



JANUARY 2010

STEVENS COUNTY FSA NEWS

Stevens County FSA

232 Williams Lake Rd
Colville, WA 99114-9638
(509) 685-0858
Fax (509) 684-1982

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Executive Director

Martin A. Cunningham

Office Staff

Lisa M. VanQuekelberg, PT

Farm Loan Manager

Currently vacant

County Committee

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

Web Sites

National:

www.fsa.usda.gov

WA State:

www.fsa.usda.gov/wa

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotapes, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

ELECTION RESULTS

Ballots were counted Friday, December 11 and Doug Falstad of Addy was elected to another three year term on the committee. We would like to thank Doug for running again and also thank all the producers that took the time to vote.

DCP SIGN UP

Sign up for the Direct and Countercyclical Program is now taking place. Unless you have big changes to your farming operation there will not be as much paperwork to complete this year and we anticipate that sign up will go fairly quickly. Advance payments of 22% are available after all documents have been signed and returned.

Remember: The sign up period will run until June 1, 2010. Unlike previous years, the "late filed" sign up provision that allowed you to file after June 1 is no longer permitted. You must be completely signed up by June 1, 2010 to be eligible for payments under this program.

Please contact our office for an appointment to make application.

BIOMASS CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Avista's Kettle Falls Generating station was recently approved as a Biomass Conversion facility. Hog fuel delivered to this plant is now eligible for matching funds through the Biomass Crop Assistance Program. Under this new program, FSA will match the rate the facility pays up to a maximum of \$45 per ton. All payments are made on a bone dry ton basis.

Operators collecting biomass from private ground should file application for matching funds in their business headquarters county. Operators that collect biomass from Federal land must apply in the county where the Biomass Conversion Facility is located. Eligibility for payment begins after an application is filed and approved at the applicable county office.

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 our Spokane office at 509-924-7350.

SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SURE)

The SURE program provides a direct payment that helps cover revenue losses when a natural disaster impacts crop quality or production. Sure payments are calculated based on a complex formula that compares guaranteed revenue with actual revenue for the entire farming operation. In order to qualify for a SURE payment,



you must have purchased either Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage or crop insurance for every crop of economic significance. A crop of economic significance is one that contributed or is expected to contribute 5 percent or more of the total expected value of all crops grown. Eligible program participants must have at least one crop with a 10 percent production loss caused by natural disaster. In addition, the producer must have a portion of the SURE farm located in a natural disaster county (or contiguous county) designated by the Secretary. A farm may also become eligible without a secretarial designation if it has sustained a 50 percent loss of actual production. Stevens County was designated as a contiguous disaster county for 2008. Because of this designation, producers that had NAP coverage and insurance on every economically significant crop may be eligible for SURE for the 2008 crop year.

FSA STATE COMMITTEE APPOINTED

Five Washington farmers, recently appointed by the Obama Administration, begin their duties this week as state committee members for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency. The State Committee members will oversee the activities of the agency to include carrying out the state agricultural conservation programs, resolving appeals from the agriculture community and helping to keep producers informed about FSA programs.

"Farmer representation on state and county committees that guide government programs is unique in the federal government," said FSA State Executive Director Judy Olson. "These individuals will work with our agency to help farmers and ranchers build and maintain successful operations that produce the safe, nutritious food supply that America needs while spurring economic development in our nation's rural communities. They bring the experience and passion necessary to help continue the Obama Administration's efforts to rebuild and revitalize rural America."

The individuals appointed to serve on this committee include:

Lennie Davis (Chairperson)

Davis, from Coulee City, Wash., is a partner in Tom Davis Farms Joint Venture. She previously served on Washington's FSA committee during the Clinton Administration.

Larry A. DeHaan

DeHaan, from Lynden, Wash., has worked in the dairy business for over thirty years. From 1989 to 1994, he served on his local FSA county committee. DeHaan has also won numerous awards, including the Whatcom Conservation Farmer of the Year in 1999.

Steve Hair

Hair, from Walla Walla, Wash., is a former member and chair of the Walla Walla FSA County Committee. He also served as President of the Walla Walla Association of Wheat Growers.

Don Olmstead Jr.

Olmstead Jr., from Grandview, Wash., is president of Olmstead Orchards. He was a member of the Grandview Planning Commission for nearly 20 years. He has also served on the Washington State Fruit Commission since the early 1980s.

Jesus Limon

Limon, from East Wenatchee, Wash., operates apple orchards for Limon and Sons Orchard Company. He also worked for the Auvil Fruit Company in Orondo, Washington starting in 1982 until 1995 and has been an advisor for the FSA Chelan County Committee.