



August 2008

LINCOLN COUNTY FSA NEWS

2008 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program Signup

Lincoln County FSA

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Office Hours

Monday – Friday
7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

FSA Farm Loan Office

Steve King, Farm Loan Manager
8815 E. Mission Ave; Suite B
Spokane Valley, WA. 99212-2532
(509) 924-7350

County Committee

Stan Dormaier, Chairperson
Judy Scrupps, Vice Chairperson
Pete Carstensen, Regular Member

Committee Meetings: 8:00 A.M. on
Wed. of 3rd full week of the month.

Office Staff

Jeff Lust, CED
Debbie Sweet, PT
Sally Simpson, PT
Jan Bowdish, PT
Paula Reed, PT
Aaron Landreth, PT
Janet O'Neil, Temp. PT
Nancy Reinbold, Temp. PT

Web Sites

National USDA
<http://www.usda.gov>

National FSA
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

To get the latest Farm Bill information as it becomes available, you may access the following website:

Washington State FSA
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>

An automatic notification (RSS) feed to your computer can be established that informs you of current press release postings.

2008 Lincoln Co. Loan Rates

SWW Wheat:	\$2.65/Bu.
HRS and HWS Wheat:	\$3.23/Bu.
HRW and HWW Wheat:	\$3.27/Bu.
Durum Wheat:	\$2.90/Bu.
Barley:	\$2.15/Bu.
Oats:	\$1.26/Bu.
Canola:	\$7.22/Cwt.
Dry Peas:	\$6.58/Cwt.
Small Chickpeas:	\$7.43/Cwt.

Dates to Remember

Sept. 16: Buy-in for 2008 Crop Insurance and NAP
Sept. 1: Office Closed - Labor Day
Sept. 30: Deadline for 2008 DCP Signup

Please contact our office regarding any direct deposit bank account and/or farm record changes.



The new 2008 Farm Bill has been passed and the 2008 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) signup is off and running. Enrollment in the 2008 DCP is required to be completed by **September 30, 2008**, as the statutes of this legislation do not permit FSA to accept signups after that date. All signatures, except for zero shares, are required to be submitted to our FSA office by September 30. Consequently, with this very tight time frame and in order to expedite the process, we have printed and mailed the majority of 2008 DCP contracts to farm operators using the same payment share percentage(s) as indicated on 2007 DCP contracts. Operators will then be responsible for reviewing these 2008 contracts for accuracy, then obtaining applicable landlord signatures on the contracts, and finally collecting them back from these land owners for the return of them to our FSA Office. We realize summer and harvest in particular are very busy times for our farmers, but we request that you watch your mailbox and immediately review these 2008 DCP contracts, and 1) either notify us of any changes to them; or 2) have the signed contracts returned to our office as soon as possible, but not later than **September 30, 2008**.

Some 2008 DCP contracts were unable to be mailed out at this time, because farm reconstitutions or revised acreage bases first need to be completed. Other 2008 DCP contracts excluded in this mailing involved those farms with 10 or less total base acres, as new 2008 Farm Bill provisions exclude them from receiving program payments unless the farm is owned by a socially disadvantaged or limited resource producer. A *socially disadvantaged* farmer is a person who is a member of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. A *limited resource* producer has gross farm sales of less than \$116,800 in each of the previous two years, and has a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four; OR has less than 50 percent of the County median household income in each of the previous years.

Producers may elect to receive a 22% advance 2008 direct payment after a 2008 acreage report has been filed, and after DCP contract approval. Final direct 2008 payments will be made after October 1, 2008.

Disaster Assistance Buy-In Program

The new 2008 Farm Bill has authorized producers who had 2008 crop losses, otherwise ineligible for new disaster assistance programs, to now apply for these programs by paying a fee to "buy-in" to newly legislated disaster programs. Although disaster coverage dates have passed for Federal crop insurance and the Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP), this *one-time* waiver allows producers to purchase buy-in disaster coverage by paying the minimum fee for the Catastrophic (CAT) level of crop insurance coverage for insured crops, or NAP coverage for uninsurable crops. This buy-in coverage must be bought for *all* crops on *all* of a producer's farms regardless if there was an actual loss on all of the crops. The buy-in fee for this CAT and NAP coverage is \$100 per crop with a maximum of \$300 per administrative county, and \$900 maximum for multiple counties. CAT and NAP fees are treated separately and the maximums apply separately to each type of coverage, but producers are credited for any crop insurance or NAP coverage previously paid for 2008 crops. The deadline for payment of any required buy-in fees is **September 16, 2008**, and this is done through the FSA office administering your farm(s). Fees are waived for socially disadvantaged, limited resource, and beginning farmers. Buy-in fees will only enable producers to meet the requirement for the new disaster programs, and will not provide 2008 crop insurance or NAP coverage if they did not meet the original application deadline. However, producers who in fact did *timely* purchase crop insurance and/or NAP coverage, could be eligible to receive a crop insurance and/or NAP payment, as well as payments under the new buy-in programs.

