



February-March, 2009

# Franklin County FSA News

## SPRING CROP RISK PROTECTION DEADLINES NEAR

### 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

Mike Corrales, *Chairman –  
Irrig. (LAA-1)*

Terri Hayles, *Vice Chair –  
Irrig. (LAA-2)*

Kurt Harder, *Regular Member  
– Dryland (LAA-3)*

### 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)

#### Farm Bill Info. Meetings:

- Basin City Fire Hall  
March, 09 from 9:00 to  
Noon.
- Feb. 27 - Lamb  
Referendum deadline.
- Phase II MILC Program  
Sign-up ongoing. Start  
month changes must be  
made by the 14<sup>th</sup> of the  
month prior to the desired  
payment start month.
- 2009 DCP Sign-up  
Dec. 22 – June 1, 2009.  
Call now for scheduling.
- Mar. 16 - FCIC and FSA,  
NAP program Spring sales  
closing deadline.
- Mar. 31 – 08 Crop Small  
Grain Commodity Loan  
Deadline.

#### 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.

### Federal Crop Insurance:

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON, February 2, 2009 ---- **USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA)** reminds Pacific Northwest producers of the March 16th sales closing deadline for their 2009 Crop Year spring Multi-Peril Crop Insurance (MPCI) coverage (sales continue through COB **March 16** since March 15 occurs on a Sunday). Current policyholders and uninsured growers must make all of their decisions on crop insurance coverage, especially which crops to insure and which level of coverage to obtain, prior to the sales closing date. Changes for 2009 are:

- o Barley Revenue Assurance expanded into Washington
- o New and improved Dry Pea MPCI policy provisions and producers now insure chickpeas under the new Dry Pea policy

The following spring planted crops & other products come under the **March 16** deadline: AGR-Lite (new insured's), barley, field and sweet corn, dry and processing beans, dry and green peas, mint, potatoes and sugar beets.

### Non-Insured Assistance Program:

FSA reminds producers of the **March 16** sales closing deadline for the NAP program which covers spring/summer planted crops not insurable by a multiperil federal crop insurance product. Crops included are small grain forages (wheat, barley, oats and crops such as pea forage), mustard and summer planted buckwheat. The NAP coverage fee is \$250 per crop up to a \$750 maximum charge for 3 or more crops per county and maximum of \$1875 for multiple county interests.

#### 2008 Buy-in and 2009 NAP Refunds:

In certain circumstances producers may be eligible for NAP fee refunds for 2008 and/or 2009. A recent congressional clarification was issued for situations involving producers who purchased (for linkage to FSA farmland disaster programs like SURE) NAP coverage for crops intended for grazing or crops considered De Minimis. De Minimis crops are defined as crops that are either not economically significant or for which the NAP fee exceeds 10 percent of the value of the NAP coverage. Refunds must be requested and are considered on a case-by-case basis.

### Don't Forget About Linkage:

More critical now than ever before is ensuring that all crops planted and/or with the intention of being planted for 2009 production are covered by at least the "CAT" level of federal crop insurance or FSA's NAP program in order to retain eligibility for FSA's farmland disaster programs. Producers covered by FCIC's AGR or AGR-Lite products will meet the linkage provision. Pay special attention to crops that may be listed as FCIC covered crops for the county but where part or all of specific acreages of your crop can't meet FCIC insurable levels or can't be insured for other reasons. If you harvest these uninsured acres for production (feed or sale) and have not purchased FSA NAP coverage in lieu of denied FCIC coverage, linkage to FSA's disaster programs will be broken. Exceptions to the linkage requirement are few. Contact our office if you believe a crop may not be considered "economically significant" and/or for rules regarding the "limited resource farmer or rancher" fee waiver.

## FARM BILL PRESENTATION – NORTHWEST FRANKLIN COUNTY

Where - Basin City Firehall

When – March 9, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon

Who – Franklin County Farm Service Agency and Natural Resource Conservation Service

What – An overview of FSA price support, conservation, disaster, commodity and loan programs and NRCS conservation programs will be presented along with key producer eligibility changes. We strongly encourage producers attend. Agency staff will be available for questions as long as needed after the presentation. This is an opportune time to address us one-on-one. Refreshments will be provided.

## FARM LOAN PROGRAMS – LENDER OF FIRST OPPORTUNITY

Are you looking to expand your operation, buy some new equipment, begin your farming or ranching career, or have children that would like to finance a 4-H or FFA project? We may be able to help you. Guaranteed loans available up to \$1,094,000 can include operating lines of credit or loans for real estate purchase. There are 15 different banks in the area involved in making these types of loans. Direct loans are now available up to \$300,000 for operating or real estate purposes. Operating loan interest rates in February are 2.125% while the rate for real estate loans in February is 3.75%. Three loan officers are available to process these loans. Jonathan Wilson, Farm Loan Manager, Joyce Nevins-Ginsberg and Pam Castoldi, Farm Loan Officers.

## USDA to CONDUCT REFERENDUM ON LAMB CHECKOFF PROGRAM

A referendum is being conducted at FSA county offices now through February 27, 2009 on the Lamb Checkoff Program. The order would continue if a majority of persons voting who represent a majority of the volume of lambs owned and produced, owned and fed, or slaughtered, vote in favor of continuing the program. Eligible voters must provide documentation with their ballot when voting. Please contact our office about voting if you were engaged in the production, feeding or slaughtering of lambs in calendar year 2008.

