



November 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** – Dec. 4, 2008 – Election of LAA-3
- **FCIC and NAP sales closing** (fruit crops, grapes, asparagus, honey) – Nov. 20, 2008
- **Farm Bill Talk** – Jan. 8, 2009, Franklin Co. Wheat Growers – Kahlotus Grange (time T.B.A.).
- **Holiday Closures:**
  - o 11/27-Thanksgiving
  - o 12/25-Christmas
  - o 1/1 – New Years

#### 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.



## THE ELECTION IS NOT OVER!...

The Franklin County FSA Committee election, that is. Eligible producers in the non-irrigated voting Local Administrative Area 3 are receiving ballots this month and have until **December 1, 2008** to return their ballot to our office. Ballots will be tabulated at 9:00 a.m. in our conference room here at the Service Center on Thursday, **December 4, 2008**. The nominee slate includes:

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

Willing and eligible producers in LAA-3 can also be written in on the ballot. Please take time to fulfill a worthwhile civic duty and cast your ballot today!

## PAYMENTS ARE ROLLING OUT

Since the first of last month and into this one (minus a week of agency training), we've been working hard at getting all final DCP and CRP payments out to eligible participants. Please review your payment statements carefully to ensure all payments for your participating farms and/or contract numbers have been issued. Payments issued often go unpaid when producers change banks (with no notice to our office) or when bank names change and/or mergers occur. We are not immediately notified when funds are "stuck" in cyberspace unpaid, so be sure you contact us immediately when changes occur. By the time you receive this newsletter we'll have neared the middle of the month. We ask each year that you allow us from the first of October through the middle of November to work through all payments before calling our office about potentially missing ones (if you can) and when you call, please be an effective caller. **Asking About Payments – "Do's and Don'ts":**

- The less than desirable call about potentially missing payments comes to us like this: *"I'm still missing some of my payments, are the rest coming soon?"*
- The most effective call comes to us like this: *"I've checked my bank records and my payment statements from the mail against my FSA sign-up information and I'm missing my share of the payments for the DCP program on Farm number ### and ####. Could you let me know the status of these farms?"* - **OR** - *"My landlords and I have received all our payments for CRP except for contracts ###A and ##C, are you still working on those?"*

We can't emphasize enough how much faster we can answer the latter two examples over the first. The more lead checking you do and more complete call you make, the quicker and more complete the answer from us will be. THANKS!!

## LOANS – LOANS - LOANS

### Farm Loan Funds now Available

The new fiscal year 2009 has begun and direct loan funds have been set aside for youth loans, beginning farmer loans and FSA loans to purchase real estate or finance farm operating costs. Rural Youth as young as 10 may qualify for a Youth Loan. Guaranteed loans for Operating and Real Estate purchase can now be up to \$1,094,000. Don't wait; get started on your 2009 farm loan needs today. Contact Jonathan, Joyce or Pam at (509) 545-8543 ext. 2 at FSA in Pasco or email [jon.wilson@wa.usda.gov](mailto:jon.wilson@wa.usda.gov).

### 2008 Crop Commodity Loans Available

FSA offers 9-month CCC loans, using the harvested commodity as collateral. The loans enable producers to extend their marketing season by allowing them to hold their commodity beyond harvest when prices are usually lowest. Producers must maintain beneficial interest in the commodity for the entire length of the loan. The commodity may be stored on the farm or in CCC licensed warehouses. The commodity must be provided safe storage through loan maturity. The structure must allow for safe inspection, measurement, and sampling of the commodity. Anyone raising the following crops is eligible for commodity loans or LDP's: barley, oats, wheat, corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, canola, crambe, flaxseed, mustard seed, rapeseed, safflower seed, sesame seed, sunflower seed, dry peas, lentils, and small chickpeas. Honey, wool, and mohair are also eligible. The November interest rate is 2.5%. Contact Lynda O'Connor if interested.

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Employment opportunities for the USDA Farm Service Agency and located within Washington State are listed on the FSA website <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>. Vacancies are posted on the home page and from the "Search for Job Openings Link" on the same page. Anyone interested is encouraged to frequently monitor these websites. FSA is dedicated to serving farmers and ranchers.

