



March/April 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
April 15, 2010 and
generally every 4th
Thursday of each month
(subject to change)
- Mar. 30 – Last day for a
2009 small grain CCC loan.
- May 15 – Last day for a
2009 grain corn CCC loan.
- May 31 – Closed for
Memorial Day
- SURE Disaster Program
Sign-up Continues
- June 1 – Deadline for DCP
& ACRE enrollment
- June 30 – Crop Acreage
Reporting 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.



WE'RE MOVING!!!

WHAT? – The USDA Service Center is moving to a new location. The process is expected to take a week or so to complete. We have professional services contracted to get us back on our feet as quickly as possible, but as with any move, a few unexpected issues may arise. We thank you ahead of time for your patience during this exciting transition to our new facility.

WHERE? – 1533 E. Spokane Street which is east off of Oregon Avenue in Pasco (back behind Pacific Steel), and currently the only office building on the street (you can't miss it).

WHEN? – Pending finalized inspections, we believe it will be in the first couple weeks of April.

MAIL? – During the interim between old and new, we expect much of our mail will be forwarded from the old address to the new. For timely and successful forwarding, please include the full agency name when addressing a piece of mail to our offices. Do not address a mail piece to any staff member's name **without also including the agency name** or the Post Office cannot guarantee timely or successful delivery (since their machines read the agency name off envelopes). Continue to send mail to our 1620 Rd. 44 address until at least the middle of April, or better yet when we get into April, you may want to call to see where we're at with the move, that is if we answer....

PHONES? – There could be a few days during the move where phone service (including fax) may not be available. If you have an urgent matter for our agency, we advise you contact the following numbers; 509-323-3000 (the FSA state office for FSA matters) and 509-522-6340 (for District Conservationist, Ed Teel of the Walla Walla NRCS office for NRCS matters). These are our back-up contacts for our customers should we end up with any significant delay in service. When calling these numbers, please provide your name, your farm operation name if applicable, the specific program name and relative matter and Pasco Service Center staff member you would have addressed it with (be it NRCS or FSA).

OFFICE VISITS? - If you are planning to stop by the office during April, call to see where the staff member you will be visiting is located that day.

LOOKS? – See below:



SIGN-UP AND REPORTING DEADLINES – NO EXTENSIONS

The following are very important dates involving this year's typical seasonal sign-up and reporting requirements. **Please understand that there are no announced extensions or register options for these 2010 program activities:**

- DCP and ACRE contract sign-up – **JUNE 1, 2010** (Share payee complete contract signatures are required by this date). June 1 approved contract changes (successions) and signatures for certain zero share payee owners have a September 30, 2010 deadline.
- Crop Acreage Reporting – **JUNE 30, 2010** (Any report filed after **may** be accepted but for a late-filed fee (min. \$62.00/farm) and only if crops can be found via a required field inspection.

Note to irrigators – please return completed contracts and forms mailed to you promptly and call for an acreage report appointment ASAP!

“Return Service Requested”

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

SIGN-UP? – We have received word that there MAY be a general CRP sign-up early this summer. This depends on several factors, one of which is the completion of a Federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) study regarding the program and several farmbill oriented policy changes within. Please note that Franklin County is near the current 25% cropland cap policy, so offer acceptance could be dictated on a first come-first served basis. Sign-up will likely be connected with acreages that also expire this year as well. Should sign-up occur, it will be announced via press release, state and national FSA website and this newsletter (as soon as it can be issued). We strongly suggest that if you're interested, you monitor the national and/or state FSA websites regularly (see front page index column for website addresses).

CRP Maintenance – During the period of April 1 through August 15 and with prior approval from FSA, CRP participants may treat spot areas of weeds by mowing, burning, or spraying on contracts that have been established. Treatment must be limited to areas that have weed problems or need enhancement. Outside the nesting period, you are allowed to perform treatment without prior approval from FSA. While prior approval may be required during certain times (contact our office for exceptions to the date range above), FSA will grant it for any legitimate weed problems. Also, activities such as harrowing or chopping of dried up mustards and Russian thistle after the nesting period has ended can be a valuable tool to keep these weeds from getting on your neighbor's property. These activities help maintain grass vigor and ensure that you have a viable cover for the entire contract period. **Weed control for CRP is required.** Failure of your stand due to lack of weed control may lead to payment reductions or contract termination. CRP contracts may be revised to include certain maintenance practices in mid-contract to maintain stand vigor and diversity. Fifty percent cost-sharing is available if these activities are approved by FSA before work begins. Examples of practices include: mowing, herbicide application, inter-seeding or fertilization. Contact our office before any seeding operation for the proper seed mix and for mid-management cost share eligibility. Cost share payment requests are by appointment with Patty. Please have the contract number, acres involved by tract number and fields (which can also be done using our map software), time period of each practice application and applicable invoices available for your scheduled appointment.

FARM LOAN PROGRAM – RURAL YOUTH LOANS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes operating loans to individual rural youths age 10 through 20 to establish and operate income producing projects. These projects must be of modest size and be initiated, developed, carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H Clubs, FFA, or a similar organization or with a vocational teacher or county extension agent. The project must be an organized and supervised program of work. It must be planned and operated with the assistance of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. We would be happy to explain the program to interested youth and their parents. Contact our Farm Loan staff for more details.

REMINDERS – REMINDERS – REMINDERS - REMINDERS

Adjusted Gross Income/IRS Consent Form – Entities, members of entities and general partnerships and other joint operations and individuals that received 2009 and will receive 2010 FSA and NRCS farm program benefits must file the new IRS compliance consent form for 2009 and 2010 or risk owing back all payments previously issued and/or that will be issued for 2010. We have mailed out these new forms (CCC-927 for individuals and CCC-928 for entities) to a large number of our irrigated operations and have tried to make them available during any office visit as well. **However, it is your responsibility to ensure you've requested these forms and get them sent off to IRS before June 15, 2010.** FSA or NRCS can provide you with either form, but remember that they must be mailed to the IRS address on the form (not back to us).

Report Crop/Tree/Livestock/Farmstead Losses Timely – Prior to destroying any crop acreage that has been damaged due to adverse weather conditions, please report the loss to FSA (which includes crops covered by the Non-Insured Assistance Program which might later be eligible for the SURE disaster program) and your Federal Crop Insurance agent (for federally insured crops). The same can be said for losses due to adverse weather that would negatively impact farmland and cropland, livestock (including honey bee and farm fish loss) and orchard tree and vine damage. The 2008 farmbill contains disaster programs that cover a wider variety of potential farm losses than what was available before. Additionally, significant weather events reported to us that adversely affect farmers and ranchers are logged for reporting purposes and future potential county disaster declaration.

MILC Contract Start Dates – Dairy producers wishing to change their contract payment month start date are reminded that changes must be made:

- On or before day 14 of the month prior to the new (desired) MILC production start month (unless that day falls on a weekend or federal holiday, then the date falls to the previous business day)
- Before payment is sought
- Before the original selected MILC production start-month has passed.

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.