



March 2011

Spokane- Pend Oreille County FSA

8815 E Mission AVE STE B
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

Charlotte Yergens, Chairperson
Regina Clausen, Vice-Chair
Louise (Lou) McLam, Member
Larry Cordes, Member
Ronald Soliday, Member

Office Staff

Randy L. Primmer, CED
randy.primmer@wa.usda.gov
Lorri Anderson, PT
Kay Kjack, PT
Betty Dienesch, PT
Dave Olson, PT

Farm Loan Staff

Houston Bruck, FLM
Houston.Bruck@wa.usda.gov
Chris Sletager, FLO
Jo Anne Krupke, FLT

Next COC Meeting

March 17, 2011 @ 9:00 a.m.

FSA/USDA National Website:

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

Washington State FSA Site

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

Dates to Remember	Deadline
NAP Sales Closing Date	3-15-11
Town Hall Meeting in Davenport	3-22-11
Price Support Loans for wheat, barley	3-31-11
General CRP signup Ends	4-15-11
DCP/ACRE signup ends	6-1-11
Acres Reports and 2010 NAP Production	6-30-11
2010 ACRE Farm Yield Reports Due	7-15-11

County Committee Elections Results Announced

Spokane County voters in Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2 elected Ronald Soliday from the Reardan area and Pend Oreille County voters in LAA 4 elected Charlotte Yergens from the Newport area. Charlotte will serve as the chairperson and Regina Clausen will serve as the Vice-Chairperson. The regular members are Larry Cordes, Lou McLam and Ronald Soliday. Thank you to all who voted this year.

CRP General Signup 41 Begins March 14

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 enrolling the land, producers receive annual rental payments and approximately 50% of the cost to establish the required 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, 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.

Signup for 2011 DCP/ACRE Program Continues

Our office is accepting appointments for the 2011 annual sign up for the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program and the Average Crop Revenue Election Program DCP/ACRE. Each year producers who wish to participate in the annual program **MUST** enroll their farm(s) either in the DCP or the DCP/ACRE option to receive benefits in 2011. Program requirements and benefits remain the same as in 2010. Producers are paid on 83.3% of their crop acreage base times the direct yield times the following rates; wheat \$.52/bushel, barley \$.24/bushel. Producers participating in ACRE will receive 80% of the guaranteed direct payments. Advance payments are 22% of the authorized amount. We will complete signup and review/update eligibility paperwork during this meeting. We will also provide you an opportunity to report your winter wheat acreage so bring your planting dates. Please call our office to set up an appointment.

2009 SURE Signup Continues

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) program, is currently underway, and will continue through July 29, 2011. As with the prior year program, SURE requires a 10% qualifying loss; benefits are based on a comparison of whole farm actual and expected revenues, including interests in all counties where the applicant farms.

One significant modification to the 2009 SURE calculation is the addition of 100% of ACRE-ACRE payments in consideration of farm actual revenue portion of the SURE benefit calculation. For those farms enrolled in ACRE, this can significantly impact 2009 SURE payment eligibility. We are requesting that persons interested in SURE contact our office for an appointment; in this manner the eligibility workbook necessary to calculate SURE eligibility can be completed ahead of your meeting, allowing you to review the data for accuracy and to view potential SURE benefits at the time of signup.

Town Hall Meetings Planned by Farm Service Agency

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 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.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

Producers interested in additional grain, hay or certain cold storage structures are reminded of the availability of the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL) to construct these facilities. Loan terms can be up to \$500,000, on 7-12 year repayment terms, and require 15% down. FSA is required to take a security interest on real estate to which FSFL structures are affixed.

The March interest rate is 2.875% on 7 year loans, 3.50% on 10 year loans, and 3.875% on 12 year loan terms. FSFL funding has been appropriated and is available for 2011 FY applications. For additional program details, please call our office.

Tree Assistance Program

The Tree Assistance Program (TAP) provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes, and vines that were lost by natural disaster occurring before October 1, 2011.

To qualify for TAP, orchardist and nursery tree growers must: 1. Suffer qualifying tree, bushes, and vine losses in excess of 15% mortality from and eligible natural disaster. 2. Have owned the eligible trees, bushes, and vines when the disaster occurred. 3. Replace eligible trees, bushes, and vines within 12 months from the date the application is approved. Applications are due within 90 calendar days of the disaster event or date the loss is apparent, no later than September 30, 2011. Contact the office for additional information or to submit an application.

NAP and Federal Crop Insurance Deadline is March 15th

The application closing date to purchase coverage for the 2011 crop year for spring planted crops under the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is Tuesday, March 15, 2011. The application fee is \$250 per crop, up to a \$750 cap per county. The maximum for multiple crops in more than one county is \$1,875 per crop year. NAP is available for spring small grain forage, triticale for grain or hay and camelina.

The Sales Closing Date for Federal Crop Insurance purposes for dry peas, lentils, barley and oats is also March 15, 2011. Contact a local crop insurance agent to purchase Federal Crop Insurance. Linkage requirements remain in effect to be eligible for possible participation for 2011 SURE if eligibility requirements are met.

ACRE producers report production deadline

Producers enrolled in ACRE are required to provide their production for all covered commodities on ACRE farms whether they have a share interest in the crop or not, including any covered commodity harvested as forage. The deadline for reporting production by submitting a signed FSA-658 is July 15, 2011 for the 2010 crop year. The form is available at the office or may be found at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFileServices/eForms/FSA658.PDF>.

It is the producer's responsibility to file a signed FSA-658 by July 15, 2011. Producers who need assistance please contact the office for an appointment. The worksheet used last year is currently not available but we expect it in the near future. The County Committee has stressed that producers need to be involved in calculating production yields similar to last year. More importantly, do not miss this important deadline as failure to provide a signed FSA-658 makes all producers (owners, operators, and interested producers on the farm) ineligible for payments on the farm.

Farm Reconstitution Deadline

Resulting farms of reconstitutions requested by **June 1, 2011**, may enroll in DCP or ACRE by the later of **June 1, 2011**, or 30 calendar days following completion of the reconstitution.

August 1, 2011, is the final date to accept a reconstitution request on form FSA-155 for FY 2011 farm combinations and/or farm divisions for a farm. Land owners are encouraged to notify our office as soon as changes take place so we can update the records and have them ready for your appointment.

Conservation Reserve 25th Anniversary Celebration

December marked the 25th Anniversary of the Conservation Reserve Program. The anniversary will be celebrated throughout 2011. This voluntary program has been hailed as one of the most successful conservation programs in history. After the first signup in 1986, Washington had about 55,000 acres in CRP. In 2010, more than 1.4 million acres were enrolled. Washington State FSA would like to recognize the benefits CRP has provided to our state and acknowledge the producers who made it possible. Producers are encouraged to send their CRP stories and pictures to the FSA state office. Stories and pictures will be posted on the FSA website and the most compelling story and pictures will be personally acknowledged by the FSA State Executive Director on Earth Day in April, 2011. Stories should describe the reasons for enrolling the land in CRP and the benefits seen from the CRP as well as what practices were included in the contract. Photos should provide a description of what is in the picture. Submissions should include a contact name, phone number in case additional information is needed and permission to post or print the story and/or photos. Stories and/or pictures may be sent to the Farm Service Agency, 316 W. Boone, Ste. 568, Spokane, WA 99201-2350 or to chris.bieker@wa.usda.gov or patrick.lewis@wa.usda.gov.