



July 2010 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

Kathleen Olson, Chairperson
Bill Floyd, Vice-Chairperson
Jerry Larson, Member
Luanne Finley, Advisor

Okanogan County FSA Committee

Jeff Delfeld, Chairperson
Mark Timmerman, V.-Chair.
Stan Stout, Member
Jade Gabriel, 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 - 8/4/2010
Okanogan County - 8/5/2010
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.



SURE SIGNUP DEADLINE

The sign-up period for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) for crop losses in 2008 closes September 30, 2010. Eligible producers should apply for benefits as soon as possible to ensure payment eligibility.

The SURE program provides benefits for farm losses accrued in 2008 through 2011 due to natural disasters. A farmer or rancher is eligible for the program when a disaster designation has been made for their county or when actual production is less than half of the normal established production. Commodities are eligible for payment when covered with crop insurance or a non-insured crop disaster assistance program policy.

A fact sheet with more detailed information and a potential payment calculator are available on the FSA website. For more information, contact this office.

OKANOGAN RANCHERS RECEIVE RELIEF for FIRE DAMAGE

Financial assistance is available for ranchers to repair fences damaged by the Oden fire located in the Pleasant Valley area in Okanogan County. An allocation of \$161,000 in Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) funding has been set-aside for cost-share assistance. Ranchers who lost fence due to the fire and suffered negative impacts to their grazing operations as a result may be eligible for the program. Eligible producers will receive cost-share assistance of up to 75 percent of the cost of the approved practice, as determined by FSA county committee. We are taking applications through August 11th.

COC ELECTION NOTICE

The deadline for submitting nominations for persons to serve on the County Committee is fast approaching. Nominating petitions may be submitted by any person with farming interests either as an owner, or operator, within the Local Administrative Area (LAA) up for election. This year, in Ferry County, the election is for a member of LAA #1, which is located in the northern portion of the county encompassing lands lying within Townships 38 and 40. In Okanogan County, the election is for a member of LAA #1, which is located within the Colville Indian Reservation and portions of Omak and Okanogan lying west of the Okanogan River. Nominating petitions must be submitted to the County office, or postmarked no later than August 2, 2010 to be considered valid. For more information or a copy of a nominating petition, please contact our office.

MAINTAINING ELIGIBILITY for DISASTER ASSISTANCE

USDA's Spokane Risk Management Agency (RMA) Office reminds producers of the important link between Federal crop insurance and FSA's Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance programs including the new SURE program.

*To maintain eligibility for most supplemental disaster programs producers must obtain a policy or plan of insurance of at least the catastrophic level (CAT) of insurance for the crop year 2011. **Note:** the more crop insurance coverage a producer has, the more the SURE guarantee will be. For those crops that are non-insurable, coverage under **the** Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be timely obtained.*

Therefore, producers with fall planted commodities need to be making important crop insurance decisions for the 2011 crop year. Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office and visit with a crop insurance agent (a list of agents is available at all USDA Service Centers) to fully understand what crop insurance programs are available in the county and to ensure they are obtaining adequate coverage for eligibility. **The next round of sales closing dates for Federal crop insurance is:**

August 31: Canola (fall planted types);

September 30: Barley with winter coverage; Dry Peas with winter coverage; Mint with winter coverage; Forage Production; Forage (Alfalfa) Seed Pilot; and Wheat.

Note: The Adjusted Gross Revenue-Pilot and Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite programs do meet the linkage requirements for SURE. Also, if there is no crop insurance coverage in a county for a specific crop, and that crop is insurable in another county under the traditional Federal crop insurance program, a producer may seek coverage by asking an agent whether they would be eligible for crop insurance coverage under a written agreement.

A 2011 Multi-Peril Crop Availability Listing by county is posted on RMA website,
http://www.rma.usda.gov/aboutrma/fields/wa_rso/. Producers are encouraged to contact their local agent for additional details. In addition to USDA Service Centers, a listing of crop/livestock agents is also available at, (<http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents>).

CRP GENERAL SIGNUP ANNOUNCED

The Secretary of Agriculture recently announced there will be a general signup for producers interested in enrolling land into the Conservation Reserve Program. Dates for the signup have been set for August 2, 2010 through August 27, 2010. Offers selected for contract will be enrolled with an effective date of 10-1-2010.

To be eligible for offer, land must meet one of the following eligibility requirements. Field(s) offered must either be determined to be highly erodible (HEL) with an erodibility index of 8 or greater; must lay within an area designated under State or National Conservation Priority Area (CPA) designation; or must be expiring CRP acreage, as of 9-30-2010. For those with questions about the location of their land in relation to the CPA, the Air Quality CPA map will be available for review at the FSA office prior to signup.

Land must also meet cropping history requirements to offer. Under this requirement, land must have been planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity in 4 out of 6 years during the period of 2002-2007. Summer fallow in rotation is considered to meet this requirement, as is enrollment in CRP. Alfalfa and conserving use grasses planted in rotations of 12 years or less where the rotation can be demonstrated with an annually planted commodity on either end of the rotation, within the 12 year period ending in 2007 also meet cropping history requirement.

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) requirements pertain to all new contracts, and provide that only those persons with nonfarm AGI of less than \$1 million, or those with farm income making up a minimum of 66% of total AGI are eligible to receive contract benefits. AGI determinations are made on CRP contracts in the year of the contract approval, and are considered binding for the duration of the contract.

Offers will be ranked for acceptance through a nationwide process using an Environmental Benefit Index (EBI) scoring process. The EBI awards points for items including cover type, soil erodibility, water quality, and wildlife benefits associated with the offer. Points are also awarded for the cost of each offer. Once a national EBI cutoff score is established, those offers above the cutoff are offered contracts, up to the County maximum limit of 25% cropland. Specific details of the EBI scoring system will be available by contacting the County Office prior to signup.

Maximum rental values for each offer are based on the productivity of the three predominant types of soils in each offer. Soil rental values for the general signup have been revised to reflect average cash rental values for the most recent three year period. Generally speaking, this change has led to small increases in soil rental values across most soil types. However, unlike prior years, a maintenance rate will not be added to the soil rental rates to determine the maximum payment rate. Bidding to enroll land at less than the maximum soil rental rate earns additional points under the EBI scoring system.

Midterm management will be required on all new contracts, requiring a planned activity to enhance permanent cover during the middle three years of the contract. Activities can include harrowing, mowing, certain chemical applications, inter-seeding, fertilization, or other treatments.

For newly enrolled cropland, and for existing grassland in need of cover reestablishment, cost share will be available for 50% of the cost of necessary actions.

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