

## GREETINGS FROM THE NEW STATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hello from the Farm Service Agency's state office. Since starting as Washington's State Executive Director in August, I have traveled to county offices throughout the state to meet employees and your representatives on the FSA county committees. Like you, I have experienced FSA from the producer perspective for many years. My husband and I have farmed in Whitman County, where I grew up on a farm.

Knowing the challenges and hard work involved in farming, I have great respect for Washington's agricultural producers and I'm proud of the diverse and productive agriculture in the state. The Farm Service Agency has helped many a farmer get started in the business or survive difficult financial times. I'm pleased to be part of an organization that supports agriculture.

The 2008 Farm Bill introduced new financial risk management tools and some of these new programs we are still bringing online. The complexity and number of the programs have created challenges for the agency and our employees. I am grateful for your patience as we implement the new programs. I realize the current economy and tight credit for sectors of agriculture are also challenging for you. The situation makes these programs all that much more important. Our commitment to Washington state producers is to provide you the best service possible.

## 2009 COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

**Just a reminder: Watch your mail-box for your official county office committee election ballot. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters in LAA 2 also known as the Denmark Area starting on November 6, 2009. If, for some reason you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on December 7, 2009.**

## PAYMENT PROBLEMS

Producers are encouraged to closely monitor your farm program payments for fiscal year 2009. FSA has been transitioning from an old IBM System/36 computer system to online software systems to make payments. The System/36 is obsolete, and soon the agency will no longer be able to maintain it. The transition to the new systems has created temporary problems for issuing payments, as some of you may have experienced.

Final 2009 DCP and ACRE direct payments were issued in full this October. If you received an advance DCP or ACRE direct payment earlier this year, that amount was offset from your final direct payment. However, it may have been offset from a different farm or by a different county office. Also, if you received multiple advance payments, they may all have been offset from one farm. In limited cases, these advance payments may have been offset from one or more of your CRP annual rental payments. Individual payment amounts may look different than you expect, but the total of all your payments should be similar to previous years, if nothing has changed.

Please know that we are trying to issue your payments as quickly as possible. Transaction statements are mailed directly from our Financial Services Center in Kansas City and may reach you after your payment is deposited into your bank account. If the total of all your payments is not what you expect, let us know.

## BEGINNING FARMER/RANCHER

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who: has operated a farm for no more that 10 years, will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm, agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA, and does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size. Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements and loan approval is not guaranteed. Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at the Yakima FSA Office. You may also visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).



### Kittitas County FSA

607 Mt. View Avenue  
Ellensburg, WA 98926  
Office Phone: (509) 925-8585  
Office Fax: (509) 925-8591

### Office Hours

Monday – Friday  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

### Office Staff

Brent Reitmeier, CED  
Betty Cervine, PT

### Farm Loan Staff

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



### County Committee

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

### Next COC Meeting

Tuesday, November 10, 2009  
@ 9:00 a.m.

### Important Dates

11/11 – Office closed for  
Veteran's Day.

11/26 – Office closed for  
Thanksgiving.

12/07 – Completed and signed  
ballots are due back in the  
county office.

### Websites:

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





### ***MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOANS***

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest. Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan. Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter- Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans.

### ***BIOMASS CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM***

FSA is currently accepting applications from biomass facilities interested in participating in the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP). Once an agreement is signed between FSA and a facility and funding through the program is provided, the facilities can begin accepting materials. Producers who sell these materials can apply for matching payments under the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) component of BCAP. Eligible material owners or producers, who market eligible material to a qualified biomass conversion facility, may apply for the matching CHST payment at their FSA county office. An application must be submitted before the eligible material is sold and delivered to a qualified biomass conversion facility. After the product is delivered, a producer must provide FSA with documentation of product quantity, quality and payment rate. County offices will validate payment requests with information in the county office and information in the county office and information provided under the terms of MOUs with the qualified biomass conversion facilities. CHST payments will not be authorized until after an appropriate environmental analysis has been conducted. Biomass conversion facilities and material owners of producers should contact their local FSA office or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) for more information.

### ***YOUTH LOANS***

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor and parents/guardians, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.

#### **Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:**

-  Be a citizen of the United States or a legal resident alien.
-  Be 10 years to 20 years of age.
-  Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements, except managerial experience. Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people.
-  Be unable to get a loan from other sources.

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