



Summer Issue, 2010

# Franklin County FSA News

## Franklin County FSA

1533 E. Spokane St., Suite A  
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  
Libby Anderson, FLM  
(Headquartered in Grant Co.)

### QUICK LOOK

#### KEY DATES AND REMINDERS:



- County Committee Meeting  
Aug. 26 and generally  
every 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each  
month (subject to change)
- NAP Sales Closing Dates:  
8/31 – Oilseed and Veg.  
Sd., Sod and other fall  
planted.  
9/30 – Forage  
grazing/haying and seed  
crops  
11/20 – Fruit, Asparagus &  
Honey & all other  
perennials.
- Office Closed – 9/6 for  
Labor Day
- Final 2010 DCP/ACRE  
zero share Signature  
Deadline – 9/30.

#### 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

The FSA County Committee members are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA. Committee members help guide FSA farm programs at the local level. It is crucial that every eligible producer take part in this election process because county committees are a direct link between you and the Farm Service Agency.

LAA #2 encompassing the south west irrigated portion of the county (south of Bellflower and Sheffield Roads, running south to Pasco and then wrapping around north east along the Snake River) is up for election this year. Terri Hayles is currently representing this area on the committee. Nomination forms were mailed in an earlier mailing by our state office. Blank forms can also be obtained from our office. Nominations can be received for producers **residing in LAA #2**. We encourage nomination of all eligible producers in LAA#2, including those in underrepresented groups. **Election Calendar:**

- August 2, 2010 – Nomination form return deadline
- November 5, 2010 – Blank Election Ballot forms to be mailed to all eligible voters
- December 6, 2010 – Last day to return ballots (postmark deadline for mailed ballots).
- December 9, 2010 – Election Day (ballots are counted)
- January 1, 2010 – Elected committee members (and alternates) take office.

## CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

The Secretary of Agriculture recently announced there will be a general signup for producers interested in enrolling land into the Conservation Reserve Program. Dates for the signup have been set for August 2, 2010 through August 27, 2010. Offers selected for contract will be enrolled with an effective date of 10-1-2010.

To be eligible for offer, land must meet one of the following eligibility requirements. Field(s) offered must either be determined to be highly erodible (HEL) with an erodibility index of 8 or greater; must lay within an area designated under State or National Conservation Priority Area (CPA) designation; or must be expiring CRP acreage, as of 9-30-2010. Within Washington State, CPA designations have been made for certain wildlife areas, and for the state air quality area. **The air quality CPA boundaries established for this signup are based on hydrologic unit (HUC) areas where PM-10 soils are predominant; this has resulted in a slightly different eligibility boundary from those used in prior signups.** For those with questions about the location of their land in relation to the CPA, the Air Quality CPA map will be available for review at the FSA office prior to signup.

Land must also meet cropping history requirements to offer. Under this requirement, land must have been planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity in 4 out of 6 years during the period of 2002-2007. Summer fallow in rotation is considered to meet this requirement, as is enrollment in CRP. Alfalfa and conserving use grasses planted in rotations of 12 years or less where the rotation can be demonstrated with an annually planted commodity on either end of the rotation, within the 12 year period ending in 2007 also meet cropping history requirement.

Offers will be ranked for acceptance through a nationwide process using an Environmental Benefit Index (EBI) scoring process. The EBI awards points for items including cover type, soil erodibility, water quality, and wildlife benefits associated with the offer. Points are also awarded for the cost of each offer. Once a national EBI cutoff score is established, those offers above the cutoff are offered contracts, up to the County maximum limit of 25% cropland. There will be approximately 29,000 acres of land eligible for acceptance into CRP in Adams County under this signup. Therefore, the EBI cutoff within the County potentially may be higher than the national EBI cutoff level. Specific details of the EBI scoring system will be available by contacting the County Office prior to signup.

Maximum rental values for each offer are based on the productivity of the three predominant types of soils in each offer. Soil rental values for the general signup have been revised to reflect average cash rental values for the most recent three year period. Generally speaking, this change has led to small increases in soil rental values across most soil types. However, unlike prior years, a maintenance rate will not be added to the soil rental rates to determine the maximum payment rate. Bidding to enroll land at less than the maximum soil rental rate earns additional points under the EBI scoring system.

Midterm management will be required on all new contracts, requiring a planned activity to enhance permanent cover during the middle three years of the contract. Activities can include harrowing, mowing, certain chemical applications, inter-seeding, fertilization, or other treatments.

For newly enrolled cropland, and for existing grassland in need of cover reestablishment, cost share will be available for 50% of the cost of necessary actions.

## CRP Informational Meetings Scheduled

A joint Adams and Franklin County FSA CRP informational meeting has been scheduled for **Thursday, August 5, 2010 starting at 7:30 am at the Connell Community Center (211 E. Elm St.).** We'll be covering all the key sign-up eligibility criteria as well as other important recent program changes. Realizing that wheat harvest is underway, we'll do our best to get you out the door as soon as possible. To be informed, make the Connell Community Center your August 5<sup>th</sup> morning coffee stop.

