



November 2009

# KLICKITAT COUNTY



Farm Service Agency

## COC ELECTIONS – MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT

County Committee elections are underway. On November 6, ballots were sent to all producers in LAA #1 which is the east side of the county from Rock Creek east. The deadline for returning the ballots to the county office is December 7, 2009.

The County Committee is a unique system under which Federal farm programs are to be administered locally. Producers who are eligible to participate in these programs elect a three person county committee, which reviews county office operations and makes some of the decisions on how to apply the programs. This grassroots approach gives you a much-needed say in how Federal actions affect your operations.

County FSA committee elections are held annually. Candidates are nominated by local farmers and ranchers, and must live in the county or local administrative area they will represent and must be eligible to vote in the county election.

Contact the FSA office if you need a ballot or additional information.

## 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 The System/36 is obsolete, and soon the agency will no longer be able to maintain it.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.

## EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR LIVESTOCK, HONEYBEES, AND FARM-RAISED FISH PROGRAM (ELAP)

FSA is currently accepting applications for the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP). The program provides financial relief to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather or other conditions, including blizzards and wildfires. Losses could have occurred as far back as January 1, 2008.

Assistance for producers through ELAP is for losses not covered under other Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance programs established by the 2008 Farm Bill. These include the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE). ELAP is being implemented to help fill the gap and provide assistance under other eligibility conditions determined to be appropriate.

Eligible livestock include beef cattle, alpacas, buffalo, beefalo, dairy cattle, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, llamas, poultry, reindeer, sheep and swine in

### 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

December 10, 2009  
9:00 AM

### Dates to Remember

- **November 20-** Deadline for fruit crop insurance
- **November 26-** Office Closed for Thanksgiving
- **December 7-** deadline for returning ballots
- **December 10-** ELAP deadline

### FSA Web Sites

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



addition to honeybees and farm-raised fish. Prior purchase of crop insurance or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage is required for LFP and ELAP eligibility.

Due to a program funding cap, ELAP payments may be pro-rated depending on the number of applications. Individuals or entities are ineligible for payment under ELAP or LFP for 2008 if their average Adjusted Gross Income for 2005, 2006 and 2007 exceeds \$2.5 million. For 2009, an average adjusted gross nonfarm income limitation of \$500,000 applies. Payment limitations for all disaster programs are \$100,000.

FSA has set a December 10, 2009 notice of loss deadline for losses that occurred between January 1, 2008 and September 10, 2009. In the future, a notice of loss is due 30 days after damage is apparent.

### **SURE LINKAGE**

USDA's Spokane Risk Management Agency (RMA) Office reminds producers of the important link between Federal crop insurance and FSA's Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance programs including the new SURE program. To maintain eligibility for most Supplemental Disaster Programs producers must obtain a policy or plan of insurance of at least the catastrophic level (CAT) of insurance for the crop year 2010. Note: the more crop insurance coverage a producer has, the more the SURE guarantee will be. For those crops that are non-insurable, coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be timely obtained. Therefore, producers need to be making important crop insurance decisions for the 2010 crop year. The next round of sales closing dates for Federal crop insurance is:

November 20: Apple, Blueberry, Actual Revenue History Cherry Pilot, Cranberry, Fresh Apricots, Fresh Freestone Peaches, Fresh Nectarines, Grape, and Pear;

Note: The Adjusted Gross Revenue-Pilot and Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite programs do meet the linkage requirements for SURE. Also, if there is no crop insurance coverage in a county for a specific crop, and that crop is insurable in another county under the traditional Federal crop insurance program, a producer may seek coverage by asking an agent whether they would be eligible for crop insurance coverage under a written agreement.

A 2010 Multi-Peril Crop Availability Listing by county is posted on RMA website, [http://www.rma.usda.gov/aboutrma/fields/wa\\_rso/](http://www.rma.usda.gov/aboutrma/fields/wa_rso/). Producers are encouraged to contact their local agent for additional details. In addition to USDA Service Centers, a listing of crop/livestock agents is also available at, (<http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents>).

### **DCP/ACRE SIGNUP IS HERE**

We are currently taking appointments to sign up for 2010 ACRE/DCP signups. Please call to make an appointment.

### **WE ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

The local county office is currently being remodeled. We are open our normal hours of 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. We are sorry for the inconvenience as the construction continues. We will do our best to provide you with quality service and carry on the day to day activities to the best of our ability. Please be patient!



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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W Whitten Building, 14<sup>th</sup> and Independence Ave. SW, Washington D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.