



NEWSLETTER



County Committee Election Results

Ferry County voters in Local Administrative Area (LAA) #1 elected Kathleen Olson from the Curlew area. Voters in this LAA election also submitted write-in votes, and Linda Mycek agreed to serve as first alternate. Kathleen will serve as regular member along with Bill Floyd and Jerry Larson. Luanne Finley will serve as advisor to the committee. Thanks to all in this area who took the time and returned their ballots.

Okanogan County voters in LAA #1 elected Jeff Delfeld from the Okanogan area. Jeff will serve as regular member along with Mark Timmerman and Stan Stout. Jade Gabriel and Victor Castro will serve as advisors to the committee. Thanks to all in this area who took the time and returned their ballots.

FSA State Director to Hold Producer Meetings

Producers wanting to know more about FSA programs or comment on FSA programs and services will have an opportunity for dialogue with the agency's State Executive Director, Judy Olson. Ms. Olson will participate in a producer meeting and listening session on **Tuesday, March 22, 2011**. The meeting starts at **10:00 a.m.** and will be in Davenport, WA at the Memorial Hall, 511 W. Park Street. The meeting is one of four that Ms. Olson will attend in the state. Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in the meeting should contact the Lincoln County FSA office at (509) 725-4501 or jeff.lust@wa.usda.gov. FSA is committed to making programs accessible to all customers.

CRP General Signup 41

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general signup starts Monday, March 14, 2011, and ends Friday, April 15, 2011.

CRP allows producers to enroll land in ten year contracts that help preserve environmentally sensitive areas. In exchange for idling the land, producers receive annual rental payments and 50% of the cost to establish the cover. Rental rates are tied to county average rental rates and the productivity of the soils in the offered acreage.

Eligibility and ranking scores are based on several factors, including but not limited to native versus introduced grass and shrub species, addition of pollinator habitats, and soil types. Eligible land must have been planted to an annual crop or conserving use in at least four years between 2002 and 2007. In addition, the land must have an erodibility index of 8 or greater, be in the state air quality or wildlife Conservation Priority Area, or be CRP expiring in 2011.

Offers will be ranked using the Environment Benefits Index. Points will be awarded based on the environmental and habitat benefits of the proposed cover. More points are awarded for native covers. Existing CRP covers may need to be replanted or enhanced to maximize the score. Extra points will be awarded for the most erosive land and bids that include pollinator habitats. To schedule an appointment, contact the office.

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.). 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.

March 2011

Ferry County FSA

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Okanogan County FSA

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Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Ferry County Committee

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

Okanogan County Committee

Mark Timmerman, Chair
Stan Stout, Vice Chair
Jeff Delfeld, 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
Blanca Alvitres, FLOT

Next COC Meeting

March 29th – Ferry
10:00 a.m.

March 31st – Okanogan
10:00 a.m.

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.



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.

June 30th is the Deadline to Report All of Your Crop Acreages

The final day to report all of your crop acres is **June 30, 2011**. If you are in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP), Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) or want to apply for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program, along with other FSA programs, you are required to certify your acres each year.

Reporting crop acres to FSA is relatively new to most **fruit growers**, since some of the past disaster programs did not require orchardists to report their crop acres. The new farm bill implemented programs that require acreage reports for **all** producers wishing to participate in FSA programs.

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. Contact the office for an appointment or if you want the contract mailed to you. 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.

2009 SURE Program Signup

Currently SURE Program applications are being taken for 2009 crop losses. The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer must have obtained crop insurance on all crops of economic significance, on all farms, in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to obtain Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for crops excluding grazed acreage.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

At least one crop of economic significance must have suffered a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition to qualify the operation for SURE benefits.

Losses are measured with consideration to the whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.

Producers who feel that they have a qualifying 2009 crop loss, and who do not already have an appointment to apply for SURE, should contact our office. The application deadline is July 29, 2011.