

AUGUST 2008

# STEVENS COUNTY FSA NEWS

## Stevens County FSA

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## Office Hours

Monday – Friday  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

## County Executive Director

Martin A. Cunningham

## Farm Loan Manager

Steve King (509) 924-7350

## County Committee

John H. Steele - Chairperson  
Doug Falstad - Vice Chair.  
Bruce Stumpf – Reg. Member  
Gayla McCanna - Advisor

## Web Sites

National:  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

WA State:  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/wa](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa)

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## Acreage Reporting

The final date to report your acreage is August 15. If you have not filed an acreage report and are planning to participate in any of the programs listed below, we ask that you call to schedule an appointment as soon as possible.

CRP – Conservation Reserve Program

NAP – Non-insured Assistance Program

PRICE SUPPORT – Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments  
Direct and Countercyclical Program (See next article)

Acreage reports filed after August 15 will require the payment of a late filing fee.

## Direct and Countercyclical Program

Contracts for the Direct and Countercyclical Program must be signed and returned by September 30, 2008. You must have an acreage report on file to collect payments under this program. The final deadline for acreage reports is August 15.

Final payments for this program will be issued in October of 2008. If you have reported your acreage, and your contract has not changed from last year, you can call our office and we will mail your contract to you.

By signing a 2008 DCP contract, you certify that adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions are met, as provided by the contract appendix. Entities and joint operations that sign a DCP contract certify AGI compliance for both the entity and for all entity or joint operation members, to the fifth level. Crop acreage reports must be filed before final direct payments can be issued.

## Joint and Assigned Payment Authorizations

Due to the new 2008 Farm Bill, all joint or assigned payment authorizations filed on CCC-36 or CCC-37 must have been signed and filed on or after May 22, 2008, for 2008 DCP. This requirement does not apply to CRP.

## CRP Critical Use - Haying & Grazing

In June, Secretary of Agriculture Ed Schafer opened most CRP lands for haying and grazing after the bird nesting season. The Secretary made the decision to provide relief from high and increasing livestock feed prices. Critical use had been approved in Washington State from August 2 to November 10, 2008. Due to a lawsuit filed by the National Wildlife Federation, a federal judge granted a temporary restraining order stopping all haying or grazing until a final decision was made whether the critical use provisions would be allowed. After hearing arguments from all parties involved, the judge issued a final ruling on July 24, 2008. The ruling will allow critical use haying and grazing with a few changes from the originally authorized program. Producers who had applied and were approved by July 8, 2008 will be able to hay or graze as previously approved.



## **Disaster Program Changes and Deadlines**

The 2008 Farm Bill created new disaster assistance programs, made others permanent, and made changes to current programs. Most importantly, Congress tied all disaster assistance eligibility to producers obtaining a minimum CAT level of crop insurance or NAP coverage for uninsurable crops for all crops on all of a producer's farms. Producers will be able to apply for the new disaster programs to cover 2008 crops even though application for coverage dates have passed for crop insurance and NAP. A one-time waiver allows you to purchase buy-in CAT or NAP by September 16, 2008. This will only enable you to meet the requirement for the new disaster programs and will not provide you with crop insurance or NAP coverage if you did not meet the original application deadline. New programs include: Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), Tree Assistance Program (TAP), and Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP). A fifth new disaster program, the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) is exempt from the crop insurance/NAP requirement. All programs cover losses due to natural disasters only.

SURE covers crop losses on the whole farm when the county receives a disaster designation or losses exceed 50% of the farm's total production. Payments are made on 60% of the difference between the SURE guarantee and total farm revenue. LFP provides a payment to ranchers who suffer losses due to drought or fire. TAP provides compensation to orchardists and nursery producers to replant trees and vines. ELAP addresses unique disasters not covered by any other program. LIP provides payment for loss of livestock. There is a buy-in fee for CAT level crop insurance and NAP coverage. The fee is \$100 per crop with a maximum of \$300 per administrative county and a \$900 maximum for multiple counties. CAT and NAP fees are treated separately and the maximums apply separately to each type of coverage. Producers are credited for any crop insurance or NAP coverage previously paid for 2008 crops. Fees are waived for limited resource, socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers. FSA is handling the sign-up and application for both CAT and NAP for the 2008 crop buy-in waiver.

## **Commodity Loans Available**

Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loans are available on 2008 crop wheat, feed grain, oilseeds, honey, wool and mohair. CCC loans provide producers interim financing while holding crops for sale later in the marketing season. The interest rate is currently 3.375%. Producers may obtain loans on grain that is farm stored or stored in a UGSA approved warehouse. Producers may request measurement of farm stored grain or certify to the quantity in the bins. Warehouse loans may be requested by submitting a negotiable warehouse receipt to the county FSA office. While the loan rate provides a floor price for commodities, it is very low compared to current market prices.

## **Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP) 2009**

For 2009, the fee for NAP policies has been increased from \$100, to \$250 per crop with a limit of \$750 per county. The sales closing date for forage crops which would have been September 30, 2008 has been moved back to December 1, 2008.