



August 2010

KLICKITAT COUNTY



Farm Service Agency

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
Neal Brown, Member
Susan Powers, Advisor

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

August 11, 2010
9:00 AM

Dates to Remember

Aug. 2 to Aug. 27, 2010 CRP
Sign-up

Sept. 30, 2010 SURE Sign-up
Deadline

FSA Web Sites

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



NEW CRP SIGNUP

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general sign-up starts August 2, 2010, and ends August 27, 2010. CRP allows producers to enroll land in ten year contracts that help preserve environmentally sensitive land. Farmers and ranchers enrolled in the program plant cover crops to improve wildlife habitat, water or air quality; have enduring benefits; or reduce erosion. In return, FSA pays the producer a rental rate based on a producer's accepted bid. Eligibility and ranking scores are based on several factors. Eligible land must have been planted to an annual crop or conserving use in at least four years between 2002 and 2007. In addition, the land must have an erodibility index of 8 or greater, be in the state air quality or wildlife Conservation Priority Area or be CRP expiring in 2010. Offers will be ranked using the Environment Benefits Index. Points will be awarded based on the environmental and habitat benefits of the proposed cover crops. Extra points will be awarded in this signup for the most erosive land and bids that include pollinator habitat. There are 2.8 million acres of CRP contracts expiring this year. A very competitive signup is expected.

2010 NAP PRODUCTION

Producers are reminded that participation in the NAP program requires that you timely provide production records in order to maintain your Actual Production History (APH). Production must be provided by June 30th following the year of harvest. Failing to timely provide your production records will have an adverse affect on your yields ultimately reducing your benefits when you suffer qualifying losses.

The Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) also requires that producers, who suffer losses, notify our office by filing a notice of loss, within 15 days of the occurrence which caused the loss, or when the loss becomes apparent. Please remember to report all potential losses not just the obvious ones. Something to consider is if you suffer several small occurrences which causes you to qualify for assistance, but you have failed to timely report each occurrence, you could be determined ineligible for not timely filing a loss claim. Help us help you, report your losses timely.

CROP INSURANCE DECISION

To maintain eligibility for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) and to qualify for disaster assistance, producers must obtain a policy or plan of insurance of at least catastrophic (CAT) level coverage for crop year 2011. 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 with fall planted commodities need to be making important crop insurance decisions for the 2011 crop year. Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office and visit with a crop insurance agent (a list of agents is available at all USDA Service Centers) to fully understand what crop insurance programs are available in the county and to ensure they are obtaining adequate coverage for eligibility.

SURE SIGN-UP DEADLINE

The sign-up period for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) for crop losses in 2008 closes September 30, 2010. Eligible producers should apply for benefits as soon as possible to ensure payment eligibility. The SURE program provides benefits for farm losses accrued in 2008 through 2011 due to natural disasters. A farmer or rancher is eligible for the program when a disaster designation has been made for their county or when actual production is less than half of the normal established production. Commodities are eligible for payment when covered with crop insurance or a non-insured crop disaster assistance program policy. A fact sheet with more

detailed information and a potential payment calculator are available on the FSA website. For more information, contact this office.

FARM DIVISIONS AND RECONSTITUTIONS

Any land divisions or additions on your farm impacts your acreage bases. For program purposes, FSA adheres to a landowner designation of dividing bases in the manner agreed to by the parent farm owner and purchaser or transferee. This method of dividing the bases may be used when any part of a farm or tract is sold or ownership is transferred, an entire tract or farm is sold to two or more persons, or farm or tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. The land sold or transferred must have been owned for at least three years unless the County Committee approves a waiver of this requirement.

BEGINNING FARMER AND SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED APPLICANTS FINANCING

FSA's loan programs are designed to help family farmers who are temporarily unable to obtain commercial credit. In many cases, these are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for commercial credit.

The law also REQUIRES FSA to reserve or target loan funds for exclusive use by beginning farmers. Funds remain targeted for beginning farmers in the guaranteed programs until April 1 of each year. In the direct programs, funds are targeted for beginning farmers until September 1 of each year.

A beginning farmer or rancher is an individual or entity who:

- has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years
- substantially participates in the operation
- for Farm Ownership loan purposes, does not own a farm greater than 30 percent of the average size farm in the county
- for Farm Ownership loan purposes, must have participated in the business operation of a farm for at least 3 years.

Maximum amounts of indebtedness are \$300,000 for Direct Loans and \$1,094,000 (amount varies annually based on inflation) for Guaranteed Loans.

FSA has a down payment program to assist beginning farmers and socially disadvantaged applicants to purchase a farm or ranch. This program also provides a means for retiring farmers and ranchers to transfer their land to a future generation.

Eligible beginning farmers and socially disadvantaged applicants are given first priority to purchase FSA acquired properties at the appraised market value for the first 135 days after acquisition. For more information about FSA loan programs, contact Lisa Ruff, Farm Loan Manager at (509) 454-5746.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR OWNERSHIP

Please notify your local FSA office of all deaths, land ownership and address changes as soon as possible so your farm records can be updated timely. A copy of the applicable recorded deed should be provided to complete the land ownership changes.

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotapes, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W Whitten Building, 14th 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.