
September 2013



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Franklin County FSA Updates

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Franklin County FSA Office

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County Executive Director:
Bruce Clatterbuck - ext. 104

Program Technicians:
Lynda O'Connor - ext. 111
Bonnie Anderson - ext. 110

Farm Loan Manager:
Houston Bruck
Phone: 509-924-7350 - ext. 108
(Spokane County Office)

Senior Farm Loan Officer: Joyce Nevins-

Marketing Assistance Loans

Marketing Assistance loans; also referred to as commodity or price support loans, are available for producers who have eligible warehouse and/or farm stored commodities. These loans can provide temporary cash flow for operating expenses or paying down bank notes. Current interest rates are favorable, with any loans disbursed in September at 1.125% interest.

Loans will mature no later than the last day of the ninth month following the month the loan was disbursed in. Loans can also be paid off prior to maturity. Lien searches and UCC filings will need to be completed prior to loan disbursement.

Producers may self certify to the quantity on farm stored loans or pay a measurement service fee for office personnel to physically measure the quantity. Certified farm loans are subject to later spot-checks. Producers who take out farm stored loans are responsible for maintaining the quality of the crop through the term of the loan. Producers with loans must receive prior authorization from the county office prior to feeding, selling, or hauling of the stored commodity. Unauthorized dispositions carry severe penalties. Warehouse loans will be secured with a warehouse receipt.

Eligible commodities for loan include wheat, barley, corn, oats, honey, dry peas and other seed crops. Loan rates for Franklin County are \$2.73/bushel

Ginsberg Phone: 509-545-8543 - ext. 105

for white wheat, \$3.76/bu. for hard red spring, \$3.39/bu. for hard red winter, \$82.47/ton (\$2.31/bu.) for corn, and \$.69/pound for honey. Please contact Lynda O'Connor at the County Office for more commodity loan details.

Next County Committee

Meeting: September 26, 2013
at 9:00 AM

County Committee Nominees Announced

The following three producers have been nominated for the Local Administrative Area #2 (Southwest irrigated part of the county) soon to be vacated FSA County Committee position and we thank them for their willingness to serve.

- Richard Conrad
- Mark Kraft
- Byron Pugh

We will provide a brief business bio on all three candidates in the next newsletter issue.

FSA county committees make decisions which impact program payments. They bring local knowledge of farming practices, prices and conditions to program implementation. Also, producers can appeal most agency determinations to the local county committee.

Ballots will be mailed beginning November 4th, 2013 and must be postmarked or returned to the County Office by December 2nd, 2013. The election count will occur December 5, 2013 at the Pasco USDA Service Center.

NAP Application Sales Closing Dates for 2014 Crops

Many of the fall NAP sales closing dates begin with this month, (while a few have passed— see below). Form CCC-471 Application for Coverage must be completed, along with payment of the NAP fee, and provided to your local FSA county office. The service fee is \$250 per crop per county or \$750 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$1875 per producer with farming interest in multiple counties. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of service fees. To qualify, a producer must be a landowner, tenant or sharecropper who shares in the risk of producing an eligible crop. The following are the sales closing dates for Franklin County:

Sales **closed** for 2014:

- 8/31/2013 – Canola; carrots (for seed, fresh or processing); Christmas trees; floriculture; mushrooms; onions (for seed, fresh or processing); rapeseed; and any other fall planted crops not mentioned in other closing dates. For future year coverage, August 31 will likely continue to be the sales closing date for these fall planted crops and crop types.

Sales open for 2014:

- 9/30/2013 – Mint; perennial grazing, forage, mixed forage, and forage seed crops.
- 11/20/2013 – Perennial crops not listed in the 9/30 category; asparagus; berries; grapes; honey; hops; tree fruits and nuts.
- 3/15/2014 – Beets (for seed or fresh); buckwheat; camellia; mustard; radish (for seed or fresh); small grain forages (wheat, barley, oats, peas); and any other spring planted crops not mentioned in other

closing dates.

NAP coverage should be purchased at least 30 days before the crop is planted, but no later than the application closing date. NAP coverage cannot be offered on any crop for which Federal Crop Insurance is available in the county. Please contact Lynda O'Connor at the County Office for more NAP information..

FSA Introduces New Microloan Program

FSA is offering more flexible access to credit through the new microloan program. The program is an attractive loan alternative for smaller farming operations like specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Microloans can be used for all approved operating expenses as authorized by the FSA Operating Loan Program, including but not limited to:

- Initial start-up expenses;
- Annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents;
- Marketing and distribution expenses;
- Purchase of livestock, equipment, and other materials essential to farm operations;
- Minor farm improvements such as wells and coolers.
- Hoop houses to extend the growing season.

