



NOVEMBER 2009

Spokane-Pend Oreille COUNTY FSA

Spokane Pend Oreille County FSA

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Spokane Valley, WA 99212
(509) 924-7350
Fax (509) 924-7787

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
Larry Cordes, Member

Office Staff

Randy L. Primmer, CED
randy.primmer@wa.usda.gov
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

Dec. 11, 2009 @ 9:00 a.m.

FSA/USDA National Website:

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

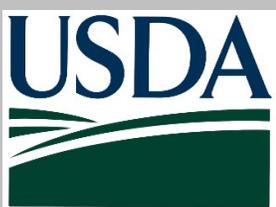
Washington State FSA Site
<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>

Important Deadlines:

November 20
NAP Deadline for Fruit Crops
December 7
Final Date to Vote
June 1
Final Date for DCP signup

Office Closures:

Thanksgiving	Nov 26
Christmas	Dec 25
New Years	Jan 1



CROP YEAR 2009 FINALLY COMES TO AN END

The County Committee and office staff would like to thank all the operators and owners for their patience during crop year 2009 and administration of the new farm bill provisions. A lot was accomplished in a short period of time if we sit back and reflect on what was done. We realize that extension of deadlines that extend into the harvest season make administration of programs difficult but also understand that these extensions are provided to benefit the participants and participation in programs offered. Again, we appreciate your patience in administering these new programs and all the additional paperwork requirements that had to be completed this year.

2009 DCP AND CRP PAYMENT PROBLEMS

By now the majority of you have received your 2009 Final DCP or DCP/ACRE payments and your CRP payments. All 2009 final payments have transitioned to an online system of making payments from our Kansas City Financial Services Center. As with most new systems, this system has had its' share of temporary problems. The majority of these have been fixed and payments have been issued. A small number of payments still remain to be paid and we are working on these payments trying to resolve the issues that can be resolved. Some items are requiring assistance from the National Office in correcting computer issues. We continue to work on these daily.

With this transition and new payment limitation rules FSA made some decisions on issued advance payments for DCP. All advance payments were transferred to receivables so that attribution could be administered and those advances were offset from final payments. You should see these listed as payments to Commodity Credit Corporation. Unfortunately, the payments are not farm by farm rather by identification number. Based on this knowledge please review your statements sent from the National Finance Center very carefully. Our review of a number of farming operations shows that advances have been correctly reduced when issuing your final payments.

If you do not feel you have received all your monies, please contact the county office and we will see if we can find out what the problem is. As I stated, we are still working to resolve some known problems but we would be glad to review your situation with you if you have questions.

2010 DCP / ACRE SIGNUP UNDERWAY

We are currently taking appointments for 2010 DCP / ACRE signup. Advance direct payments can be issued at 22% beginning in December. Both DCP and DCP/ACRE farms are eligible for advance payments starting in December 2009.

The deadline for 2010 signup is June 1, 2010 and there are no late filing provisions. Please note that this is a change from the previous farm bill and all signatures must be in our office by June 1, 2010 to be considered for an approved contract. The bill contains many carry-over provisions such as erosion and weed control are still required to maintain eligibility for payment. Wild rice and fruits and vegetables, with certain exceptions, are restricted on DCP acreage. The 2008 Act changed the status of large and small chickpeas (garbanzo beans) from vegetable crops to covered commodities. This means there are no longer planting restrictions on garbanzo beans for 2009 and future years. If you did not sign up for ACRE in 2009 you have the ability to sign up for ACRE in 2010 or any future year. Please remember that once you have enrolled in ACRE the farm is enrolled for the remainder of the farm bill (2012). ACRE enrollment reduces the direct payment by 20% and price support loan rates by 30% for those farms enrolled. **2010 Direct payment rates are as follows: Wheat \$0.52/bu, Barley \$0.24/bu, Oats \$0.024/bu, Corn \$0.28/bu and Oilseeds \$0.80/cwt.**

2009 COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Ballots for committee elections in Local Administrative Area 1 (Northern Spokane County) have been mailed to all eligible voters in that area. This area is currently represented by Louise McLam and she is the only eligible voter that submitted a nomination petition for consideration in this year's election. Please remember to vote

by the December 7, 2009 deadline. Ballots must be hand delivered or postmarked by the 12/7/09 deadline to be counted. Please remember that Power-of-attorney's can't be used to vote. This year's ballot has been modified to protect FSA customers' personally identifiable information (PII). In an effort to prevent identity theft through committee ballots, the ballot was redesigned to provide a more secure method to protect PII. Voters are to seal the ballot envelope in 2 locations on the envelope. The first seals the envelope containing their voted FSA-669. The second seals the flap to the outer side of the ballot envelope to protect the signed label.

2010 CROP NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP) DEADLINES

The final date for filing a 2010 Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) application for coverage for tree fruit, berries, grapes, asparagus and honey is November 20, 2009. Spring seeded crops (small grain forage and annual forage) crops as well as mustard and summer buckwheat has an application for coverage sales closing date of March 15, 2010. The cost of NAP is \$250 per crop with a maximum of \$750 per county or \$1875 in multiple counties.

Please remember to report all crop losses within 15 days of the date of the disaster event or within 15 days from when the loss becomes apparent. Also, for u-pick crops if you feel you might have a loss and you have completed a notice of loss you are required to notify us when harvest is complete to have an appraisal completed on the u-pick commodity to determine if salable commodities remain unpicked.

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 a qualified biomass conversion facility. The first step in the process is for the receiving facility to register with FSA. Once registered and funds are allocated, 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 approval. Please contact the county office for additional details.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS EXPANDS TO NEW STORAGE STRUCTURES

The Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 expanded the eligible crops covered under the Farm Stored Facility Loan (FSFL) program. Previously only approved commodity crops were eligible but the new provisions expand coverage for fruits and vegetable cold storage facilities and hay and renewable biomass storage facilities. Other changes include adding to the 7 year term with additional terms of 10 or 12 years and adding authorization to receive 1 partial payment prior to completion. As the term of the loan increases the interest rate increases. Currently, the interest rates for the month of November are 3.00 percent to 3.625 percent. The maximum amount of a FSFL loan per facility loan was increased to \$500,000. The size of the storage facility is calculated as two times the farms normal production, less any existing storage. Producers are required to submit an application with a \$100 non-refundable application fee as well as a current balance sheet and financial data to show that the farm can generate enough income to repay the yearly payment. If you have any questions concerning the new loan provisions or the expanded commodity provisions please give us a call.

FSA FARM LOAN PROGRAM

The Farm Service Agency offers farm loan assistance to farmers and ranchers who have the experience and desire to own and operate their own farm or ranch, but who don't yet meet the qualifications to obtain financing from a traditional lender. FSA makes both direct and guaranteed loans. The current loan limit for a direct loan is \$300,000 and for a guaranteed loan the limit is \$1,112,000. FSA has a variety of loans including farm ownership, farm operating, emergency, and youth loans. To find out more about FSA's lending programs contact Steve King, farm loan manager or Chris Sletager, farm loan officer in Spokane. Both can be reached at 509-924-7350 in the Spokane Service Center.