



County Committee Election Results

We would like to express our appreciation for those who took the time and effort to vote in this year's County Committee Election. We are especially thankful to the candidates who showed dedication to the FSA Committee system by agreeing to run for the committee position in Local Administrative Area #3. Ballots were counted on December 13th and the following will serve as elected:

- ✓ John Dyk, County Committee Member
- ✓ Brent Mellergaard, Alternate County Committee Member
- ✓ Gene Tomich, Second Alternate County Committee Member

We would also like to express our appreciation for the many years of hard work and service that Bart Bland dedicated to the Kittitas County producers and Farm Service Agency. Bart has served on the County Committee since 1987. His dedication, knowledge, experience and judgment will be greatly missed. Bart was unable to run in this year's election due to term limits.

Conservation Loan Program

The Farm Service Agency makes and guarantees conservation loans on farms and ranches to help conserve our natural resources. The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with the credit necessary to implement conservation measures on their land. The direct CLs loan limit is up to \$300,000 and guaranteed CLs up to \$1,112,000 (amount adjusted for inflation), may be available by applying with lenders working with FSA to obtain a guarantee.

Conservation practices must be approved by NRCS before FSA can provide financing. Producers who do not currently have an existing conservation plan should visit NRCS to develop one prior to requesting Conservation Loan Program assistance. Examples of conservation practices include installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; transitioning to organic production; manure management, including manure digestion systems; etc.

Disaster Assistance Programs

FSA disaster assistance programs include:

- ✚ Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)
- ✚ Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- ✚ Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- ✚ Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program
- ✚ Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

To be eligible for these programs, producers must obtain a policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (FCIA) at a minimum CAT level for all insurable crops, and NAP coverage for non-insurable crops under SURE, TAP, and ELAP. Farm-Raised Fish means all fish being produced for sale by an eligible producer. In the case of honey, the term "farm" means all bees and beehives in all counties that are intended to be harvested for a honey crop by the eligible producer. Producers who do not purchase the required coverage will not be eligible for benefits unless an exception applies. The exception allows certain waivers for "Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers", as well as "Limited Resource Farmers and Ranchers" and "Beginning Farmers and Ranchers". It is highly recommended that even producers, who qualify under one of the waiver provisions, purchase the required insurance or NAP coverage. Doing so will increase the farm guarantee utilized in the calculation of the SURE payment.



Kittitas County FSA

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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

John Dyk
Rick Haberman
Brent DeKoning
Cristi Eaton, Advisor

Next COC Meeting

Tuesday, January 11, 2011
@ 9:00 a.m.

Important Dates

December 24, 2010
Office closed in Observance of
Christmas.

January 31, 2010

Office closed in Observance of
New Years.

Websites:

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





District Director Bob Nordstrom to Retire

The Kittitas County office staff and County Committee would like to express our appreciation for the many years of hard work and service that Bob Nordstrom dedicated in the valley as our District Director. Bob has served as a District Director for Kittitas County since 1984. His dedication, knowledge, experience and judgment will be greatly missed. Congratulations and all the best with a new and well deserved chapter in your life.

NAP Deadline

Noninsured Crop Disaster applications are due at different times according to the crop being insured. Limited resource producers may request a waiver for service fees. Otherwise 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 for individuals with farming interests in multiple counties. Different varieties may require separate fees. In order to be eligible for the permanent disaster programs producers must purchase NAP coverage.

To qualify for the Supplemental Disaster Assistance Program (SURE) producers must have coverage on all acreage that will be harvested as forage.

To qualify for the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) producers must have coverage on all acreage they intend to graze during the 2011 growing season.

CCC-927 or CCC-928 Must Be Sent To IRS

Producers who participated in 2009 or 2010 programs subject to adjusted gross income limitations (AGI) had to certify compliance with AGI rules. The average AGI verification process for 2009 and 2010 payment eligibility requires all program participants to provide written consent to IRS for the disclosure of certain information to FSA. Individuals and legal entities, including members of legal entities, that certified to average AGI compliance for 2009 and/or 2010 payment eligibility must submit a completed CCC-927 or CCC-928 to IRS regardless of whether they received program benefits directly or as a member of a joint operation or entity. These forms must be submitted to IRS in order to avoid a demand for refund of program payments and benefits received.

Changing Banks

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions. If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service. Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

FSA Signature Policy

- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities. For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.