



January 2010

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
8:00 am – 4:30 pm (Certain
staff are on flexible schedules.
Please call ahead when
needing assistance from
specific staff members)

County Committee

Scott Knight - *Irrig.* (LAA-1)
Terri Hayles - *Irrig.* (LAA-2)
Chris Herron - *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
– 4th Thursday of each
month (subject to change)
- Feb. 15 – **Closed** for
Presidents Day
- March 15 – Next FSA NAP
and Crop Insurance Sales
Closing Deadline (**NAP** or
FCIC coverage on all
crops for a crop year is
required for linkage to
same crop year Farmbill
Disaster programs,
SURE, TAP and **ELAP** –
contact office for more
details)

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.



COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to Scott Knight! Scott was elected the County Committee to represent farmers from the northwest irrigated Committee voting district. Scott was elected to his 3-year term as a first time nominee. The election results for Local Administrative Area 1 are:

Scott Knight — Elected to the county committee (COC),

Chris Smith — 1st alternate to COC,

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation. The committee members will hold their organizational meeting on January 28 to determine who will serve as the county committee as chairman and vice-chairman.

PAYMENTS AND TAX REPORTING – CHECK YOUR STATEMENT

As you may know, FSA experienced a number of software issues in disbursing 2009 CRP and DCP/ACRE payments. Near the end of January, our Kansas City office will be issuing your CCC-1099G form with the 2009 payment data that will be reported to the IRS. It is very important this year that you closely review this document to ensure it accurately reflects the payments you received in 2009. If it does not, or if you have any questions about the data, please contact our office. We will assist you to confirm the data or obtain a corrected CCC-1099G. Also keep in mind that this form does not include any refunds you may have made to FSA in 2009.

“ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN FARMING” RULE - DEFINITION CHANGES

Beginning with the 2010 program year, FSA has amended the rules that govern the requirements to be 'actively engaged' in farming. These rules apply to eligibility for payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program. FSA has implemented the following change to permit certain operations, most often family-run operations, to meet 'actively engaged' in farming requirements under less restrictive rules. Every stockholder or member of a legal entity, such as a corporation, does not have to contribute labor or management if both of the following apply:

- at least half of the interest in the legal entity is held by stockholders or members who are providing active personal labor or active personal management that altogether qualifies as a significant contribution to the farming operation;
- the members are collectively receiving, directly and indirectly, total payments that do not exceed \$40,000.

Please contact our office if you believe your operation is affected by this new exception.

NOTICE TO ALL 2009 & 2010 FARM PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

USDA Streamlines AGI Certification Compliance Checks to Enhance Program Integrity:

Beginning in January, 2010, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will provide producers with consent forms they voluntarily complete and submit to IRS. These forms authorize IRS to disclose a very limited amount of information to USDA for 2009 and 2010 average adjusted gross income (AGI) compliance purposes. Producers must submit the applicable form to IRS, authorizing the review, in order to retain 2009 and future payments subject to current AGI requirements. The form must be mailed to the IRS within 60 days of signing the form. **FSA cannot accept the consent forms.**

Two consent forms, one for individuals (CCC-927) and one for legal entities (CCC-928) will be used. Every individual or entity who was required to file form CCC-926, Average Adjusted Gross Income Statement, must file the applicable consent form.

IRS will provide FSA and NRCS with a report, indicating whether or not producers met the statutory AGI limits. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to USDA. Producers whose average AGI appears to exceed statutory limitations will be notified by letter and provided an opportunity to submit a third party verification from a certified public accountant or attorney that demonstrates AGI limits have not been exceeded. Producers will be given 30 days to submit this verification to the Washington State FSA Office. Non-compliant participants will be required to refund applicable program payments.

The purpose of the agreement is to reduce fraud in farm programs and streamline payment limits for family farmers. The actions are intended to strengthen the integrity and defensibility of USDA farm safety net programs. This agreement will ensure that payments are not issued to producers whose adjusted gross income (AGI) exceeds limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill. The limits are \$500,000 non-farm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million non-farm average AGI for conservation programs. Consent forms can be obtained at the local USDA Service Center or online at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov>.

“Return Service Requested”

SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE (SURE) SIGN-UP

Signup for the 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program (SURE) began on January 4, 2010. This signup period is for those who suffered crop production losses during crop year 2008.

SURE provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred crop production or crop quality losses. The program takes into consideration crop losses on all crops grown by a producer nationwide. SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE farm guarantee and total farm revenue. The farm guarantee is based on the amount of crop insurance and Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on the farm. Total farm revenue takes into account the actual value of production on the farm as well as insurance indemnities and certain farm program payments.

Producers with a farming interest physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Agriculture Secretary must have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance. Producers must meet the risk management purchase requirement by either obtaining a policy or plan of insurance, under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or NAP coverage, for all economically significant crops. For 2008 crops, producers had the opportunity to obtain a waiver of the risk management purchase requirement through a buy-in provision. Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage.

If there is no Secretarial Disaster Designation, individual producers may also be eligible for SURE if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster. For SURE, a farm is defined as all crops in which a producer had an interest nationwide.

For more information on the new SURE program, please visit the county office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

ASSIGNING PROGRAM PAYMENTS TO THIRD-PARTIES

When producers request, FSA will issue all or a portion of their program payment to a third-party (assignee), such as a lender. This can save time and effort for a producer and any assignee with which the producer has an agreement. However, it is important that the producer and third-party communicate concerning any changes in operation that may affect the payment amount each receives. Privacy laws prevent FSA from reporting any changes to the assignee.

FSA will make every attempt to pay the full amount designated by the producer on an assignment form. However, FSA will only pay the assignee to the extent the producer earns the payment. In situations where the assignee or the producer receives a portion of a payment intended to go to the other, they are responsible for working together to resolve any differences. If you would like to sign up for Assignment of Payment or would like more information on assigning program payments, contact our office.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

“Temporarily Away”

When traveling or going away from your normal (mailing) residence for any length of time, please ensure the post office will forward your mail to your temporary address and/or notify our office of a temporary change of address as will best suit your situation. We've experienced numerous occasions where check payments get tied up in the postal system and/or as is obligated by the Postal Service, are returned to our office because forwards have expired with no mailing alternative provided.

Power of Attorney for Farm Programs

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your Farm Program business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information. Once validated and accepted, the form can be utilized in any FSA county office across the nation (for those of you that have multi-county and/or multi-state farm interests). It is not authorized for every FSA form, for example, Committee election ballots.

Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

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.