“Return Service Requested”

## MORE NEWS AND NOTES

**Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) Reminder** - Several weeks ago we got an LDP wake-up call when 2010 Hard Red Spring wheat hit \$.49 a bushel Franklin County LDP (only for DCP contract participants not ACRE folks). The only wheat LDP as of late is for Durum wheat. Bottom line; to protect yourself for 2010 crop LDP eligibility (whatever the program crop you have planted this year), **you must file form CCC-633EZ, pg. 1 before you lose “beneficial interest” in the crop (loss of risk, title and/or control of the crop).** The pg. 1 form is simple and only takes a few minutes to complete. You can then file for LDP payment at a later date if and when an LDP rate surfaces (by the application deadline for the specific crop being applied for).

**Missing Zero Share Signatures – DCP/ACRE Contracts** – As it occurs nearly every year, we have a number of contracts where we have the eligible payee signatures received timely by the June 1 deadline, but at least one or more of the zero payment share landowner signatures are missing. The signatures are required to be received no later than **September 30, 2010** in order for the contract to be approved for timely payment issuance.

**Late-Filed Crop Acreage Reporting** – The general acreage reporting deadline for most FSA programs was June 30<sup>th</sup> or no later than 15 days after planting for crops such as buckwheat planted after June 30. As with missing DCP contract signatures, we have a number of situations where part or all of the cropland on a participating and approved DCP or ACRE farm has not been reported. Acreage reports on 100% of the farm cropland is required for payments to be issued for the above two programs as well as for participation in CRP, Commodity Market Assistance Loans, LDP's and FSA disaster programs including the Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP). All crop acreage reports (whether partial or full farm cropland) filed now will be done so under the late file provisions which requires an FSA field visit of the late reported acreage and a fee of at least \$62.00 per FSA farm number. It is critical that crop evidence be available to validate the late report. Delaying a late file request (subject to County Committee approval) will not only cost you the non refundable late file fee, but if not verifiable could cost you the DCP or ACRE payments for the applicable farm (unless reliable and/or verifiable crop records can be supplied).

**2009 ACRE PAYMENT RATE ANNOUNCED** – You've been asking and it's been announced. Payment calculation of the upcoming 2009 October issued ACRE payment (for wheat ACRE farms only) can be completed (by FSA farm) as follows:  
 $.833 \times \text{the farm's 2009 planted/prevented planted wheat acres (not to exceed the farm wheat base acres)} \times .9344 \text{ (farm guarantee yield or county plug yield if elected div. by the state 61 bu. Benchmark yield)} \times \$91 \times \text{participant's farm specific crop share.}$

**2009 Asparagus Trade Adjustment Assistance Program Announced** – Sign-up for the Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers program (TAAF) for 2009 asparagus producers has begun and will end September 23, 2010. This program led by the Foreign Agriculture Service will provide benefits to 2009 asparagus producers for farm technical assistance and business planning. FSA will take producer applications and issue payments based on applicant training received and business plans established. Contact our office if interested. We understand there is another Asparagus market loss program in the works, TAAF and this upcoming program are two completely separate programs.

**Tree Assistance Program Announced** – The Tree Assistance Program (TAP) provides help to orchardists and nursery tree growers who produce trees, bushes and vines for commercial purposes, to replant or rehabilitate trees, bushes and vines damaged or destroyed by natural disasters. The 2008 Farm Bill expanded eligibility to include Christmas tree and nursery tree growers that were ineligible under prior legislation. Trees grown for pulp or timber or not grown for commercial purposes are not eligible. To be eligible for TAP, producers must have suffered more than a 15 percent death loss due to the natural disaster after adjustment for normal mortality. TAP is a cost-reimbursement program, with payments covering up to 70 percent of replant costs and 50 percent of pruning, removal and other salvaging costs for replacing or salvaging damaged trees. Producers can receive assistance for up to 500 acres of trees, bushes or vines. Producers must also have purchased a policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program. Eligible losses must have occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011. Sign-up for losses experienced prior to May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010 has passed. Sign-up for losses from weather disaster events from May 7, 2010 and forward is on-going, but should be filed at or near the time the disaster occurred or loss becomes apparent for the best opportunity of approval. Pre-plant and post-plant inspections are required. We strongly encourage producers to not take out and/or destroy damaged trees, bushes and/or vines before a field inspection is made.

**SURE SIGN-UP CONTINUES** – FSA is anticipating the sign-up period for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) for crop losses in 2008 will close soon. This program offers potential benefits to producers suffering 2008 crop year production and/or quality loss assistance on a revenue loss basis for all crops related to a producer's “farm” (which encompasses all of the producer's farm interests anywhere in the county, state, and/or nation). The farm's crops must have been covered by Federal Crop Insurance or FSA's NAP program. A fact sheet with more detailed information and a potential payment calculator are available on the FSA website. For more information, contact this office. We encourage application registration now. See Lynda O'Connor for details and/or an appointment to apply.

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