These new disaster programs covering losses only due to natural disaster are: 1) Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE); 2) Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP); 3) Tree Assistance Program (TAP); 4) Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP); and 5) Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). SURE covers crop losses on the whole farm when the county receives a disaster designation, or losses exceed 50% of the farm's total production. Payments are made on 60% of the difference between the SURE guarantee and total farm revenue. LFP provides a payment to ranchers who suffer losses due to *drought* or *fire*. TAP provides compensation to orchardists and nursery producers to replant trees and vines. LIP provides payment for loss of livestock.

It should be noted that buy-in fees apply for the grazing of pastures/rangeland, and is required for SURE, TAP, and ELAP, and this also incorporates grazing by domestic livestock including horses. Producers can choose to have *only* buy-in coverage on their grazing acres through the purchase of LFP. LIP is the only disaster program exempt from the coverage requirement, in that no buy-in fees are required to be paid for disaster coverage.

Finally, for the 2009 crop year, Federal crop insurance or NAP will be required to be purchased by the sales closing date on all crops as a precondition for 2009 enrollment in the previously discussed new disaster programs.

Non-Insured Assistance Program

Producers may now purchase NAP disaster coverage for non-insurable crops planted in late summer or fall for harvest in 2009. The cost of the coverage is \$250 per crop (previously \$100), not to exceed \$750 per producer per county, and \$1,875 per producer for all counties. Although the purchase of 2009 NAP coverage has been extended to December 1, 2009, it is encouraged that coverage be purchased by the normally established sales closing dates, because delaying coverage could result in an ineligible loss, if the crop suffers a loss after planting but before NAP is purchased and the coverage attaches. Accordingly, for vegetable seed crops such as carrots and onions, the NAP premium should be paid by **August 31, 2008**; and **September 30, 2008** with regards to perennial grazing and forage crops for hay and seed.

Lastly, producers with NAP coverage are reminded that Notice of Loss reports need to be filed within **15** days of the date of weather related disaster events, or when damage to a crop becomes evident. If intentions are to destroy the crop before harvest, our FSA office must be contacted so that a loss adjuster can verify damage prior to crop destruction. Failure to meet these requirements can compromise NAP coverage, or make claims ineligible for assistance.

New CRP Wildlife Program

County producers have an opportunity to voluntarily sign up for a new program to enhance wildlife habitat through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The program is called State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE), and is a joint project of FSA in association with the State's Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Eligible acres in this program will be enrolled in an area called the Eastern Washington Shrub-Steppe located in part of the Crab Creek drainage area of the county. Qualifying cropland must be located within one-half mile of an existing remnant shrub-steppe habitat block of 5 acres or more in size, and the land enrolled in the program must have been cropped in at least 4 of the years between 1996 and 2001. Summerfallow as a land use is considered as being cropped in a given year. Cooperating landowners receive cost-shares for habitat establishment and maintenance, incentive payments, as well as annual rental payments in return for the development of wildlife habitation. Producers can submit offers to enroll acres in this SAFE program for 10 – 15 year CRP contracts. Enrollment for SAFE is non-competitive, and producers may presently sign up at any time, as an ending signup date has yet to be determined. Signup will occur at our local FSA Office.

Early Release of Enrolled CRP Acres

USDA just completed a very thorough review of whether the early release of acres currently enrolled in CRP should be allowed. Consequently, the Secretary of Agriculture has stated that after considering recent crop reports and weather conditions, price trends seen in grain markets, and the likelihood of increasing land for crop production, it was decided to *not* allow the penalty-free release of CRP land at this time. It should be noted that owners still have the option of taking their acres out of the program early in exchange for returning all payments they have received plus interest and a penalty. Finally, it was believed that this decision strikes the best possible balance between supporting programs that protect our natural resources, and meeting the nation's need for grain production.