

June 2008

## TWIN HARBORS/LEWIS COUNTY FSA NEWS

### Twin Harbors/Lewis Co FSA Office

1554 Bishop Rd Ste 100  
Chehalis WA 98532

Telephone: (360) 748-0083  
ext 2

Fax: (360) 740-9745

### Office Hours

Monday – Friday  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

### County Committee

Byron Bentson, Chair  
Vic Boekelman, V-Chair  
Sam Zion, Member  
Allen Devlin, Member  
Leo Zylstra, Member  
Ann Aho, Advisor  
Liz Anderson, Advisor

### Office Staff

Lynne White, Acting CED

### Farm Loan Staff

Jeff Peterson, FLO  
Ruth Wynn, FLT

### Next COC Meeting

July 22, 2008  
9:30 AM

### UPCOMING IMPORTANT DEADLINES AND DATES TO REMEMBER

June 30 – Deadline to submit 2007 NAP crop production

June 30 - Crop reporting deadline

July 15 – EQIP Contract ranking cut-off date

July 18 – LCP/LIP signup ends

August 1 – Last day to accept COC nominating petitions

Employment opportunities for the USDA Farm Service Agency and Washington State FSA are listed on the FSA website:  
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>

### Handicapped Accommodations:

Special accommodations will be arranged for those persons with a physical, vision, or hearing impaired disability. If special accommodations are needed, please contact our office.

### CROP ACREAGE REPORTING

Acreage reports are required for many FSA programs and **August 15, 2008** is the deadline for reporting all planted crops. Reporting is mandatory for all Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) participants, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) participants, and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) as well as those wanting to participate in the Loan Deficiency Program (LDP) and the Direct & Counter Cyclical Program (DCP). Beyond the deadline of June 30, 2008, *fees will be assessed for late-filed acreage reporting.*

### COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

FSA is accepting nominations for the County Committee to represent producers in Local Administrative Areas (LAA) 3 & 5. LAA 3 encompasses all of Pacific County except the coastal areas contained in Range 11. LAA 5 encompasses the eastern two-thirds of Lewis County and includes all land east of the E/W meridian.

County Committee members are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA. Committee members help guide FSA farm programs at the local level. They help make FSA agricultural programs fit the needs of the local producers. This is especially important in a year with a new Farm Bill. The Committee operates with official regulations designed to carry out Federal Laws. The members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions. Elected Committee members serve for three years and are reimbursed for their committee time. **The nomination period is June 15 thru August 1.** If you or someone you know wants to fill out a nomination form (FSA-669A), contact or stop by your local FSA office.

### ENROLLMENT PERIOD ENDS FOR LIVESTOCK DISASTER PROGRAMS

The deadline to enroll in the 2005 – 2007 Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) is **July 18, 2008**. The two programs provide aid to livestock producers who suffered eligible livestock or livestock feed losses between January 1, 2005, and December 31, 2007, because of a natural disaster.

LIP provides payments to eligible livestock owners and contract growers who incurred the death of livestock. LCP provides payments to eligible livestock owners and cash lessees who suffered feed losses or increased feed costs.

The Grays Harbor, Lewis, and Pacific county disaster declarations of 2005 – 2007 triggered eligibility for the livestock disaster assistance programs. For more information on FSA programs, visit your local USDA Service Center or the agency's website, <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

### CROP DISASTER PROGRAM SIGNUP CONTINUES

The disaster loss period has been extended from February 28, 2007 to December 31, 2007 to cover the December storms. The program covers weather related losses that occurred in 2005, 2006, or 2007 crop years for all crops planted, or prevented from being planted, before **December 31, 2007**.

Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year for which to receive benefits. They may receive benefits for multiple crop losses if all were in the same crop year. Signup for quality economic losses will be announced at a later date.

**To be eligible, for quantity and quality losses producers must have obtained Federal Crop Insurance or coverage under the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year for which they claim benefits.**

### REPORTING CHANGES TO FARMING OPERATIONS

**Producers are required to notify FSA of any changes in their farming operation or entity status throughout the year, especially ownership and leased land changes.** Changes include, but are not limited to, a change in the size or structure of the farming operation; a change in member's shares, and changes in contributions to farm inputs of capital, equipment, active personal labor, or active personal management. **Also, any changes to bank account information.** If you have questions, please come in and review the information on file with us.

## **FUTURE OF FARMING**

The Washington State Department of Agriculture would like your opinion to help identify and prioritize the 20-year strategic plan for Washington agriculture. They would like to know the following: 1) what is your vision for the future of farming? 2) Looking to the future, what and where are the opportunities for Washington producers? 3) What are the current and future challenges? 4) What are the top three actions that our state Legislators can take to help the agriculture producers stay in production over the next 20 years? If you would like to participate in their "Future of Farming" survey, or be on their mailing list, contact Carrie Coineandubh at the WSDA or send an email to [fof@agr.wa.gov](mailto:fof@agr.wa.gov)

## **FLP FARM BILL NEWS**

The farm bill became law on May 22, 2008. Certain provisions of the bill are available as of that date.

- The maximum Direct Farm Ownership loan amount has been increased from \$200,000 to \$300,000.
- The maximum Direct Farm Operating loan amount has been increased from \$200,000 to \$300,000.
- The 15 year limit for FSA borrowers to receive guaranteed operating loans is waived through December 31, 2010.
- The Down Payment Loan Program has been modified in several ways also.

For more information contact your local FSA office regarding the Farm Loan Program changes.

## **COOPERATIVE EFFORT BETWEEN FSA AND WA STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

The Washington State Conservation Commission has developed a Flood Relief Assistance Program to, in part assist producers in timely completion of flood recovery efforts by providing full payment for completed practices, as an advance on Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) funds that will be earned when Congress appropriates the requested ECP funding. The ECP funds, when available, will be used, through producer assignments, to repay up to 75% of the advance to the Commission. The Commission has further agreed to write off the remaining amount of the advance as their "contribution" to the recovery effort.

The Commission's program is a creative way to speed up the recovery effort by providing timely payment for completed practices. Often times, FSA's inability to provide timely ECP payments is due to lack of funding by Congress. This innovative program will effectively resolve that problem.

Funding *may be* limited due to the number of people signing up. Please contact the Grays Harbor, Lewis, or Pacific County Conservation District offices for more information on this program.