



# NEWSLETTER



**JULY 2012**

## **Spokane-Pend Oreille County FSA Office**

8815 E Mission Ave STE B  
Phone 509-924-7350  
Fax No. 509-924-7787

### **Office Hours**

Monday – Friday  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

### **County Committee**

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

### **Office Staff**

Randy L. Primmer, CED  
[randy.primmer@wa.usda.gov](mailto:randy.primmer@wa.usda.gov)  
Lorri Anderson, PT  
Betty Diedesch, PT  
Kay Kjack, PT  
Dave Olson, PT

### **Farm Loan Staff**

Houston Bruck, FLM  
[houston.bruck@wa.usda.gov](mailto:houston.bruck@wa.usda.gov)  
Chris Werner, FLO  
Joanne Krupke, FLT

### **Next COC Meeting**

July 26, 2012 @ 9:00 a.m.

### **Dates to Remember**

**August 1** COC Nominating form  
must be turned in  
**August 1** ACRE/DCP Signup  
and signature deadline  
**Sept. 30** Perennial crop sign up  
deadline for forage/seed

### **FSA Web Sites**

State- <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>

National- <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

USDA- <http://www.usda.gov>

## **2012 DCP/ACRE SIGNUP CONTINUES**

The deadline to sign up for the **2012 DCP/ACRE Program** was June 1, 2012. A late filing period for enrollment has been authorized though **August 1, 2012**. Producers are reminded this is an annual sign up and they need to enroll each year. August 1 is also the final date to turn in owners signatures for the contract to be approved. Please call the office to set up an appointment if you have not already signed up. All producers with a crop share interest on DCP or ACRE base acres must have a share in direct and counter-cyclical payments. Changes on the farm before or after enrolling in DCP/ACRE must be immediately reported to the local FSA office. Examples include ownership changes, producer changes individuals and entities, and change in crop shares arrangements.

## **FSA SEEKS CANDIDATES FOR FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting nominations for the Spokane-Pend Oreille County Committee between June 15 and August 1, 2012. Farmers and ranchers are elected by their peers to help the agency administer farm programs and provide an important information link between producers and the agency. The five member committee is the place producers can appeal most agency determinations. The committee also makes decisions which can impact program payments. It usually meets every other month.

The committee draws its members from local administrative areas (LAAs). Counties are broken up into administrative areas for the purposes of representation and voting. This year's election is for LAA #1. LAA #1's eastern boundary is the Idaho and Washington State line north to the Pend Oreille County line over to the Stevens County line to the Spokane River. The western line heads south following the Spokane River until it hits Interstate 90 and turns east following I-90 to the Stateline where it began. These are the communities of Mead, Deer Park, Colbert, Foothills of Mt. Spokane, Newman Lake, Nine Mile Falls, Chattaroy-Denison area and Green Bluff. Candidates must live in the local administrative area they will represent and must be eligible to vote in the county election. Members serve on staggered three year terms so that one or more of the seats are up for re-election each year. Committee members are compensated for official duty hours. To be eligible for involvement, producers must participate or cooperate in at least one FSA program and be of legal voting age. Nomination forms must be submitted to the local FSA office no later than August 1, 2012.

We encourage all producers to consider being a candidate. Producers benefit from a diverse committee representing agriculture in our area. The FSA office can help you determine which administrative area you are located in if you are unsure. Information about the elections and nomination forms may be obtained from the FSA office or the FSA website at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>

## **CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM REMINDERS**

Producers participating in the Conservation Reserve Program are reminded they must annually report their CRP acreage to get paid. If your CRP contract expires on September 30, 2012, and you plan on planting a fall seeded crop you can request permission from the County Committee to begin tillage operations as early as July 1, 2012, without a payment reduction. An approved plan is required prior to destroying the cover if you're using this option. You may request to remove the existing residue by baling starting July 1, if the residue is not used for feed and you pay the cost of a measurement service to verify that the residue is not being used for feed purposes.

CRP participants with established stands of grass are reminded that haying and or grazing of some stands is eligible every 4<sup>th</sup> year. This haying or grazing must be requested and approved prior to starting. Participants are assessed a payment reduction of 25% of the annual rental payment for the acres hayed or grazed.

## **FARM CHANGES AND RECONSTITUTIONS**

Any changes in your farm's physical makeup, such as adding or removing land, can impact your acreage base. Farm reconstitutions must be requested by August 1 to be effective for the 2012 program year. Your farm must currently be complying with program requirements as it is structured, including required signatures and acreage reporting completed.

## **2013 NAP SIGN UP DEADLINES**

Producers are reminded the deadlines to purchase 2013 NAP (Non-insured Crop Assistance Program) coverage is rapidly approaching. Deadlines are as follows: **August 31:** Canola and or rapeseed, if not covered by RMA; Christmas trees. **September 30:** Perennial grazing crops; perennial forage crops; forage seed crops and mint.

**November 20:** All perennial crops not listed above. Honey, fruit trees, berries.

The application fee for NAP coverage is \$250 per crop up to \$750 per county. If you purchased NAP insurance in 2012 and want to renew your coverage on the same exact crops please submit your NAP fee for a continuous policy. All 2012 policies expire unless reviewed (paid for) by the above deadlines.

## **LATE FILED ACREAGE REPORTS**

Did you miss the acreage reporting deadline? If so, you can still report your crop acreage by paying a fee for a late-filed acreage report. The fee is charged per farm and varies depending on the size of the farm and the distance from the county office. A number of program benefits require acreage reports to be filed in order to receive the benefits. Call our office if you think you need to request a measurement service for a late filed acreage report.

## **FSA ADOPTS NEW CHECK PROCESSING METHOD**

Producers who make payments by check to the Farm Service Agency can expect to see a change soon in how those checks are processed. FSA is adopting an electronic method for processing check payments from customers.

Using the electronic method, if you submit a paper check payment, either in person or through the mail, the check will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) using Over the Counter Channel (OTCnet), a web-based application. The transfer of funds will be reflected on your bank account statement. The transaction may be recorded in a different place on your statement than where your checks normally appear, such as under "other withdrawals" or "other transactions." You have protections under Federal law for an unauthorized electronic fund transfer from your account. You should contact your financial institution immediately if you believe that the transaction reported on your account statement was not properly authorized or is otherwise incorrect. It is important for you to have sufficient funds in your bank account because the electronic transfer of funds could occur within 24 hours. FSA will hold the paper check for up to 14 calendar days to ensure that the transaction was successfully processed and then the check will be shredded. You will not receive the paper check back from FSA.

The agency is implementing the new system to reduce the possibility of losing or misplacing checks, speed up the check clearing process and to reduce the potential for human error.

For more information regarding electronic check processing, contact the county FSA office or see the U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site at: <http://fms.treas.gov/otcnet/legal.html>.