



October/November 2009

# 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

Mike Corrales, *Chairman –  
Irrig. (LAA-1)*  
Terri Hayles, *Vice Chair –  
Irrig. (LAA-2)*  
Chris Herron, *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:

Serving Franklin and Benton  
Counties:  
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)
- Nov. 11 – **Closed** for  
Veterans Day
- Nov. 20 – Next FSA NAP  
and Crop Insurance Sales  
Closing Deadline
- Nov. 22 – **Closed** for  
Thanksgiving
- Dec. 10 – Election/COC  
Meeting

#### 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.



## FSA STATE DIRECTOR APPOINTED

Judy Olson has been named as the newly appointed State Executive Director (SED) for the Washington State Farm Service Agency. She has served for many years as the Eastern Washington Director for U.S. Senator Patty Murray. She is a fourth-generation farmer and has over 25 years of experience working with volunteer producer organizations and on community service activities. She was the first woman to be elected president of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers and is the first woman selected to serve as this state's SED. We welcome Judy to the FSA "family".

## PAYMENT PROBLEMS

Producers are encouraged to closely monitor your farm program payments for fiscal year 2009. FSA has been transitioning from an old IBM System/36 computer system to online software systems to make payments. The System/36 is obsolete, and soon the agency will no longer be able to maintain it. The transition to the new systems has created temporary problems for issuing payments, as some of you may have experienced.

Final 2009 DCP and ACRE direct payments will be issued in full. If you received an advance DCP or ACRE direct payment earlier this year, that amount will be offset from your final direct payment. However, it may have been offset from a different farm or by a different county office. Also, if you received multiple advance payments, they may all have been offset from one farm. In limited cases, these advance payments may have been offset from one or more of your CRP annual rental payments. Individual payment amounts may look different than you expect, but the total of all your payments should be similar to previous years, if nothing has changed. Payments may also come to you from DCP farms and CRP contracts sporadically rather than all together as you may have received in prior years.

Please know that we are trying to issue your payments as quickly as possible. Transaction statements are mailed directly from our Financial Services Center in Kansas City and may reach you after your payment is deposited into your bank account. We will be working fervently through October and into November to get all final payments issued. We greatly appreciate patience in inquiring about your payment status. The fewer calls we receive about payment status during this payment period, the more time we can spend in certifying them for release. If the total of all your payments is not what you expect, let us know.

## COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION NEARS -- WATCH FOR BALLOTS

Eligible producers in the irrigated voting Local Administrative Area 1 will receive ballots in November and have until **December 7, 2009** to return their ballot to our office or mail them regular mail. Ballots will be tabulated at 9:00 a.m. in our conference room here at the Service Center on Thursday, **December 10, 2009**. THE SLATE OF NOMINEES IS:

- Scott Knight, who lives and farms irrigated crops in the Connell area.
  - Chris Smith, who lives and farms irrigated crops in the Basin City area.
- Willing and eligible producers wishing to be a candidate in LAA-1 can also be written in on the ballot form. Please take time to fulfill a worthwhile civic duty and cast your vote when the ballot form is received!

## THANKS MIKE!!!

Hearty thanks go to Mike Corrales (of the Basin City area) who has served as the LAA-1 committee member for nine years (3 consecutive 3-year terms). Mike has been a tremendous asset to the Committee and in that role will be greatly missed. Beyond the business, he leaves a hole in the meeting morning donut breakfast program. Additionally our annual special occasion service center staff barbeque will not be the same!!! ;>) THANKS AGAIN MIKE FOR EVERYTHING!

“Return Service Requested”

### 2009 MARKET ASSISTANCE COMMODITY LOAN AND LDP REMINDER

FSA offers two market assistance and price support programs, one being the Market Assistance Loan (MAL) and the other, the Loan Deficiency Program (LDP). MAL's provide low interest financing for crops such as wheat, feed grains (like corn and barley) and other eligible crops such as honey, wool and dry peas (to name a few). MAL's offer depressed market protection in the form of repayments at less than principal and interest which can be triggered when market prices for the crops drop below established levels. MAL's can be issued as approved warehouse stored or approved farm stored loans where the crop itself is our security for the approved loan. MAL's run on a nine month term and have differing loan application deadlines by crop. The October MAL interest rate is 1.375%. Listed below is a sample of some of the eligible crop loan rates for Franklin County production:

HRS Wheat	\$3.86/bu	HRW Wheat	\$2.98/bu	SWW Wheat	\$3.22/bu	Corn	\$2.32/bu
Dry Peas	\$6.12/cwt	Ungraded Wool	\$0.38/lb	Barley	\$2.15/bu	Honey	\$0.60/lb

When markets fall below eligible levels, LDP's can be requested as an option instead of the MAL. LDP's are calculated in the same manner as less than principal and interest repayment gains for MAL's. **Note:** Failing to file form CCC-633EZ, page 1 before selling the crop will nullify a payment request (page 2) filed after sale and delivery of that crop. Additionally, LDP payment requests have differing deadlines for different crops (as mentioned for MAL's above). As an example, wheat MAL's and/or LDP's must be applied for no later than March 31 of the year following the year of harvest. Contact our office if you're interested in either option for 2009 eligible covered commodities.

### ELAP FOR LIVESTOCK, HONEY BEES AND FARM RAISED FISH

ELAP provides compensation to eligible producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other loss conditions, including losses due to blizzards and wildfires caused by natural occurrence (for example, lightning). ELAP is for losses that are not covered by Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), or Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE). Eligible producers under ELAP may receive assistance for losses that occur on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011. Eligible losses include feed losses, physical losses and additional costs incurred in providing feed to eligible livestock. Losses due to drought are not eligible. The two parts to the ELAP application are:

1. A notice of loss
2. Application for payment

An application for payment cannot be filed until a notice of loss is submitted. Signup for eligible losses during 2008 and 2009, began September 14, 2009. Producers who suffered losses in calendar year 2008, must provide a notice of loss and application for payment in their administrative county office no later than **December 10, 2009**.

Application for payment for calendar year 2009 losses shall be filed no later than January 30, 2010. Producers who suffer losses September 14, 2009, through December 31, 2009, shall file a notice of loss within 30 days of when the loss is apparent to the participant, but no later than January 30, 2010. There are no late filed provisions for ELAP.

Producers with eligible losses must timely file an acreage report on grazing land acres, honey bee colonies and farm-raised fish pond acres. Physical losses of honey bees and honey bee hives lost due to adverse weather or natural occurrence are eligible under ELAP. Producers will be required to provide documentation of beginning and ending inventory of honey bee colonies when claiming a physical loss of honey bees or honey bee hives. Physical losses will be compensated at 60 percent of the actual replacement cost of the honey bees or honey bee hives.

Additional ELAP information is available at FSA county offices or on line at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

### THIRD PARTY FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS

FSA participating producers desiring to have us release their program information to a third party must provide us a detailed request in writing for such request to be processed. Details should include the full third party name, address and phone contact, detailed description of the information to provide, timeline if applicable, complete name of the participant (individual and/or entities) and be signed and dated by the participant. Please avoid “last minute” requests. Phone authorizations will not be honored. Written requests can be mailed, hand delivered or faxed to our office. Requests are handled on a first come-first served basis.

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotapes, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.