



July 22, 2008

YAKIMA COUNTY FSA NEWS

Yakima County FSA

1606 Perry Street, Suite A
Yakima, WA 98902-5769
Phone- (509) 454-5746, Ext. #2
Fax- (509) 454-5682

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Nadeen Boyle, Chairperson
Daniel T. Martinez, Vice-Chair.
Linda North-Spaulding, Member
Gilbert Gonzalez, Jr., Advisor
Carol Hull, Advisor

Office Staff

Sandy Christensen, PT
Maria De La Mora, PT
Jennifer DeWeese, PT
Sherry Fadden, PT
Crispin Garza, SCL
Brian Miller, CED
Kim Miller, PT
Lisa Ruff, FLM
Scott Smith, FLO

Next COC Meeting

July 31, 2008
9:00 AM

Dates to Remember

- July 27 & August 11- Emergency Loan deadlines
- August 1 - COC election nomination deadline
- August 15 - Acreage reporting deadline
- August 31 - 2009 NAP application deadline
- September 16 - CAT & NAP Buy-in deadline

FSA Web Sites

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



United States
Department of
Agriculture

FSA COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The deadline to file a nominating petition for the FSA County Committee elections is Friday, August 1, 2008. The elections are being held in Local Administrative Area #2 this year. This area consists of farms located in the lower Yakima Valley (south of the Rattlesnake Ridge), that are north and east of the Yakima River. Producers in this area will be electing a County Committee person to serve a three-year term.

Farm owners, operators and tenants of legal voting age, in LAA #2 can run for a committee position and vote if they are eligible to take part in any FSA program. Spouses are generally eligible to participate in committee elections. Any producer who feels that they may not have received an election ballot in the past should contact our office to ensure that they are on the list of eligible voters. Nominations from minority, female, and producers from under-represented groups are encouraged. A petition form signed by the nominee is needed to nominate a farmer-candidate. The petition includes a certification that the candidate agrees to serve if elected.

KEEPING UP ON THE LATEST FARM BILL INFORMATION

FSA is implementing the 2008 Farm Bill as quickly as rules can be written and software developed to process applications. Information may be available in between newsletter distributions. To get the latest information as it becomes available, you may access the FSA website for Washington at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>. An RSS Feed has been put on the press release pages of the state and national websites. The RSS Feed sends an automatic notification to your computer whenever a posting is made to the page with the RSS Feed. Contact the county office if you would like information on how to use an RSS Feed.

DCP SIGNUP BEGINS

Producers have until September 30, 2008 to apply for the 2008 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP). Because of the shortened application period, producers should

call the office for an appointment. Online DCP signup is also available.

Producers may elect to receive a 22% advance direct payment, to be issued after contract approval. Final direct payments will be issued after October 1, 2008. A fact sheet that includes direct payment rates is available at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/DCP>.

A new provision prohibits DCP payments for farms with 10 or less total base acres. The rule is waived if the farm is wholly owned by a socially disadvantaged or limited resource farmer. Multiple owners on a farm may differ as to which of the criteria they meet, but each must meet one of the criteria to qualify for payments. Farm operators need not meet these criteria. For entity owners, all members must meet one of these conditions.

For DCP, a socially disadvantaged farmer is a member of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group, without regard to their individual qualities. Limited resource qualifications can be determined in an automated system at:

<http://www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/tol.asp>. Contact the county office if you are uncertain if this waiver applies 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. Current rules require agents who sign a contract, using FSA-211, Power-of-Attorney, to have AGI /CCC-526 authority designated on the FSA-211. If not, the contract signature may be valid, except for AGI purposes. AGI certification would need to be provided in another manner, such as by the grantor's completion of CCC-526. (Entity and joint operation members do not need to have designated any signing authority to the entity or joint operation agent.)

Crop acreage reports must be filed before final direct payments can be issued. Timely filed 2008 reports are due August 15, 2008.

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. 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), 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 lim-

ited resource, socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers. Let the FSA staff know if you think this applies to you when signing up for the programs.

FSA is handling the signup and application for both CAT and NAP for the 2008 crop buy-in waiver. For 2009 crops, standard crop insurance and NAP deadlines and purchase rules are in effect. Contact the office for more information.

2009 NONINSURED CROP LOSS COVERAGE

Producers may now purchase catastrophic crop loss coverage for noninsurable crops, planted in the fall for harvest in 2009, under the *Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)*. The cost of the coverage is \$250 per crop, not to exceed \$750 per producer, per County. August 31 is the first application closing dates for fall planted crops, including: onions, radish, carrots, canola, cabbage, and value loss crops such as Christmas trees, ornamental nursery, turf grass sod, cut flowers and mushroom coverage. Producers interested in this program should call our office for an appointment to apply.

JUDGE HALTS USE OF CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

A federal judge has granted a temporary restraining order on the use of the CRP critical feed use. The restraining order suspends all critical use haying and grazing on CRP acreage until further notice.

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 from August 2 to November 10, 2008. This has been suspended until after a court hearing.

Se habla español en esta oficina de FSA. Si quiere información tocante a los programas de crédito, conservación y otros programas que suministra esta oficina, por favor visite o llame la oficina de FSA. El número de teléfono es (509) 454-5746. La dirección se encontra encima.