



September 10, 2008

YAKIMA COUNTY FSA NEWS

Yakima County FSA

1606 Perry Street, Suite A
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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
Todd Munson, FA
Lisa Ruff, FLM
Scott Smith, FLO
Korbie Vicklund, SCEP

Next COC Meeting

September 30, 2008
9:00 AM

Dates to Remember

- September 16- CAT & NAP Buy-in deadline
- September 20- NYCD Plant Sale
- September 30- DCP signup deadline

FSA Web Sites

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



DISASTER PROGRAM SEPTEMBER 16 DEADLINE

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 cover-

age previously paid for 2008 crops. Fees are waived for limited 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- the NAP application closing date for most perennial and fall planted crops has been extended to December 1, 2008. For insurable crops, the standard crop insurance deadlines and purchase rules are in effect. Remember, all future disaster assistance eligibility is subject 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. Contact our office for more information.

DCP SIGNUP ENDS SEPTEMBER 30

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.

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/to ol.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 were due August 15, 2008. Late-filed acreage reports may be accepted if a late-filing fee is paid to verify the reported acreage.

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. The application closing date for most perennial and fall planted crops has been extended to December 1, 2008. Producers interested in this program should call our office for an appointment to apply.

2008 GRAIN LOANS AND LDP'S

All wheat, corn, barley, oats and grain sorghum are eligible for price support benefits for 2008.

Producers have a choice between taking out a regular 9-month Price Support Loan or receiving a Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP). The provisions for each are as follows:

LDP Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs) are not a loan they are a price support payment. LDP's can be made when the Posted County Price (PCP) falls below the county loan rate. There is a \$75,000 per person LDP payment limitation. Producers can check

the LDP rates daily on the Internet from the link on the FSA home page: www.usda.gov/fsa

Producers must make an application for LDPs on form CCC-633EZ. The CCC-633EZ is a two-part form. By signing **Page 1** of the form before losing beneficial interest in the crop, you maintain your eligibility for LDP benefits. **Page 1** of the form only needs to be signed one time each crop year and covers all crops eligible for an LDP.

PRICE SUPPORT LOANS

Regular 9 month loans on warehouse or farm stored grain at a reasonable interest rate (currently 3.25 %) can provide an excellent marketing tool for producers who wish to hold their grain for sale at a later date. The loan can be repaid at any time, and the repayment will be the lesser of the Posted County Price (PCP) or principal plus interest. The grain may be "forfeited" to FSA at loan maturity instead of repaying the loan principal and interest.

WOOL LOANS & LDP'S

Wool and mohair producers may apply for either a Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP), or for a nine-month, nonrecourse marketing assistance loan for their 2008 sheared wool. In addition, producers who will sell unshorn lambs may be eligible for an LDP on the unshorn pelt. Producers must complete CCC-633EZ, Page 1 for LDPs before the wool or lambs are sold.

PLANT SALE – ONE DAY CLEARANCE

The North Yakima Conservation District will be selling surplus conservation plants on **Saturday, September 20, 2008 from 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.** The plants are containerized in 1-3 gallon pots. **All pots will be \$4.25 each.** They will be sold on a first-come first-serve basis. Plant species includes Aspen, Mock Orange, Red Osier Dogwood, Ponderosa Pine, and many others! **LOCATION: 1522 South 18th Avenue.**

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.