



Farm Service Agency

November 2009

TWIN HARBORS - LEWIS COUNTY FSA NEWS

Chehalis Service Center

1554 Bishop Rd Ste 100
Chehalis WA 98532-8710

Telephone: (360) 748-0083
FSA – ext 2
NRCS – ext 4
LCCD – ext 3
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

CED - Vacant
Julie Moldenhauer, PT

Farm Loan Staff

Jon Wilson, FLM
Jeff Peterson, FLO
Ruth Wynn, FL PT

Next COC Meeting

November 17, 2009
9:30 AM

Upcoming Office Closures

Nov 11 – Veteran's Day
Nov 26 – Thanksgiving Day
Dec 25 – Christmas Day
Jan 1 – New Year's Day

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.



FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN PROGRAM

Under the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFLP), the Commodity Credit Corporation provides low cost financing for producers to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities for eligible commodities.

Eligible applicants may qualify for the 7-year loan program and may borrow up to \$100,000 per "person." A down payment of 15% is required and a non-refundable application fee of \$45 must be paid at the time of application. Loans may be made for purchasing and installing eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. The need for more storage capacity for your farming operation must be documented.

New FSFL regulations to incorporate 2008 Farm Bill changes have not yet been published. Stay tuned for more information.

HOW FSA FUNDS LOANS

Each year Congress appropriates money for FSA farm loans as part of the USDA budget. The funds are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning October 1 until September 30 of the following year. Each state is allocated a portion of the funds. When funds run low, the national office may pool money from the states and redistribute it based on need. If FSA runs out of loan funds before the end of the fiscal year, Congress may pass a supplemental appropriations bill to make additional money available. If Congress does not do so, loan applications wait until the next fiscal year to be funded.

FSA reserves loan money for two specific categories: under-represented groups and beginning farmers. By law, FSA sets aside a portion of funds for socially disadvantaged applicants. Applicants may include women, African Americans, Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asians and Pacific Islanders.

The law also requires FSA to reserve loan funds for use by beginning farmers. The funds remain targeted in the guaranteed programs until April 1 of each year and until September 1 of each year in the direct programs.

Loans are funded in date order, based on the date that applications are received. Submitting an application sets your place in the waiting lines for funds, so it is advantageous to apply early in the fiscal year. FSA still accepts, processes, and approves loan applications even after funds are exhausted. Approved applications are held until money becomes available or the applicant expresses a desire to withdraw the application.

Emergency loans are funded on a first-come, first-served basis when a natural disaster is declared. Funds are kept at the national office. For more information about FSA loans, contact Jonathan Wilson, FLM of Jeff Peterson, FLO at (360) 748-0083 ext 2.

COC ELECTIONS – MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT

On November 6, ballots were sent to all producers in LAA 4. This LAA encompasses all of Lewis County west of the East/West Meridian. **The deadline for returning the ballots to the county office is December 7, 2009.**

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 office if you need a ballot or additional information.

Anne Aho is running to fill the position currently occupied by Sam Zion. Anne has been involved in farming for the past 30 years and has served on the committee for several years as Advisor. Anne is currently raising beef cattle, sheep, hay and Christmas trees. In the past, she also owned and operated a dairy farm.

Sam Zion has represented LAA 4 for the past 9 years and is not able to run again at this time due to applicable term limits. He has been a knowledgeable and valued member on the committee and he will be missed.

BE SURE TO SIGN YOUR BALLOT ENVELOPE OR YOUR VOTE WILL NOT BE COUNTED.

FARM LOAN UPDATE — RAISED LIMITS ON GUARANTEED LOANS

The Farm Service Agency offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. FSA also offers Guaranteed Loans in partnership with commercial lenders up to \$1,112,000 (new maximum as of October 1, 2009.) Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural youth loans, loans to beginning farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For details just contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

CROP INSURANCE UPDATE

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. 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. **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;

November 30: Pasture-Rangeland-Forage Vegetation Index Pilot (select counties in Idaho and Oregon);

November 30: Apiculture Vegetation Index Pilot (available in all Idaho and Oregon counties);

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/. 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>).

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