



February 2009

FERRY & OKANOGAN COUNTY FSA NEWS

Ferry County FSA

P.O. Box 323
84 E. Delaware
Republic, WA 99166
Phone (509) 775-3390
Fax (509) 775-3170

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Dave Konz, Chairperson
Kathy Olson, Vice-Chairperson
Bill Floyd, Member

Office Staff

Gary Breiler, CED
Virginia Lane, PT



Okanogan County FSA

1251 2nd Ave. S. Rm 103
Okanogan, WA 98840
Phone (509) 422-3292
Fax (509) 422-0532

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Stan Stout, Chairperson
Jeff Delfeld, Vice-Chairperson
Mark Timmerman, Member
Marcia Henneman, Advisor
James McCuen, Advisor

Office Staff

Gary Breiler, CED
Stu Skidmore, FLM
Jose Limon, FLO
Sandy Hinger, FLT
Cliffene Coyne, PT

Next COC Meetings:

Ferry – TBA
Okanogan – TBA

Meetings start at 10:00 am

CED – County Executive Director
FLM – Farm Loan Manager
FLO – Farm Loan Officer
FLT – Farm Loan Technician
PT – Program Technician

FSA Web Site Address:

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

WA State Web Site:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>

ACCESSIBILITY

Persons with disabilities who require special accommodations may contact the county office. FSA is committed to making programs accessible to all customers.



COC Committee Election Results

Thanks to all who took time to vote in the County FSA Committee elections that were completed in December. Bill Floyd was elected to a three year term on the Ferry County Committee and Mark Timmerman was elected to a three year term on the Okanogan County Committee. Thanks to Bill & Mark for their willingness to serve the farmers in our area.

Luanne Finley completed 9 years of service on the Ferry County FSA Committee. Many thanks are due Luanne for her years of dedicated service. Luanne's experience and expertise will be missed.

USDA Sets Date for Lamb Referendum

Sheep producers and handlers now have the opportunity to vote on whether to continue to pay an assessment which funds marketing and research efforts of the American Lamb Board. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is conducting a nationwide referendum on whether to continue or terminate the Lamb Promotion, Research and Information Act of 1996. The referendum ends February 27, 2009.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service will conduct the referendum with the assistance of the Farm Service Agency. Eligible sheep producers and handlers may vote by mail, fax, or in person in the county where their farm records are maintained with FSA. If they do not participate in FSA programs, they may vote at the county FSA office where they own or rent land.

To be eligible to vote, persons must certify and provide documentation, such as a sales receipt or remittance form, which shows they have been engaged in the production, feeding, or slaughtering of sheep during calendar year 2008. Persons eligible to vote may obtain form LS-86 from our office or online at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsmarketingprograms>.

Crop Disaster Program Signup Ends February 27, 2009

If you suffered crop losses in any of the years 2005, 2006 or 2007 and have not yet applied for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP), please contact our office immediately for an appointment. **Signup for the 2005-2007 CDP will end February 27, 2009.** This applies to the receipt of a signed and completed disaster program application, along with all supporting documentation and required forms. Late filed applications will not be approved if received after the February 27, 2009, deadline.

Quality loss applications are also being processed. If you previously submitted an application for production losses and now would like your application to include consideration for a quality loss, please contact us. Different information is required to process a quality loss application. Eligible producers must be able to show an economic loss.

All application determinations will be made by March 27, 2009. For further questions about CDP and the signup deadline, producers may contact their county FSA office or visit FSA's website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

Judy Adams Retires

After almost 30 years of service, Judy is retiring. Effective February 2nd, Judy will be enjoying the life of retirement. She will be missed by all at the office as well as the producers she has served over the past years. We wish her the very best.

Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program Signup

Signup has begun for the Direct and Counter-Cyclical program (DCP) for 2009. Producers who wish to receive advance payments will need to file a new farm operating plan and an adjusted gross income certification. As soon as all the appropriate paperwork is in, an advance payment, which is set at a rate of 22% of the total payment, will be issued. If advance payments are not requested, your entire payment will be paid in October of 2009.

Producers can also complete DCP enrollment online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp>. To access the service, producers must have an active USDA e-Authentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

Remember: The signup period will run until June 1, 2009. Unlike previous years, the "late filed" signup period and fee is no longer permitted. **You cannot enroll after the June 1, 2009 signup deadline!**

Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE)

The ACRE program was established to provide revenue protection, and is an alternative to the Direct & Counter Cyclical Program (DCP). ACRE takes into account both price and yield **for actual planted acres**, not base acres.

Briefly, ACRE “trades” the counter-cyclical portion of your DCP, 20% of your direct payments and a 30% reduction in marketing loan assistance loan values in exchange for potential ACRE payments that are based on your current year’s actual plantings, and 12 month national average prices. Generally, payments are triggered when actual state prices and/or yields are less than normal and farm’s yields and/or national prices are below their expected yield or ACRE guaranteed price.

Producers can elect to enroll, on a farm by farm basis, in either DCP or ACRE, but not both. Once the election is made to participate in ACRE, **it is irrevocable** for the remainder of the farm bill through 2012. Participants must initially report five years of production to show proven yields in order to be eligible for the first year of the program and will need to report annual production every year thereafter. Since the ACRE program works alternatively with DCP, elections must be made by June 1 of the contract year.

The ACRE program variables are very complex and there are several factors and percentages that affect the calculation of the payments. For more detailed information, please feel free to contact us.

Interested In Agricultural Financing??

Let FSA be your Lender of First Opportunity! FSA has direct and guaranteed loan programs available for family-sized farm businesses. FSA’s loan programs are designed to help farmers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. The loan limits for direct operating and farm ownership loans are \$300,000 each. The loan limit for Direct and Guaranteed operating and farm ownership can not exceed a combined total of \$1,094,000. Funding is allocated for these programs after October 1 of each year. Depending on the type of loan, funds can be used to purchase farms, livestock, and equipment, operate the farm, build or repair farm buildings, pay for water development for conservation practices and in some cases refinance debts. Interest rates are at historic lows, with operating loans at 2.125% and farm ownership loans at 3.75% for the month of February. Contact our office today for more details!

2009 Summer Intern Program Recruitment

The Farm Service Agency is now offering a 2009 Summer Intern Program. The position is for a Clerk/Assistant or Program Technician. The location is State/County Offices nationwide. The exact location is to be determined at a later date. Applicants must indicate the State(s) of interest and submit separate application(s) for each State desired.

Major duties include providing assistance to senior specialists in day-to-day activities of State and County Office operations, which include clerical support, office management, providing service to farmers and/or ranchers for loan processing and servicing, or administering farm programs.

The closing date is **March 20, 2009**. For more information, contact the county FSA office or you can go to the following website: <http://www.usda.gov/da/employ/intern.htm>

Office Closure

This office will be closed on February 16, 2009, in observance of George Washington’s Birthday.