



MAY 2010

STEVENS COUNTY FSA NEWS

Stevens County FSA

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Web Sites

National:

www.fsa.usda.gov

WA State:

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DCP SIGN UP

Sign up for the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program will end in approximately FOUR WEEKS!

You must be completely signed up by June 1, 2010 to be eligible for payments under this program. The old provision that allowed you to file after June 1 and pay a "late fee" is no longer permitted by the 2008 Farm Bill. Because sign ups have been extended into the late summer the past few years, this earlier deadline could catch you off guard.

Unless you have big changes to your farming operation there will not be as much paperwork to complete this year and sign up will go fairly quickly. Advance payments of 22% are available after all documents have been signed and returned.

Please contact our office for an appointment to make application.

ELAP – DISASTER PROGRAM SIGN UP CONTINUES

FSA is continuing to accept 2008 and 2009 applications for the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP). The application period has been extended due to a technical correction to the ELAP regulations. The new deadline for 2008 and 2009 losses is May 5, 2010.

ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees, and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather or other conditions, including wildfires. Losses must have occurred on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011. The technical correction changes some of the provisions about honey bee and farm-raised fish losses.

ELAP is a permanent disaster program, authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill. Assistance for producers through ELAP is for losses not covered under other 2008 Farm Bill disaster programs. For losses in 2010 and later, producers must notify FSA 30 days after damage is apparent.

Due to a program funding cap, ELAP payments may be pro-rated depending on the number of applications. There is a total \$100,000 limitation per crop year that applies to payments received under ELAP, LFP, LIP or SURE. For the 2008 crop year, the \$100,000 limitation is per "person" as defined and determined under payment limitation rules in effect for 2008. For crop years 2009 through 2011, the \$100,000 limitation applies to payments received, both directly and indirectly, by a person or legal entity. Furthermore, individuals or entities are ineligible for payment under ELAP for 2008 if their average Adjusted Gross Income for 2005, 2006 and 2007 exceeds \$2.5 million. For 2009 through 2011, an average adjusted gross nonfarm income limitation of \$500,000 applies and is determined using the three taxable years that precede the most immediately preceding complete taxable year (for 2009 the applicable years are 2005, 2006, and 2007).



GRASSLAND RESERVE PROGRAM

The Farm Service Agency is accepting bids into the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) in Okanogan and Stevens counties. The voluntary program financially rewards ranchers for agreeing not to develop the land and for practicing proper grassland management. Sign up for the program begins May 3, 2010 and continues through May 28, 2010 at the Stevens County FSA office.

In exchange for a program payment, ranchers agree not to convert grassland to cropland or other types of development. The land may still be grazed or hayed. This sign up offers landowners rental agreements of 10, 15, or 20-year duration. An annual rental rate of \$8.75/acre has been established for rental agreements. To participate in GRP, ranchers must offer private land that includes contiguous acres of grassland. Rental agreements have a cap of 320 acres per farming operation. Ranchers in the program will be required to develop a grazing plan with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

FSA has about \$230,000 to implement the program in Okanogan and Stevens counties. The agency will rank applications based on the quality of management of the site, biodiversity, the soil quality, and the cost of the agreement. FSA will notify successful bidders for the rental agreements shortly after the sign up ends.

IRS FORMS

Those of you that have been in to sign up during the last few months have received CCC-927 or CCC-928 forms. The form is your Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information from IRS to FSA. By signing this form you are giving IRS permission to compare your tax information to what has been certified on the Average Adjusted Gross Income Statement with FSA. IRS will only tell FSA if the items certified on the statement agree with information filed on previous tax forms. FSA will not receive any actual tax records. It is very important that you return the CCC-927 or CCC-928 form to IRS within 120 days. Program payments will not be disbursed unless the form has been received by the IRS.

ACREAGE REPORTS DUE BY JUNE 30

Acreage reports are required under the 2008 Farm Bill to maintain eligibility for the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program. Reports are also required for CRP, NAP, and on any farm in which production will be used for a Marketing Assistance Loan or Loan Deficiency Payment. **June 30, 2010** is the final date to timely report your acres. Beyond that date, fees will be assessed for late-filed acreage reporting. In 2008 and 2009, the final reporting date was extended to mid-August. We are now on the regular schedule and reports are due by the end of June. Also, keep in mind that there are two parts to participating in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program. The first part is signing the DCP contract. The second part is acreage reporting and is usually done as a separate process.

When you file your report, you will need to indicate which crop is in each field and when the crop was seeded.

PLEASE CALL TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT TO REPORT YOUR ACREAGE.