



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

Chair –
Chris Herron - *Dryland (LAA-3)*
Vice Chair –
Terri Hayles - *Irrig. (LAA-2)*
Regular Member –
Scott Knight - *Irrig. (LAA-1)*

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 Fariars, PT
Libby Anderson, FLM
(Headquartered in Grant Co.)

QUICK LOOK KEY DATES AND REMINDERS:

- County Committee Meeting
Generally every 4th
Thursday of each month
(subject to change)
- NAP Sales Closing Date:
3/15 – Spring planted crops,
summer planted buckwheat.

Office Closed:

- - 2/21 – President's Day
- - 5/30 – Memorial Day

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.



February, 2011

SURE 2009 Signup

The sign-up period for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) for crop losses in **2009** began January 10, 2011 and ends **July 29, 2011**. Eligible producers should apply for benefits as soon as possible to ensure payment eligibility.

The SURE program provides benefits for farm losses accrued in 2008 through 2011 due to natural disasters. A farmer or rancher is eligible for the program when a disaster designation has been made for their county or when actual production is less than half of the normal established production. Producers who suffer eligible losses must have crop insurance or a non-insured crop disaster assistance program policy for all crops of economic significance.

A fact sheet with more detailed information and a potential payment calculator are available on the FSA website (see bottom left). For more information, contact this office.

CRP General Signup 41

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general signup starts Monday, **March 14, 2011 and ends Friday, April 15, 2011**. In Franklin County there is 5,683 acres expiring from CRP this year.

CRP allows producers to enroll land in ten year contracts that help preserve environmentally sensitive land. In exchange for idling the land, producers receive annual rental payments and 50 percent of the cost to establish the cover. Rental rates are tied to 3-predominate soils in the acreage offer and their specific productive and environmental characteristics. In general, no other income can be derived from the land while under contract.

Eligibility and ranking scores are based on several factors. Eligible land must have been planted to an annual crop or conserving use in at least four years between 2002 and 2007. In addition, the land must have an erodibility index of 8 or greater, be in the state air quality or wildlife Conservation Priority Area or be CRP expiring in 2011.

Offers will be ranked using the Environment Benefits Index (EBI). Points will be awarded based on the environmental and habitat benefits of the proposed cover planted. More points are awarded for native covers. Existing CRP covers may need to be replanted to maximize the score. Extra points will be awarded for the most erosive land and bids that include a pollinator habitat on 10% of the acreage. A few other changes from past sign-up's include the loss of EBI points for installing wildlife watering facilities and planting shrubs (under the enduring benefit criteria) and the potential for additional points for offers located in a narrow wildlife priority area (near the Snake River). Different than the last sign-up, there is no authorization for interim conservation plans. NRCS will develop a complete conservation plan applicable to the acreage before contract approval.

Critical Payment Limitation Message: Participants are responsible to monitor and manage how new offers of CRP (subject to the new payment limitation rules) will be affected by all other existing contracts for which they have an *interest* (regardless of whether those contracts are governed by old or new rules). "Interest" means in any county, any state where a participant's IRS social security number is connected with a CRP share payment. This could be through an individual ownership interest or shareholding embedded entity interest. We will be happy to explain this process and the basic application of the two rule sets, but will not advise participants what to do. Ultimate responsibility in making decisions to enroll and participate in CRP lies with the participant. Producers need to be well educated in CRP and any rule changes that can occur, particularly in new sign-up periods and/or when revisions to farm operations occur.

Asparagus Revenue Market Loss Assistance Payment (ALAP) Program

Asparagus growers who were adversely affected by asparagus imports could be eligible for financial compensation through the Asparagus Revenue Market Loss Assistance Payment (ALAP) Program. The signup for the ALAP program is **February 7 through April 8, 2011**.

To be eligible for the program, growers must have produced and marketed asparagus in commercial quantities in the U.S. during both crop years 2003 and 2007. Asparagus production must be producer-certified in either fresh or processed for 2003. There will be an application spot-check process. If selected, participants will be required to submit verifiable or reliable production records for both years that will substantiate the 2003 production certified on the application and will prove the same participant was a share owner in asparagus both years.

