



CRP Conservation Planning Information

For those persons with acceptable offers for enrolling land into the Conservation Reserve Program during the recently completed signup period, the next question(s) involve what to expect and plan on completing as your interim conservation plan is formalized during the upcoming months. The following guidelines will govern your plans when completed.

For new cropland offers currently in fallow- Cropland which was summer fallow during the 2010 growing season will be expected to be seeded during the fall dormant overwinter period of November 2010 to January 31, 2011, using an approved seeding mixture with the appropriate EBI point value for your offer. Any variance from seeding during this period on land currently in fallow would need to be approved by FSA on a case by case basis (eg. chemical residue which limits seeding in the current year). Seed mixture charts are available in the Service Center; NRCS will assist with questions on which mixtures and varieties are best adapted to your site. Seedbed preparation activities performed during the time leading up to seeding are eligible for cost-share on approved contracts. Seeding may commence as soon as soil temperatures reach 42 degrees or less; typically in the first half of November. The seeding cutoff date may only be modified past January 31, 2011 if weather conditions dictate.

For new cropland offers currently in stubble- Cropland which was harvested during the 2010 growing season will be expected to be fallowed, either chemically or mechanically during the 2011 growing season, with the intention of seeding grasses during the 2011-2012 overwinter dormant period, using an approved seeding mixture with the appropriate EBI point value. Activities you complete to prepare the seedbed throughout the upcoming growing season are eligible for cost-share. You may initiate any summer fallow activities you normally would (ie. fall chisel/disk, harrowing, chemical application, or similar measures) immediately without these activities being specifically identified in a formal conservation plan.

Offers with existing cover that requires destruction/reestablishment on part/all of the offer- On those accepted offers where you agreed to reestablish new cover on the offer, you are authorized to begin any primary seedbed preparation operations you deem appropriate (eg. fall light disking or chiseling, mowing, chemical application, harrow) to ensure good germination of weed seed, and to initiate breakdown of permanent residue. All acreage to be reestablished should have an initial activity from those listed above started by early next spring. It is not necessary to wait for an NRCS field inspection before beginning activities on these offers. If you have questions on identifying the amount and/or locations of cover you agreed to convert, please visit the FSA office, and we can assist you with mapping.

Evaluations of existing cover offered without enhancement- On offers where you indicated that some/all of the existing cover would meet certification/EBI point offer criteria, we now understand that NRCS has prioritized these offers to the top of their list and have begun inspections. On those areas, our recommendation is to withhold any action until you receive further information on whether the existing cover meets certification criteria, or if additional activity is required. NRCS staff will be contacting you very soon.

Wildlife Watering Facility installation- On those offers where points were awarded for installation of a wildlife watering facility, please do not begin installation until such time as the technical agency has worked with you to establish the location/number of facilities required. Once the location is identified, FSA will need to complete consultation actions with the State and Tribal Historical Preservation Office(s) to verify the acceptability of the locations, and if required to enter into consultation for protection of any cultural resource issues identified.

Signup Days May Be Numbered for Irrigated Area Wildlife CRP Program

A portion of the Columbia Basin including a designated irrigated area in Franklin County is currently approved for the U.S.D.A's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) wildlife initiative – State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE). Field edges and center pivot corners with cropping history in a specified area of our county is eligible under this irrigated area/wildlife targeted program. Through 10-15 year contracts, producers receive annual rental payments, up to 90% practice establishment assistance through cost shares and incentives as well as a onetime contract signing incentive payment. Due to limited interest thus far, the program for this area may end after January 31, 2011, unless enrollment activity clearly warrants that the Franklin County area remain intact. Contact our office promptly if you are interested in SAFE.

Haying and Grazing of CRP

Haying and Grazing of CRP is authorized in Franklin County for November 1 through February 28. Applications are filed with our office and haying and/or grazing plans are issued in cooperation with the NRCS office. Haying and grazing CRP will cost you a 25% per acre payment reduction of the annual rental payment applicable to the contract acreage utilized. Post haying and grazing inspections are performed to ensure the required height and quality of cover has been maintained.

