



NEWSLETTER



County Committee Elections

County FSA Committee election ballots were mailed in early November to eligible Lincoln County voters for the general Local Administrative Area (LAA) of Davenport, Reardan, and Edwall. **Joe Schultz** is running unopposed for this position. Ballots need to be returned to the County FSA Office, or postmarked if mailed by **Monday, December 6**, to be eligible and counted. They will be counted at the Committee meeting on December 9. Please remember that power of attorney is not authorized for voting purposes. Thank you to all who take the time to vote.

CRP Final Conservation Plans

Accepted offers for enrollment into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) during the recent general Signup 39, were approved based upon an interim conservation plan signed by the participant. A *final* conservation plan is now required to be developed by the Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) by **December 31, 2010**. All participants on the CRP contract will be required to sign the final conservation plan by this deadline for it to be approved. Producers who do not accept and sign the final plan in this specific CRP signup, may withdraw their contracts from the program without penalty and assessment of liquidated damages.

NRCS will be making actual field visits to offered CRP acreage in conjunction with the development of final conservation plans. Plans will address actions needing to be performed to prepare and establish the required vegetative cover on the CRP acres. This should include tillage and/or chemical applications, as well as accepted seed mixtures for the applicable site. Recommendations will depend on whether the offered land accepted into CRP is new cropland currently in fallow or presently in stubble, as well as offers with an existing cover that requires the destruction and reestablishment on part or all of the offered acres. Seedbed preparation activities performed during the time leading up to planting are eligible for cost-shares, while the same can be said for the eventual seeding operation and eligible seed. Two weed control measures if completed within one year of planting can also qualify for cost-sharing. Finally, the final plans should additionally provide information and specifications on those CRP offers that included wildlife watering facilities (guzzlers) and pollinator habitats.

Transition Incentives Program

Beginning farmers have a new option for acquiring farmland. Farmers can enroll in the Transition Incentives Program (TIP), which is a new program under the 2008 Farm Bill. The program encourages retired or retiring owners or operators with CRP acres, to transition their land to beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

TIP provides annual rental payments to eligible retiring farmers for up to two additional years *after* the date of the expiration of a CRP contract, provided the transitions are not to a family member. Program eligibility for this year requires that the retiring farmer have CRP land that will expire September 30, 2011. The farmer must also agree to sell or lease for a minimum of five years, the land under CRP contract to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher, and agree to allow them to make conservation and land improvements during this time period. The farmer or rancher acquiring the CRP acreage may return the land to production after the current CRP contract expires. The TIP enrollment must occur during the final year before the scheduled date of CRP contract expiration, which for 2011 would be between the current time and the contract expiration date of September 30, 2011. For 2012 CRP contract expirations, the TIP enrollment period would be between October 1, 2011 and September 30, 2012. However, waiting until the last minute to enroll is not advised.

Conservation Loan Program

A new loan program has been developed called the Conservation Loan (CL) Program to provide farm and ranch operators access to credit to implement conservation measures and practices that will conserve natural resources. Loan funds can be used to implement conservation practices approved by NRCS, and also including enhancement practices called for under approved CRP contracts, as well as other conservation measures. These loans differ from standard Farm Loan Program (FLP) loans in that they do not require applicants to be unable to obtain outside credit, "family size" acreage conformity provisions do not apply, and there are not any clauses relating to graduating to other credit sources for refinancing the debt in the future.

November 2010

Lincoln County FSA

P.O. Box 47
1310 W. Morgan St.
Davenport, WA. 99122-0047
(509) 725-4501
(509) 725-4515 (FAX)

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

FSA Farm Loan Office

Houston Bruck, 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,
except for December, which is
scheduled for Dec. 9 this year.

Office Staff/Phone Extension

Jeff Lust, CED /	102
Debbie Sweet, PT /	101
Sally Simpson, PT/	108
Jan Bowdish, PT/	107
Paula Reed, PT /	106
Aaron Landreth, PT /	124
Stephanie Fisher, Temp. PT/	109

Web Sites

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

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

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

Dates to Remember

Nov. 25:
Office Closed for Thanksgiving
Holiday

Dec. 6:
Final Day to Return County
Committee Election Ballots

Dec. 24:
Office Closed for Christmas
Holiday

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



Direct Conservation Loans can be obtained through local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices with loan limits up to \$300,000. *Guaranteed* Conservation Loans up to \$1,112,000 are available from lenders working with FSA. Questions on this new loan program should be directed to Houston Bruck, Farm Loan Manager at the Spokane County FSA Office, by calling him at (509) 924-7350, EXT. 108.

Program Payments

FSA offices experienced many problems last fall with issuing program payments, particularly those involving CRP. Not all, but the greater part of these problems were corrected for this year's payment cycle as most of the 2010 CRP and DCP payments have been made. The majority of ACRE payments for 2009 have also been issued, as well as 2008 SURE payments with the exception of a few that require additional work.

Payment transaction statements are mailed from our Financial Services Center in Kansas City, but may reach producers one to two weeks after program payments are directly deposited into bank accounts, or checks received in those minimal instances. Please realize that there is no ability to request deferral of these payments through our office. Once payment data is loaded and payments are authorized, we are required to issue payments within 30 days.

Paper Check Transactions

Over the next year, FSA/CCC (Commodity Credit Corporation) is moving toward an electronic method for processing producer checks. This will allow FSA/CCC to process collections faster. When producers present checks, either in person or through the mail, the checks will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The funds will be debited from the producer's account, usually within 24 hours of receipt. Checks given in person will then be voided and returned to the producer. Mailed checks will be voided and held for up to 14 days, then shredded if not picked up by the producer.

FSA Letters

Several producers have received letters from FSA reminding them to submit a form CCC-927 (Individual), or CCC-928 (Entity) to the IRS. Our FSA office initially provided all producers with the proper form to complete and mail directly to the IRS. IRS checks FSA records with their records to verify that producer's certification to Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) are accurate. Failure to submit this form will delay payments and can result in FSA requiring refund of previously issued payments. We've had instances reported where producers were sure they sent their form to IRS, only to find their name on the list of people who have not submitted the form. We have been instructed to tell these producers to re-file the applicable form to IRS. These forms are available at our office, and apply to 2009 and 2010 payments.

2011 DCP/ACRE Signup

Our office is planning for the 2011 DCP/ACRE signup, and will inform you shortly how this process will work. One thing for certain, if you have had changes in your farm operation in terms of land transactions such as buying or selling acres, entity changes, or share revisions, etc., please visit our office promptly so these changes can be recorded *before* signing a 2011 DCP and/or ACRE contract, and requesting optional advance payments. Program payment eligibility depends on the requirement to file a signed contract *each year*. Producers on farms that elected the ACRE program in 2009 or 2010 will remain in ACRE through 2012. Producers who were only in DCP last year may remain in just DCP for 2011, or *additionally* elect the ACRE program.

DCP direct payment rates remain unchanged from a year ago: \$.52/bu. for wheat, and \$.24/bu. for barley. Direct DCP payments are reduced by 20% if enrolled in ACRE. Advance direct payments are available under either program at 22% of the total direct payment rate for the year. If you wish to receive your advance payment before the end of the calendar year, please call our office now for an appointment to complete the signup. Payments are earned on 83.3% of the farm's established base acreage, times the farm's established yield, times the producer's share. Producers are free to plant any crop on their base acreage with the exception of fruits & vegetables and wild rice.