



APRIL / MAY 2008

Kittitas County FSA News Today

Kittitas County FSA

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Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Kittitas County Committee

Rick Haberman, Chair
Brent Dekoning, Vice Chair
Bart Bland, Member
Cristi Eaton, Advisor

Office Staff

Betty Cervine, PT
Brent Reitmeier, CED

Farm Loan Staff

(509) 454-5746
Lisa Ruff, FLM
Scott Smith, FLO
Crispin Garza,
Service Center Liaison
Sandy Christensen, FLP Tech.



Next COC Meeting

April 15th, 2008
9:00 AM

Important Dates

April 1st, 2008
Beginning of CRP Non-disturbance Period

May 26th, 2008

Office Closed for Memorial Day Observance



WA State FSA Website

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>

National FSA Website

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

National USDA Website

<http://www.usda.gov>



✿ CULTIVATING OUR REALITY

Focus of Annual Women and Agriculture Conference

Transitioning farm ownership within the family, land and water rights, marketing savvy and biosecurity are just a few of the topics that will be covered at the annual Washington Women and Agriculture Conference that will be held in East Wenatchee on April 18 – 19, 2008. Information about how to register for the conference, costs, accommodations, driving directions and more is available at www.ncw.wsu.edu/family. Registration is due April 15. Hotel reservations at the lower conference rate are due April 4. Presented by Washington State University Extension in cooperation with a number of local and statewide sponsors, the program's theme is "Cultivating Our Reality" and addresses subjects specifically requested by women working in agriculture.

✿ STATUS OF THE NEW FARM BILL

The House and Senate approved an extension of the 2002 Act that runs until April 18, 2008. This extension does not provide for a 2008 DCP signup, but does extend many of the authorities under the 2002 Act. Congress hopes to have a bill together and to the President prior to the expiration of this latest extension. There are several contentious issues that Congress needs to resolve to arrive at an agreement on a Farm Bill. Some of the bigger items include whether or not the bill will fit within the Congressional Budget Office's (CBO) baseline number for Farm Bill spending, or if it is going to exceed that number where the corresponding spending offsets will come from. Negotiations between the House and Senate Agricultural Committees and the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee have come close to a decision on a number above the baseline but jurisdictional questions over the extra funding have yet to be resolved. The differences between the House and Senate Farm Bill versions also have to be addressed such as whether there will be a permanent disaster program and whether the Counter-Cyclical payments will be changed to a revenue based calculation. In addition to the Congressional side of the equation, an agreement needs to be firmed up between the Administration and Congress as to whether or not the bill would be acceptable to the President. This includes questions about the source of any additional funding over the CBO baseline and lowering the Adjusted Gross Income provisions which are currently at \$2.5 million. Failure to gain the Administration's agreement on these or other factors could result in a Presidential veto. The President has urged Congress to pass a 1-year extension including a DCP signup for 2008 if Congress cannot get a bill done prior to April 18. We will keep you posted, but at this time there is no 2008 signup and no County Loan or LDP rates for 2008 crops.

✿ 2008 ACREAGE REPORTING

We request that you contact our office and schedule an appointment to report your acres once you have completed your spring seeding. If you are not putting in any spring crops you can report your acres anytime. If you prefer to wait, we will be setting up appointment times for you similar to last year. We will set up an appointment time for you and then will mail you a reminder with the date and time you need to come in and certify your acreage. Producers are required to file acreage reports for CRP participation, NAP policies, Marketing Assistance Loans and LDP's and DCP. While we do not have a 2008 program or loan rates as yet, we would anticipate those things coming with a new Farm Bill or an extension and therefore it would be prudent to file your acreage report when completed with spring planting. The deadline for reporting acres is June 30, 2008.

2008 CROP YEAR WOOL, MOHAIR AND UNSHOWN PELTS

Marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments are being accepted for 2008 crop wool, mohair, and unshorn pelts. Producers must have beneficial interest (title, control, & risk) in the commodity. April 18, 2008 is the last day these applications can be accepted. Please contact our office if you have any questions.

LIVESTOCK PROGRAM SIGNUP CONTINUES

Signup began September 10, 2007 for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Due to the 2005 drought, the Kittitas County LCP program is the most applicable of the livestock program options. If you suffered a pasture loss due to the drought in 2005 you will want to contact us to see if you qualify. The deadline for the program signups has not yet been set. Please contact the office if you want to make an appointment to apply for LCP or LIP.

CROP DISASTER PROGRAM (CDP) SIGNUP CONTINUES

Signup for the CDP program began October 15, 2007. The CDP program covers losses for crop years 2005, 2006, and 2007 crops.

(Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under FSA Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of the loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.)

The Risk Management Agency (RMA) provides FSA with an electronic download of all applicable crop insurable loss information for processing CDP applications. However, there may be situations where a producer may be eligible for CDP but was not paid on a loss under crop insurance. CDP covers losses in excess of 35%, but if a producer had Catastrophic (CAT) coverage, Federal Crop Insurance that covers at a 50% loss may not have been paid by crop insurance.

CDP loss calculations are based on the higher of either the county CDP yield or your proven yield with crop insurance, also known as your APH. If your proven yield is higher than the county yield you can take your proven yield times 65%. If your actual yield for the given crop was below the 65% level you may be eligible for loss assistance under CDP. Please contact the office if you want to make an appointment to apply for CDP.

2008 FARM RECORD CHANGES

Changes in leases, ownerships, or reorganizations of farm entities should be updated in our office as soon as they are known. While we do not yet have a program for 2008 your changes may impact CRP contracts, NAP policies or other items which we are currently administering. Updating your farm records as soon as possible is important and will help expedite your signup during what may prove to be a very busy signup period once a farm bill or extension is authorized. Getting these items done and out of the way now will help reduce the amount of time you need to spend in the office during signup.