



June 2008

SPOKANE-PEND OREILLE COUNTY FSA

Spokane Pend Oreille County FSA

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**Pend Oreille County Producers
for which 447 is a local call can
dial 447-4216 for a toll free call.**

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Jim Ryan, Chairman
Charlotte Yergens, Vice-Chair
Regina Clausen, Member
Louise (Lou) McLam, Member
Sherman Norton, Member

Office Staff

Randy L. Primmer, CED
randy.primmer@wa.usda.gov
Lorri Anderson, PT
Kay Kjack, PT
Betty Diedesch, PT
Dave Olson, PT
James "Wes" Taylor, Temp

Farm Loan Staff

Steven King, FLM
steve.king@wa.usda.gov
Chris Sletager, FLO
Jo Anne Krupke, FLT

Next COC Meeting

**June 12, 2008 @ 9:00 a.m.
Regular Business**

FSA/USDA National Website:

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

Washington State FSA Site
<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>



COUNTY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS ACCEPTED

The 2008 County Committee elections nomination process is underway through August 1, 2008. In 2008 Local Administrative Area (LAA) #3 in Spokane County and LAA #5 in Pend Oreille County are up for election. Area 3 is south of the Spokane River and West of highway 195 to the Lincoln and Whitman County lines. Area 3 is currently represented by Regina Clausen. Area 5 in Pend Oreille County is the majority of the county except the Southeasterly portion of the County up to the town of Newport. Area 5 is currently represented by Sherman Norton. Nominating petitions will be mailed to all eligible voters and must be returned by August 1, 2008.

THE 2008 FARM BILL IS NOW LAW

After months of debate and delays, the Administration has notified us that we now have a new farm bill. An enrollment error that did not include Title III, the Trade title, was inadvertently deleted from the bill presented to the President for his action. The President did veto this legislation, but both the House of Representatives and the Senate overrode the President's veto and all parties now recognize this legislation as law. I am told additional legislation will be introduced to correct the Title III oversight.

Outside of this release, news that we have at this point is very limited. What we do know is that writing the program regulations, preparing software, and other implementation issues will take several weeks to months. In the law, Congress did call on USDA to issue 2008 Advance Direct payments as soon as practical. We will, of course, keep you informed and utilize the local media to publicize signup dates as soon as we have been informed. There were some pretty significant changes in the 2008 Farm Bill that will impact program participation and eligibility. More than likely, we will conduct public meetings to provide you with the information once USDA has digested the law and written regulations and procedure. Stay tuned as more information will be provided through this publication once details are known.

CROP ACREAGE REPORTING DEADLINE IS JUNE 30

If you have completed your plantings for 2008 it is now time to report what was planted. Without a farm bill the only required acreage reports are the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage and Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) participants. Federal Crop Insurance program participants have their own requirements for acreage reporting with their agent. Producers are reminded that it is always a good idea to report acreage for history purposes. Until the farm bill is announced we do not know what requirements will need to be met to participate in any future programs. Please call the county office to schedule an appointment.

NAP PRODUCTION DEADLINE

June 30 is the deadline for turning in 2007 and prior year production for Actual Production History (APH) to calculate the 2008 APH's. Failure to provide production evidence can result in either a zero for production or a reduced production level. It is always best to update your yields with actual figures.

CROP DISASTER PROGRAM (CDP) SIGNUP CONTINUES

Signup for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) is still in progress. We are accepting applications for losses from natural disasters and related conditions that occurred in 2005, 2006 and 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses must choose only one year to receive benefits. Producers can apply for multiple years and the computer will choose the year which pays the most benefits.

Only those producers who purchased Federal Crop Insurance or purchased coverage for crops under the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) are eligible to apply for 2005, 2006 or 2007 CDP benefits. This is a requirement established by Congress when they approved Public Law 110-28.

Applications for the Quality Loss Program are being accepted. Our staff will be trained the week of June 2. Please call for an appointment.

LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM DEADLINE ANNOUNCED

Eligible years for application(s) are 2005 and 2007 for Spokane County and 2007 for Pend Oreille County Producers

Signup for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) will end on July 18. Livestock producers who suffered losses from natural disasters may be eligible for payment based on their feed loss and/or livestock numbers. The major disaster condition that qualifies producers is the 2005 and/or 2007 drought. The beginning of the disaster period has been determined to be January 1, 2005 for 2005 and January 1, 2007 for 2007. Producers must apply in the county where FSA records are kept. Eligible livestock must have been in the county on the beginning date of the disaster (in this case January 1, 2005 or January 1, 2007). When applying for the program, producers need to provide their livestock numbers as of January 1, 2005, or January 1, 2007, their rangeland pasture acreage and cost of any additional feed that was purchased due to the disaster condition. Please call Kay for an appointment to signup for the 2005 or 2007 Livestock Compensation Program.

CRP PRIMARY NESTING SEASON RESTRICTIONS

Producers with CRP contracts are reminded that restrictions on disturbance of the CRP cover are in place during the primary nesting season. The primary nesting season is April 1 to August 1 in Spokane County unless your contract was modified to include mid contract maintenance items. Modified contracts will have different dates if grazing or haying is scheduled to take place on your contract. If you must conduct weed control on your CRP acreage prior to August 1, you are required to get permission from the County Committee prior to performing the weed control operation. A letter to the committee requesting permission is required for their approval.

VOLUNTARY CRP MODIFICATION FOR CRITICAL FEED USE ANNOUNCED

On May 27, 2008 USDA announced that certain acreage enrolled in CRP would be available for haying and grazing after the August 1, primary nesting season. Beginning June 2, 2008 CRP participants may request to voluntarily modify CRP contracts for critical feed use, such as haying and grazing. This provision has been authorized due to the high prices for hay and tight supplies across the nation. Most practices in Spokane County are authorized although there are some that are not eligible for this use. Producers are authorized to hay up to 50% of each field. When grazing, participants must leave at least 25% of each field ungrazed for wildlife or graze all of the CRP acreage at no more than 75% of the stocking rate, as determined by NRCS. Producers will be required to modify their conservation plan and complete form CRP-1M addendum and obtain all the required signatures. The cost to use this program is an administrative fee of \$75.00 per contract. No payment reduction will be assessed. Contact the county office for more information and to sign up for critical feed use of CRP acreage.

EXPIRING CRP CONTRACT OPTIONS

Producers with CRP contracts expiring October 1, 2008 have a few options available if they wish to start field work prior to October 1. In general, no crop can be removed from the contract acreage prior to October 1. You can't hay or graze unless if you are using the critical grazing provision. If you are going to seed a fall seeded crop you can apply to start field preparation any time after June 1, 2008. A conservation plan will be established as to the preparation of the land for planting and a request of the County Committee must be on file prior to beginning any field work. If you are going to plant a spring 2009 crop, you can do a spraying after August 1, 2008. Otherwise, you must maintain the CRP cover until October 1, 2008. Please call our office if you have questions.

FARM RECORD CHANGES

Please notify our staff of any changes in your farming operation. We will try to have them updated when you come into the office for your appointment. Changes in operator, sales of land and any other changes are critical.