



November 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
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Lorri Anderson, PT
Kay Kjack, PT
Betty Diedesch, PT
Dave Olson, PT
Connie Klein, Temp

Farm Loan Staff

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

Next COC Meeting

**December 5, 2008 @ 9:00
a.m. Count Ballots and then
Regular Business**

FSA/USDA National Website:

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

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

Important Deadlines:

Dec 1 COC Ballot Deadline
2009 NAP Sales
Closing Deadline
Dec 9 Meeting in Fairfield
Dec 11 Meeting in Spokane



2008 COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 1, 2008

Eligible voters in Local Administrative Area (LAA) #3 in Spokane County and LAA #5 in Pend Oreille County should have already received their ballots in the mail for the election. In Spokane County the following candidates are up for election:

Regina Clausen and her family farms in the Spring Valley/Waverly area growing wheat, barley, lentils, hay and cattle. Chet Jahns, Jr. and his family farms in the Rockford/Elder Road area growing bluegrass for seed, wheat and CRP.

In Pend Oreille County **Larry Cordes is running for election. Larry and his family grow timothy hay and cattle in the Cusick valley.** Please make sure you return your ballots post marked by the 12/1/08 deadline to be counted. If you did not receive a ballot and think you should have please contact the county office for a ballot.

10 ACRE BASE OR FEWER RULES SUSPENDED FOR 2008

The 2008 Farm Bill prohibited farms with crop acreage base of 10 acres or less from receiving payments through the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) for 2008 and subsequent years. However, on October 18, 2008 the technical corrections bill for the 2008 Act was passed and it includes a change that suspends the 10.0 acre provision for the 2008 crop year. Producers on a farm with 10.0 acres of base or less have the opportunity to sign up through November 26, 2008. If a crop acreage report was not filed for 2008 producers will be able to file the acreage report until close of business on December 1, 2008 and be considered timely filed.

2009 NAP SALES CLOSING DATES

Due to changes implemented by the 2008 Farm Bill passage and the fact that some of the NAP sales closing dates have already passed the Administration has authorized an extension of the sales closing date to December 1, 2008. If you purchase NAP insurance after the original sales closing date but before December 1 your insurance policy will take affect 30 days after the date of purchasing the insurance. Insurable crops such as wheat, barley, peas, lentils, oats, canola and some apples have to be purchased from a private insurance agent that sells Multiple Peril Federal Crop Insurance.

2008 FARM BILL PRODUCER MEETINGS

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 created a number of changes to existing programs and eligibility requirements as well as creating some new programs. Many of these changes are much more expansive than we can fit in our newsletter publication. In the interest of providing you information to assist you in decision making related to the 2008 Act we have scheduled some meetings to present the information to you. The meetings will run approximately 3 – 4 hours and are designed in a manner of priority. Items of importance to the majority of producers are provided first and then those that pertain to fewer producers will be covered later in the meeting. Producers are encouraged to attend all of the meeting but are welcome to leave after sessions they feel pertain to their farming operation. Items planned to be covered are:

Payment Limitation and Direct Attribution
Direct & Counter Cyclical Program/Average Crop Revenue Election Program
Price Support / Farm Stored Facility Loan Program
Adjusted Gross Income Provision (AGI)
Power of Attorneys', Freedom of Information Requests and Eligibility Changes
Risk Management Requirements (FCIC), Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), and Supplement Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

Meetings Currently Scheduled:

Fairfield Community Center: 8:30 am Tuesday, December 9th
Spokane County Ag Ext. Center (Havana): 8:30 am Thursday, Dec. 11th
Reardan Community Hall: a joint meeting is planned with Lincoln County. Date and time to be announced later but planned for early January.

For Pend Oreille County Producers we propose to provide information on a one-on-one basis due to the limited number of producers who participate in the above programs or they can plan on attending the meetings scheduled in Spokane.

PULSE CROP BASE ESTABLISHMENT

With the 2008 Farm Bill, pulse crops are now a covered commodity and are eligible to receive payments. Pulse crops include Dry peas, Lentils and Large and Small Chickpeas. These crops will not be eligible for Direct DCP payment, but will be eligible for Counter Cyclical or ACRE payments. Producers with a history of growing these crops will be notified of their options regarding establishment of their pulse crop base and establishment of a pulse crop yield. The County office will use planted acres from 1998 through 2001 to determine the base. Producers will have the opportunity to prove their yield for those years or use a county average yield. More information about this will be provided as rules are published.

A Brief Introduction to 2008 Farm Bill Changes

ACRE stands for Average Crop Revenue Election program. The **ACRE** program is an alternative to the Direct & Counter Cyclical (DCP) program and therefore a producer must “elect” to participate or not. On a farm number basis, producers will elect to participate in DCP or participate in ACRE, but not both. All producers (operator and owners) on a farm must agree to participate in ACRE and file an election form. Once the election is made to participate in ACRE, it is irrevocable for the remainder of the farm bill through 2012. A farm can make this election in any year of the current farm bill, but once elected it is irrevocable. Elections for ACRE must be made by June 1 of the contract year. Detailed information will be presented at the informational meetings.

SURE stands for Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program. The **SURE** program is a new disaster program which will provide assistance for crop production and or quality losses due to natural disasters. It will replace ad-hoc disaster programs and allow for a permanent program to deal with crop losses. This is a revenue based program that looks at an entire farming operation to determine payment amounts. **SURE** will be available in Secretarial declared disaster counties and those contiguous, and/or to individual producers who suffer a 50% production loss. To be eligible for **SURE** you must have obtained Federal Crop Insurance or NAP on all of your crops. Most of these insurance deadlines have passed, however, for 2009 the NAP deadline has been extended to December 1, 2008. Two major changes from the last newsletter. First, there is now an exception for crops that are not economically significant and these do not have to be insured or covered by NAP. This includes crops that contribute less than 10% of the farm’s income. Second, NAP coverage is not required on crops and rangeland intended for grazing to remain eligible for **SURE** on crops intended for hay or harvest. NAP is required on crops and rangeland for grazing to qualify for the Livestock Forage Program (LFP).

Adjusted Gross Income Provisions have changed and now a producer’s average adjusted gross income must be below established thresholds for three years prior to the year of participation, skipping the most recent year. For 2009, 2005 – 2007 will be used. The adjusted gross income limitations are as follows: **Conservation Programs** - \$1,000,000 unless if 66.66% is from farming and ranching. **DCP & ACRE Direct Payments** - \$500,000 non-farm, \$750,000 farm. **DCP Counter Cyclical Payments, ACRE Payments** - \$500,000 non-farm. **Price Support Program, Marketing Loan gains, LDP’s** - \$500,000 non-farm. **Disaster Programs (SURE, NAP, ELAP, LFP, LIP TAP)** - \$500,000 non-farm.

Payment Eligibility/Limitation. Payment limitations will be determined by “Direct Attribution” and by entity. The 3-entity rule is eliminated. Producers must be “actively engaged in farming”, meet cash rent tenant rules, be a U.S. citizen or legal immigrant and be at least 18 years old (with certain exceptions).

The staff and County Committee would like to thank all the owners and operators for their patience this year in administration of the farm programs. With the late spring, new farm bill and the delayed sign up we realize it required additional work on your part and we appreciate all your assistance in meeting the various deadlines and signature requirements that were required. We thank you for all the work that you did this year.

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