The application process for microloans will be simpler, requiring less paperwork to fill out. Requirements for managerial experience and loan security have been modified to accommodate smaller farm operations, beginning farmers and those with no farm management experience. Applicants will need to have some farm experience; however, FSA will consider an applicant's small business experience as well as any experience with a self-guided apprenticeship as a means to meet the farm management requirement.

Eligible applicants may obtain a microloan for up to \$35,000. The repayment term may vary and will not exceed seven years. Annual operating loans are repaid within 12 months or when the agricultural commodities produced are sold. Interest rates are based on the regular OL rates that are in effect at the time of the microloan approval or microloan closing, whichever is less. Currently the rate is 1.25%. Please contact Senior Loan Officer, Joyce Nevins-Ginsberg for more details.

Sign-up #45 CRP Signature Deadlines

Producers with accepted offers under CRP signup #45 have been or will be contacted in the near future by office personnel from our local NRCS office and/or the Franklin Conservation District. The purpose of this contact will be to discuss and develop conservation plans that are required as a result of being accepted back into CRP. These plans will document the necessary steps needed for producers to follow in preparing, enhancing and/or seeding their respective CRP acreage. These plans need to be developed and signed by all operators and owners receiving a share of the CRP payment by September 13th, 2013. Please do your part in assisting NRCS and the FCD with this process.

Additionally, all CRP-1 contract signatures and other related forms from this latest sign-up must be received by FSA no later than September 30. Contracts (including all related forms and the Conservation Plan of Operations) must be approved by FSA no later than this date as contracts become effective October 1.

Continue To Report Crop Losses

Prompt weather-related disaster reporting is crucial for FSA to determine the need for disaster declarations. If

you experienced crop damage or other agriculture losses due to recent weather events, contact this FSA office and if applicable, your crop insurance agent. Disaster declarations trigger availability of emergency loans and in some instances, additional disaster assistance programs. Timely reporting to FSA and your insurance agent is also important for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance (NAP) or crop insurance payments.

Soil Health 101 - Free Workshop Offered

ATTENTION PRODUCERS:

The Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Franklin Conservation Districts would like to invite you to attend a FREE WORKSHOP, Thursday, September 19, 2013 at:

the Franklin PUD Auditorium - 1411 W. Clark Street, Pasco, WA 99301 at 9 AM - 3 PM

Attendees will learn about:

- Soil Health Basics
- Soil Health Planning Principles
- How to tell if a Soil is Healthy
- Soil Health Management Systems

Seating is Limited - Reserve Your Spot Today by Contacting:

Heather Wendt, Franklin CD - (509) 545-8546 x 4 or (509) 430-3693 - heather-wendt@conservewa.net

(Lunch is not provided so bring a Sack Lunch!)

SEPTEMBER AGRICULTURAL SURVEY AND COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION SURVEY

The September Agricultural Survey and County Agricultural Production Survey (CAPS) conducted by the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) are designed to obtain crucial information that is important for producers, suppliers, bankers, and grain elevator operators. These surveys ask producers to provide information on their planted acres, harvested acres, yields, total levels of production for specific commodities, and the quantities of grains and oilseeds stored on-farm. The results of these surveys will give detailed county level data on small grain production in the Pacific Northwest and the United States for 2013.

Starting August 30th and ending on September 16th, NASS will sample small grain producers to collect data from all states except Hawaii. A producer may respond online, by mail, or by fax. Responding online is the most timely, cost-effective option. The cover letter includes instructions for this easy option. Producers who respond by mail or fax will fill out the survey questionnaire and return it in the envelope provided or via fax.

Producers benefit from completing this survey. They will have access to the same data as grain elevator operators, suppliers, bankers, and all others with whom you do business. This levels the playing field as each group makes crucial year-end business decisions. The data obtained by the September Agricultural Survey is used by the USDA for important reasons. USDA agencies evaluate and administer vital farm commodity, credit, conservation, disaster, insurance and loan programs based on this information.

NASS understands producers are busy this time of year, but have been tasked to collect the data from a sample of small grain producers. Please respond to make sure this important data is as accurate as possible.

For additional information please contact NASS Northwest Regional Director Chris Mertz at (800) 435-5883.

Bank Account Changes

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

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their purchases or sales of property to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the country are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, realtors, attorneys, and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).