



December 2009 FERRY & OKANOGAN FSA NEWS

Ferry County FSA

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

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

Ferry County FSA Committee

Dave Konz, Chairperson
Kathy Olson, Vice-Chairperson
Bill Floyd, Member
Luanne Finley, Advisor

Okanogan County FSA Committee

Stan Stout, Chairperson
Jeff Delfeld, Vice-Chairperson
Mark Timmerman, Member
Marcia Henneman, Advisor
Mike Watts, Advisor
Victor Castro, Advisor



Office Staff

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

Next COC Meetings:

Ferry County - Dec. 8th
Okanogan County - Dec. 10th
Both 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.



EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR LIVESTOCK, HONEYBEES AND FARM RAISED FISH

FSA is currently accepting applications for the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP). The program provides financial relief to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, including blizzards and wildfires. Losses could have occurred as far back as January 1, 2008.

Assistance for producers through ELAP is for 2009 losses not covered under other Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance programs established by the 2008 Farm Bill. These include the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). LFP provides payments to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses due to qualifying drought in Okanogan County. LIP provides benefits to ranchers who lost livestock as a result of a natural disaster.

Eligible livestock include beef cattle, alpacas, buffalo, beefalo, dairy cattle, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, llamas, poultry, reindeer, sheep and swine in addition to honeybees and farm-raised fish. **Prior purchase of crop insurance or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage is required for LFP and ELAP eligibility.**

Due to a program funding cap, ELAP payments may be pro-rated depending on the number of applications. Individuals or entities may be eligible for payment under ELAP or LFP for 2009. Producers must certify that average adjusted gross non-farm income is \$500,000 or less. Payment limitations for all disaster programs are totaled at \$100,000.

FSA has set a December 10, 2009 ELAP notice of loss deadline for losses that occurred between January 1, 2008 and September 10, 2009. **Sign-up for 2009 LFP (pasture losses) ends January 30, 2010.** Please contact our office for an appointment to sign up.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The County Committee is a unique system under which Federal farm programs are administered locally. Producers who are eligible to participate in these programs elect a three person county committee, which reviews county office operations and makes some of the decisions on how to apply the programs. This grassroots approach gives you a much-needed say in how Federal actions affect your operations. Election ballots were recently mailed to all eligible voters in the applicable local administrative area by our Kansas City Management Office. **Ballots must be returned by December 7, 2009.** Remember to sign the label in the ballot. Please also remember a Power-of-Attorney cannot be used for signing ballots.

In Okanogan County: **Stan Stout** is the candidate for election in the lower portion of Okanogan County, Local Administrative Area 2 (LAA No.2).

In Ferry County: **Jerry Larson** is the candidate for election in the central portion of Ferry County, Local Administrative Area 2 (LAA No.2).

BIOMASS CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Biomass Crop Assistance Program provides matching funds to contractors who deliver biomass materials used to generate heat, power or fuel to qualified biomass conversion facilities. The first step in the process is for the receiving facility to register with FSA. Once registered and an allocation is received, contractors may begin applying for matching funds not to exceed \$45 per ton. The matching funds are available for 24 months from the time of first application. Please contact our office for details.

FSA PAYMENTS

Producers are encouraged to closely monitor their farm program payments for fiscal year 2009. FSA has been transitioning from an old IBM System/36 computer system to online software systems to make payments. The transition to the new systems has created temporary problems for issuing payments, as some of you may have experienced.

Final 2009 DCP and ACRE direct payments were recently issued. If you received an advance DCP or ACRE direct payment earlier this year, that amount was offset from your final direct payment. However, it may have been offset from a different farm or by a different county office. In limited cases, these advance payments may have been offset from one or more of your CRP annual rental payments. Individual payment amounts may look different than you expected, but the total of all your payments should be similar to previous years, if nothing has changed in your farming operation.

Please know that we are trying to issue your payments as quickly as possible. Transaction statements are mailed directly from our Financial Services Center in Kansas City and may reach you after your payment is deposited into your bank account. If the total of all your payments is not what you expected, let us know. Thank you for your patience!

DCP/ACRE SIGNUP UNDERWAY FOR 2010

Applications are now being accepted for the Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Elections Program (ACRE) for 2010. To be eligible for program payments and benefits, producers must sign up each year. Producers who elected the ACRE program last year will remain in ACRE through 2012. Once ACRE is elected, the farm remains in ACRE through the end of the farm bill (2012).

DCP direct payment rates remain unchanged from last year: \$.52/Bu wheat, \$.24/Bu barley. ACRE direct payments are reduced by 20%. Advance direct payments are available under either program at 22% of the total payment rate for the year. 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. Please call in advance for an appointment to signup for DCP or ACRE.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN PROGRAM

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program has been implemented in accordance with the 2008 Farm Bill, which will allow producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) administers FSFL on behalf of the USDA Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). The maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15%, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85% of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department. Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. A FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin. Eligible producers must show a need for increased storage, for crops produced on their farm. Please contact our office, if you are interested in a facility loan. The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, oats, wheat, barley or minor oil-seeds
- Pulse crops (lentils, small chick-peas and dry peas)
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruit and vegetable cold storage facilities (CA cold storage facilities are ineligible)

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotapes, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."