



NEWSLETTER



February 2011

Lincoln County FSA

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(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

Judy Scrupps, Chair
Pete Carstensen, Vice Chair
Joe Schultz, Regular Member

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

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

March 14 – April 15: CRP Signup

March 15: NAP Sales Closing Date for Spring Crops

March 22: SED/Producer Meeting

May 31: ECP Signup Deadline

June 1: 2011 DCP/ACRE Signup Deadline

June 30: 2010 production due for ACRE

July 29: 2009 SURE Signup Deadline

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



County Committee Election Results

Joe Schultz was elected to his first 3-year term on the County Committee to represent Local Administrative Area (LAA) # 2, consisting generally of Davenport, Reardan, and Edwall. Voters in this LAA election also submitted write-in votes, and consequently with selection by lot, **Garry Rosman** agreed to serve as First Alternate, while **Jeff Wagner** was willing to act as Second Alternate. Thanks to all in this area who returned their ballots for this year's County Committee elections. Appreciation and special recognition should additionally be given to **Stan Dormaier** who served and just recently concluded 3 consecutive terms on the Committee for this area.

FSA State Executive Director Producer Meeting

Judy Olson, State Executive Director (SED) for the Washington State FSA, will be present to participate in a producer meeting and listening session scheduled for **Tuesday, March 22, 2011**. The meeting will take place in **Davenport** at the **Memorial Hall**, 511 W. Park Street at **10:00 a.m.** Producers wanting to know more about FSA operations, programs and agency services, while also wishing to comment on them, will have this opportunity for dialogue with the State Executive Director. Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in the meeting should contact Jeff Lust at the Lincoln County FSA Office at (509) 725-4501.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Signup (#41)

A general CRP signup has been announced to begin **Monday, March 14, 2011** and end **Friday, April 15, 2011**. Signup will be on an appointment basis. CRP general contracts allow producers to enroll land in 10-year terms that help preserve environmentally sensitive land. In exchange for idling it, producers receive annual rental payments and 50 percent of the cost to establish the cover. Annual rates are tied to county average rental rates and productivity of the soils on the offered acreage.

Offers will be accepted on land with CRP expiring September 30, 2011. Also, offers can be accepted on cropland currently not enrolled in CRP, which meet land eligibility requirements of having been planted to an annual crop or conserving use in at least four years between 2002 and 2007, as long as the land has an erodibility index of 8 or greater; or be located in the state air quality or wildlife Conservation Priority Area. Land offered for CRP cannot be under a practice lifespan for seeding a permanent cover under other program contracts such as CSP or EQIP administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Additionally, offers will be ranked using the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI), wherein points will be awarded based on the environmental and habitat benefits of the proposed vegetative cover planted. More EBI points are earned for native covers, and consequently existing CRP covers may need to be replanted to maximize the score. Extra points will also be awarded on the most erosive land, and bids that include pollinator habitat on 10% of the acreage. Changes for this signup are that wildlife watering facilities (guzzlers) will *no* longer be awarded points, and the NRCS will only develop *final* conservations plans for accepted offers.

2011 DCP/ACRE Signup and Report of Production

Signup for the 2011 DCP/ACRE program continues through **June 1, 2011**. Advance payments equal to 22 percent can currently be earned, with the remaining final payments being issued in October 2011. Please review DCP/ACRE contracts mailed to you while making sure the information is correct, and then sign, date, and return them to our office as soon as possible.

Producers with ACRE farms are also reminded of the requirement to *annually* report production of their ACRE crops, in order to maintain yield history and eligibility for program payments. The best documentation to submit to our office to compute ACRE yields are RMA (Risk Management Agency) crop insurance records, although warehouse summary and division sheets can also be used, as well as other documents. **June 30, 2011** is the final date to provide 2010 production for ACRE.

Important NAP Changes and Reminders

The final date to apply for the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) on most 2011 spring planted crops is **March 15, 2011**. The \$250/crop administrative fee

must be paid by March 15, to provide disaster coverage on those crops that are not eligible for protection under Federal Crop Insurance. Some spring planted NAP crops in the county tied to this March 15, sales closing date are small grain hay (wheat, barley, oats, etc.) and mustard seed. Also, 2011 NAP coverage is required on all crops of economic significance to be eligible for assistance with respect to the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program, which covers farm revenue losses due to natural disasters.

Important changes have also occurred with regards to the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). Notices of Loss for weather related crop production losses must be filed by producers the *earlier* of the following:

1. 15 calendar days after the damaging weather or disaster occurrence, or the date damage to the specific crop acreage is apparent to the producer for low yield claims, *or*
2. 15 calendar days after the normal harvest date of the crop.

2009 SURE Signup

The signup for the 2009 SURE Program began January 10, 2011, and will continue through **July 29, 2011**. The SURE program was initiated to provide benefits for farm losses accrued in 2008 - 2011 due to natural disasters. Producers must suffer a 10% loss to at least one crop of economic significance on their farm in order to be eligible for SURE. A crop of economic significance is one that contributes at least 5% of the expected revenue for a producer's farm. Lincoln County has received a disaster designation for 2009, thus qualifying its farms for SURE in this year, otherwise qualifying producers would have had to show that the actual production was less than 50% of the normal production. Producers who suffered eligible losses on 2009 crops grown that were of economic significance, must have obtained Federal crop insurance on all of the insurable crops, and NAP coverage on all non-insurable crops with the exception of forage crops intended for grazing. SURE payments are calculated based on 60% of the difference between the Disaster Program Guarantee and the Total Farm Revenue. Many of you have already contacted Paula to run the SURE workbook in order to calculate program eligibility ahead of actually meeting with you when data is reviewed for accuracy. Please give Paula a call to start the process if interested.

Emergency Conservation Program Signup

The National FSA has recently approved the County Committee's request to implement the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) for the Davenport/Rocklyn wildfires occurring in August 2010. Cost-sharing can be paid to affected producers to replace livestock fencing destroyed by these fires. The percentage of cost-sharing is based on the age of the fence to be replaced, and the fences can be boundary fences and cross fences. The ECP signup period has been established as **May 2, 2011** through **May 31, 2011**.

1099G Yearly Earning Forms and Payments

Producers earning 2010 FSA program payments should have by now received their CCC-1099G from our Kansas City office. This payment data has been reported to the IRS, so it is very important that you closely review this document to ensure it accurately reflects the payments you received in 2010. If it does not, or if you have any questions about the data, please contact our office. We will assist you to confirm the data, or obtain a corrected CCC-1099G. Please keep in mind this form does *not* include any *refunds* you may have repaid to FSA in 2010.

Also, there have been some complaints that there is not enough information on payment transaction statements that producers receive through the year for program payments earned, and these transaction statements are coming too long after the payment was deposited. The explanation for this is that these statements are mailed by a contractor as a separate operation from the issuance of the payments. We apologize for any inconvenience this has caused you.

Asparagus Revenue Market Loss Assistance Program (ALAP) Signup

The ALAP was authorized as part of the 2008 Farm Bill in order to compensate asparagus producers who suffered losses of revenue as a result of 2004 – 2008 imports. Nationwide, \$15 million has been allocated towards the program, and producer payments will be based upon total production in 2003. Signup began on February 7, 2011, and continues through **April 8, 2011**. If applicable, please call our office for more information.