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
Dec. 9 and generally every
4th Thursday of each month
(subject to change)
- NAP Sales Closing
Dates: 11/20 – Orchard,
grapes, asparagus, honey.

Office Closed:

- - 11/25 Thanksgiving
- - 12/25 Christmas
- - 12/31 New Years
- - 1/17/11 Martin Luther King

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.



Customers Making Payments By Check to FSA

Over the next year, FSA/CCC is moving toward an electronic method for processing producer's checks. This will allow us to process collections faster. When you present checks, they will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). Funds will be debited from the producer's account, usually within 24 hours of receipt. We expect this to begin in our office during FY 2011 and have posted legal notices prepared by the Department of Treasury in the Service Center further explaining the process. For more information on this, you may also visit check the web at www.pccotc.gov/pccotc/pcc/Legal%20Notices/legalnotices.htm

Payments and Tax Reporting - Check Your Statement

By now, most producers should have received their 2010 DCP or ACRE program direct payments and CRP annual rental payments. Nearly all 2009-ACRE program "ACRE" payments have also been issued. These payments were authorized and issued by National later than the above referenced payments. There are a few software issues with some of the contracts in both programs that we are still dealing with but are hopeful in releasing these payments soon. Finally, the remaining unpaid contracts are very likely due to eligibility forms operator and/or share landowners never returned or that were never fully completed. It is the responsibility of farm operators and owners to ensure forms are completed correctly and returned to our office. Please contact our office if at the time you read this newsletter, you know you're still short program funds and we'll do our best to determine what the issue may be. On another payment note, many have reported to our office not receiving payments based on the lack of receipt of the related paper payment statements or having received a few statements but not all. Please be advised that payment statements are generally received 7-10 days after payments have been released. In most cases, when you receive a statement, related direct-deposited money has already been in the bank for several days up to perhaps a week or more. This is definitely the case in early October as the entire nation is releasing funds all at one time, which extends the lag time between payment release and statement release. The best way to ensure you have received funds is to check your bank account for treasury deposits in coordination with later received statements.

Near the end of January, our Kansas City office will be issuing your CCC-1099G form with the payment data that will be reported to the IRS. It is very important that you closely review this document to ensure it accurately reflects the payments you received in 2010. 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 2010. That data must be obtained directly from our office.

NAP Sales Reminders

REMINDER: The deadline for purchase of 2011 noninsured assistance program (NAP) coverage for perennial tree crops and grapes not covered with crop insurance, and for asparagus and honey is November 19, 2010.

COC Election Notice

The nomination period for the County Committee person representing LAA #2 has closed and the election is now in full swing. Election ballots have been mailed out by our Kansas City office for all eligible voters in the lower west half of irrigated Franklin County. Current incumbent committee member, Terri Hayles, is running unopposed. Write-in candidates are possible but only for eligible producers meeting voting eligibility in LAA#2. Ballots must be returned to the County office, or postmarked by Monday, December 6, 2010 to be valid. Ballots will be counted at the County Committee meeting on Thursday, December 9, 2010, beginning at 9:00 a.m. during the regular session, which is open to anyone from the public interested in attending.

Conservation Loan Program

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced the launch of a Conservation Loan (CL) program that will provide farm owners and farm-related business operators access to credit to implement conservation techniques that will conserve natural resources.

CL funds can be used to implement conservation practices approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), such as the installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; implementation of manure management; and the adaptation of other emerging or existing conservation practices, techniques or technologies. Funds can also be used in conjunction with enhancement practices called for under approved CRP contracts. Direct CLs can be obtained through local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices with loan limits up to \$300,000. Guaranteed CLs up to \$1,112,000 are available from lenders working with FSA.

For more information on the Conservation Loan program, contact a local FSA office or visit the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov. For more information about this announcement please see the notice which will appear in the September 3 edition of the Federal Register: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/federalNotices?area=home&subject=lare&topic=frd-ii>