## WHAT'S IN THE BILL?

Recent state Farm Bill training provided FSA field staff a foundation for what lies ahead for us in program year 2009. However, as with any of the recent farm bills of the past, there are many, many more details to be established before they can be implemented. Below is an Acronym-Summary list of the major programs within the farm bill, (existing and new) to be implemented by FSA. We plan to provide information on the farm bill throughout the winter utilizing newly scheduled and existing producer meetings. Times and dates as they are solidified will be posted on our facility front door, office answering machine (extension 130), FSA newsletter (**see 1<sup>st</sup> page grayed column this & future issues**) and through the media.

**ACRE** – Average Crop Revenue Election, designed as an alternative to the DCP, providing a reduced direct payment coupled with a revenue loss guarantee potential payment for planted base acre program crops.

**CRP** – Conservation Reserve Program, environmental erosion and wildlife habitat emphasis program providing annual rental and incentive payments to producers that take farm land out of production and/or enhance existing farmland through the establishment of prescribed conservation plantings. Certain irrigated acres can be enrolled now. Contact Lynda O'Connor.

**DCP** – Direct and Counter Cyclical Payment, program offers producers with base acreage crop direct payments and counter cyclical payment protection when these “covered” commodity prices fall below established target levels. New crops added to DCP and base establishment for 2009 are dry peas, lentils, small and large chickpeas (desi and kabuli garbanzo beans) and peanuts.

**ECP** – Emergency Conservation Program, when funded, provides cost share assistance for farm and cropland restoration after natural disasters such as flood and wildfire.

**ELAP** – Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm Raised Fish Program, provides natural disaster emergency relief to producers to aid in the reduction of losses to the above “livestock” not covered under the SURE, LIP and LFP programs.

**FSFL** – Farm Storage Facility Loan, provides loans for on-farm storage. We understand there will be some changes to the program, but do not know any details until Federal regulations are published and we're notified. Contact Farm Loan Manager, Jon Wilson, if interested.

**GRP** – Grasslands Reserve Program, provides various payment incentives to ranchers to enhance and/or maintain grazing land cover under prescribed grazing management plans.

**LDP** – Loan Deficiency Payment, provides a market loss payment for traditional base crop commodities, certain oilseed crops, “pulse” crops (such as peas and lentils), wool, mohair and honey, when the price falls below the county loan rate.

**LFP** – Livestock Forage Program, provides compensation to livestock producers who suffer grazing losses due to drought and fire on federally managed lands. Payments are made on the lesser of feed needs per head or for feed loss from the pasture.

**LIP** – Livestock Indemnity Program, provides compensation to livestock producers who suffer livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather that occurred on or after 01/01/2008 and before 10/01/2011.

**MAL** – Market Assistance Loan – (see page 1), covers the same crops listed under LDP above and allows for repayment of the loan at a rate that is lesser of loan rate plus interest or an average market price during a preceding 30-day period and will minimize marketing loan benefits across state and county boundaries. The gain from an MAL repayment at less than principal + interest is similar to requesting an LDP payment on the same day.

**MILC** – Milk Income Loss Compensation, compensates dairy producers when domestic milk prices fall below a specified level for the period of 10/1/2007 through 9/30/2012. There will be an announced sign-up after regulations are written.

**NAP** – Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, compensates growers for non-federally insurable crop losses at the “catastrophic” level (or greater than 50%). This is a fee based catastrophic loss program similar to the “CAT” policy for federally insurable crops. This (and Federal Crop Insurance for FCIC applicable crops) is required to be purchased for all of a producer's crops in a crop year as linkage to new/amended disaster programs, ELAP, LFP, SURE and TAP.

**SURE** – Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program, compensates growers for revenue loss on farms in or contiguous to “disaster declared” counties, that have incurred crop production and/or quality losses during the crop year or for farms during a calendar year that have a total loss of production (due to adverse weather) greater than 50% of normal.

**TAP** – Tree Assistance Program, as funded, provides cost shares for rehabilitation and reestablishment of nursery, ornamental, fruit, nut or Christmas trees that were grown for commercial sale and suffered damage or loss from an eligible natural disaster.

## FIELD ATLASES – NOW AVAILABLE

The updated version of the Franklin Conservation District's (FCD) Field Atlas is now available for \$25.00 at the FCD office. Field boundaries have been updated based on 2007 aerial photos for irrigated land. The books are 11X17 in size and have field boundaries with acres arranged by township and range. Also, maps of field boundaries by block and unit have been added. Contact the FCD office for more information at (509) 545-8546, ext. 3.

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