



May 2008

KLICKITAT COUNTY FSA

Farm Bill & 2008 ACREAGE CERTIFICATIONS

The current Farm Bill expired on September 30, 2007 and as of today we do not have a new Farm Bill or a long term extension of the 2002 Farm Bill. The county office is taking appointments for 2008 acreage reporting in anticipation of a bill being announced soon. Acreage Reports are required for farms with CRP, Producers wanting to participate in Commodity Loan and LDP programs, farms participating in Direct & Counter Cyclical Program and for the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP). In other words, virtually everyone who participates in a program through this office will need to report his or her acres to remain in compliance. Producers who have 100% of their cropland acres in CRP will be mailed an acreage report for signature. **Please do not wait until the last minute.** The deadline to complete your acreage report is **June 30, 2008.**

NON-INSURED DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

If you have 2008 NAP policy and suffer a loss on your non-insurable crop due to weather related conditions you must report that loss to the County Office no later than 15 days from the date the loss becomes apparent. June 30 is the final day to report 2007 Crop Production for NAP. Reporting production is important to keep your yield high in the event that you have a loss in the future years.

FARM RECORD CHANGES & RECONSTITUTIONS

If you have purchased or sold land, or had operator or ownership changes on a part of your farm, please notify the County Office. The final date to request a reconstitution of a farm/ tract combination or division effective for 2008 crop year is August 1, 2008. Also, please report any changes of address or banking information.

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

FSA has direct and guaranteed loan programs available for family-sized farm businesses. FSA's loan programs are designed to help farmers who are temporarily unable to obtain private, commercial credit.

The loan limits for direct operating and farm ownership loans are \$200,000 each. The loan limit for guaranteed operating and farm ownership loans is a combined total of \$899,000. Funding is allocated for these programs after October 1 of each year.

Depending on the type of loan, funds can be used to purchase farms, livestock, and equipment, operate the farm, build or repair farm buildings, pay for water development for conservation practices and in some cases refinance debts.

Youth loans are available for those applicants who participate in 4-H clubs, FFA or similar organizations. To qualify, applicants must be between the ages of 10-20, be a U.S. citizen and live in a rural community. These loans can be used to finance raising and breeding livestock, growing fruit, vegetables for resale, flowers and plants for resale, and roadside stands. They can also be used to buy, rent, or repair tools and equipment needed for the project. For additional information contact our office.

STATEWIDE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR WASHINGTON AGRICULTURE

During 2008, the Washington State Dept. of Agriculture is assembling a statewide strategic plan for Washington agriculture. The work is based upon the vision of producers and the realities of the industry now and into the foreseeable future.

This plan is being developed with information provided by farmers and it is for farmers. The plan will be used by the Governor, the Legislature and others to help guide future actions. WSDA is currently obtaining input online. Also, listening sessions are being conducted throughout the state. The Future of Farming project website has a link for the online survey and a list of listening sessions. The site is: <http://agr.wa.gov/fof/default.htm>

Klickitat County FSA

1107 S Columbus Avenue
Goldendale, WA 98620-9296
(509) 773-5822
Fax (509) 773-6046

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Kelly Kreps, Chair
Karl Enyeart, Vice-Chair
Susan Powers, Member

Office Staff

Virginia Klein, CED
Betty Fahlenkamp, PT
Norene Bartkowski, PT

Farm Loan Staff

Lisa Ruff, FLM
Crispin Garza, SCL
Scott Smith, FLO
Sandy Christensen, FLT

1606 Perry Street, Suite A
Yakima, WA 98902-5769
(509)454-5746

Next COC Meeting

May 15, 2008
9:00 AM

Dates to Remember

- **May 29 & 30- Office Closed- due to staff scheduling conflicts**
- June 30 – Acreage Reporting Deadline
- June 30 – Final Date to submit 2007 production for NAP

FSA Web Sites

State- <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>
National- <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>
USDA- <http://www.usda.gov>



LIVESTOCK PROGRAM AND CROP DISASTER SIGNUPS CONTINUES

Deadlines have not been established for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) covering 2005, 2006, & 2007 crops that were covered by Federal Crop Insurance or FSA NAP Policy. The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) covers pasture losses for either 2005 or 2007. For more information please call or visit the office as soon as possible.

PLANT A SEED FOR YOUR FUTURE WITH THE CENSUS OF AG

With planting season upon us, U.S. farmers and ranchers still have a chance to sow a seed for their future by standing up and being counted in the 2007 Census of Agriculture. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is still accepting completed 2007 Census forms.

The Census of Agriculture, conducted every five years, is the only source of consistent and comprehensive agricultural data for every state and county in the nation. That information is used by federal policy makers, agribusinesses and others to make decisions which impact producers' lives.

To be counted producers should return their census forms immediately. For more information, or for assistance with completing the 2007 Census of Agriculture, call toll-free (888) 424-7828 or visit www.agcensus.usda.gov.

NEW COUNTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Effective February 4, the Klickitat County FSA office has a new Director. Virginia Klein was hired to fill the vacancy left by Kent Harris. Virginia has worked in Umatilla County, Pendleton OR and Walla Walla County, Walla Walla WA FSA offices as a Program Technician before completing her COT training last October. Virginia grew up on a Farm/Ranch in Eastern Oregon and has a background in Agriculture Business. Stop by and introduce yourself!

CRP MAINTENANCE

The primary nesting period for Washington is April 1-August 1. During this time period, prior approval must be received from the County Committee to treat weeds by mowing, spraying, or burning on certified contracts. These treatments must be limited to the area that has the weed infestation but not whole fields. Outside the nesting period, no permission is required. Remember that weed control is required on CRP land. CRP contracts may be revised to include certain maintenance practices in mid-contract. Cost share is available if the practice is approved before work begins. Please make sure you are in compliance.

2008 Crop Year Wool, Mohair and Unshorn Pelts

Marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments are being accepted for 2008 crop wool, mohair, and unshorn pelts. Producers must have beneficial interest and sign a 633 EZ before they sell the commodity. Please call the office for more information or to request the 633 EZ as soon as possible.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS TO FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing loss. If accommodations are required, please contact Virginia Klein at (509) 773-5822.