



MAY / JUNE 2008

Kittitas County FSA News

Kittitas County FSA

607 Mt. View Avenue
Ellensburg, WA 98926
Office Phone: (509) 925-8585
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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

May 28, 2008
7:30 AM

Important Dates

May 26

Office Closed for
Memorial Day Observance



June 30

Final Day to for
Acreage Reporting

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>



Acreage Reporting

With what seemed like a never ending winter, acreage reporting time is now here. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date. Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. 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 the new Farm Bill, therefore, it would be prudent to file your acreage report when completed with spring planting. The deadline for reporting acreage is June 30, 2008.

Timely File Notice of Loss

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for ALL CROPS INCLUDING GRASSES. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 (notice of loss) in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

Signup NOW for Livestock & Crop Disaster Assistance

When a new Farm Bill is announced, FSA anticipates a heavy workload further compounded by spring crop reporting dates. Needless to say, Betty and I will be busy. If you are eligible for the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) or the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) for quantity loss, we STRONGLY encourage you to signup for these programs as soon as possible to ensure that we have adequate time to meet your needs before the blitz of program signups swamps our county office.

Delivering New Farm Bill Programs Will Take Time

From the time an initial Farm Bill is passed by both the House and Senate, it takes an average of 64 days to obtain the President's signature. Why is this important? Because from the date of Presidential signature, it typically takes about 6-8 months for FSA to be positioned to start making payments to producers. Once a Farm Bill is approved, there are a significant number of steps before we are prepared to accept applications and issue payments to producers. These steps include:

1. National Office writes regulations
2. National Office writes handbook procedures for state offices to use
3. Program software is developed
4. National training modules are developed
5. State FSA staff receives training
6. County Office staff receives training
7. Public information campaigns begin

Although there are some limited provisions for expedited implementation, the process in reality is not all that expeditious. We will make every effort to implement Farm Bill provisions in a timely manner.

Beginning Farmers & Rancher Loans

Are you a farmer or rancher who has substantially participated in a farm or ranch operation for at least three years but no more than 10 years? If so, you may qualify for beginning farmer targeted loan funds with the Farm Service Agency. The program is designed to assist these farmers by providing direct and guaranteed loans when they are unable to obtain financing from commercial credit sources. If you believe this program could be of benefit to you, please contact the county office for more information. FSA loan officials will be happy to arrange an appointment to meet with you and discuss your options.

Conservation Compliance

All participants in USDA programs are required to have a conservation system in place on all the highly erodible land (HEL) that they operate. Several areas where problems can arise in complying with a conservation system are; renting new cropland, purchasing new land, breaking out additional cropland, planting different crops such as corn, and changing or removing existing conservation practices. It is very important that you contact the FSA office before doing any of the above. Also, it is very important that you contact our office before modifying - tiling, draining, dredging, filling, or leveling - any wetland or drainage ditch. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in loss of all Federal payments and eligibility.

USDA Works to Protect Personally Identifiable Information (PII)

USDA has launched a campaign to make certain your "Personally Identifiable Information" or PII, is protected. PII generally refers to your personal information which is maintained by a USDA agency. This information can include details of financial transactions between you and USDA; and may include your Social Security number, date of birth or other personal information which can be linked to you. As part of USDA's official policy on Social Security numbers, USDA will collect, use, maintain, and/or disseminate Social Security numbers only when required by statute or when specifically authorized to do so. USDA agencies will not use the number as an identifying number. Agencies must mask or encrypt Social Security numbers so they cannot be viewed on computer screens, reports, or other products. Agencies will not use Social Security numbers to access customer records.

Banking Changes?

If you have changed banks and not notified FSA, your payment could be delayed. Payments are electronically transferred into your bank account. If we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers, there could be problems. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in producer's accounts such as account type, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.