According to the USDA National Agriculture Statistics Service, there were 17,000 acres of asparagus planted in 2003, but only 8,000 acres in 2007. The program has \$15 million available nationwide, split evenly between the fresh and processed varieties. The maximum payment rate is \$1.06 per pound for fresh asparagus, and \$1.08 per pound for processed. The application forms can be obtained electronically at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eForms/welcomeAction.do?Home>, or <http://intra3.fsa.usda.gov/dam/ffasforms/forms.html>, or from this office. Applications must be postmarked on or before April 8 and there is no provision for late filed applications.

Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

(Did your trees or vines survive this past November freeze?)

USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Tree Assistance Program (TAP) provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers and vintners to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters occurring on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011. TAP was authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill and is funded through the Agricultural Disaster Relief Trust Fund.

Applications are to be made in the administrative County Office where the crop is located. After May 7, 2010 producers are required to file an application and provide supporting documentation within **90 calendar days** of the occurrence of the disaster event or the date when the loss of trees, bushes, or vines become apparent to the producer.

Eligible Producers are those that: suffer qualifying tree, bush or vine losses in excess of 15 percent (adjusted for normal mortality) from an eligible natural disaster by individual stand; met the federal crop insurance or Non-insured Assistance program linkage provision for all crops raised on the farm; must have owned the eligible trees, bushes and vines when the natural disaster occurred (but not required to own the land on which eligible trees, bushes and vines are planted) and replace or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines within 12 months from the date the application is approved.

2011 DCP and ACRE Sign-Up and Crop Acreage Reporting

The Direct & Counter-cyclical or Acreage Crop Revenue program signup has begun. Interested producers are encouraged to call in now and begin the application process early to ensure completion by **August 1, 2011**. We will do our best in accommodation to take your applicable crop acreage reports at the same time of your DCP/ACRE sign-up appointment (however, this may not be possible for larger or more crop diverse operations). The crop acreage reporting deadline is **June 30, 2011**. Please contact our office for more detailed information, or visit www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp for updated prices and other information regarding DCP and ACRE.

Updating Farm Ownership Records

To bring agency documents in line with the state community property law, FSA asks that producers update their farm ownership records and program contracts to include their spouses. DCP/ACRE, CRP and other contracts signed from this point forward should include spouses, but this will not affect the share disbursement. To prove that any property is separately owned, you must provide documentation, other than a deed, to demonstrate that separate ownership. We also want to be sure all other farm operation changes are timely reported. Such changes include but are not limited to; entity member changes, changing from individual to entity or vice versa (as operator or owner), land sales and new leases, annual entity stock or ownership shares updates and deceased producers and subsequent estates and estate closures, (to name just a few). Not timely reporting changes can result in contract or application overpayments and resulting debts with our agency.

Conservation Reserve 25th Anniversary Celebration Contest

December marked the 25th Anniversary of the Conservation Reserve Program. The anniversary will be celebrated throughout 2011. This voluntary program has been hailed as one of the most successful conservation programs in history. After the first signup in 1986, Washington had about 55,000 acres in CRP. In 2010, more than 1.4 million acres were enrolled.

Washington State FSA would like to recognize the benefits that CRP has provided to our state and acknowledge the producers who made it possible. Producers and FSA employees are encouraged to send their CRP stories and pictures to the FSA state office. Stories and pictures will be posted on the FSA website and the most compelling story and picture will be personally acknowledged by the FSA State Executive Director on Earth Day in April, 2011.

Stories should describe the reasons for enrolling the land in CRP and the benefits seen from the CRP as well as what practices were included in the contract. Photos should provide a description of what is in the picture. Submissions should include a contact name and phone number in case additional information is needed and permission to post or print the story and/or photo. Stories and/or pictures may be sent to the Farm Service Agency, 316 W. Boone, Ste. 568, Spokane, WA 99201-2350 or to chris.bieker@wa.usda.gov or patrick.lewis@wa.usda.gov.

1099 Tax reporting

The FSA Kansas City office is issuing CCC-1099G forms with the 2010 payment data that will be reported to the IRS. It is very important that producers closely review this document to ensure it accurately reflects 2010 received payments. If there are inaccuracies or producers have any questions about the data, please contact this office. FSA will assist in confirmation of the data or obtaining a corrected CCC-1099G. Also keep in mind that this form does not include any refunds that may have been made to FSA in 2010. That data must be obtained directly from this office. We appreciate your patience and understanding as the agency implements the new payment system.

****CONGRATULATIONS TO TERRI HAYLES WHO WAS REELECTED TO THE FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE!!! ☺****