP sales deadline remains unchanged at March 15. Contact our office for NAP fee rates (increased for 2009).