



February 18, 2009

## 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

Daniel T. Martinez, Chairperson  
Nadeen Boyle, Vice-Chairperson  
Wes Underwood, 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

### Next COC Meeting

February 24, 2009  
9:00 AM

### Dates to Remember

- February 27- CDP signup deadline
- February 27- Lamb Referendum deadline
- March 15- NAP application deadline
- March 31- 2008 Loan & LDP 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

### CROP DISASTER PROGRAM DEADLINE

The deadline to apply for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) is Friday, February 27, 2009. CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses from natural disasters and related conditions for the 2005 and 2006 and 2007 crop years. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to receive benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple crops as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.

Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP. The payment rate is set at 42 percent of the established price. The payment quantity for quality losses will be equal to the lesser of: (1) the actual production of the crop affected by a quality loss; or (2) the quantity of expected production of the crop affected by a quality loss. The quality loss must be at least 25 percent of the value that all affected production of the crop would have had if the crop had not suffered a quality loss. Assistance, together with any crop insurance or NAP payment received for the same crop and including the value of the crop production not lost, must not exceed 95 percent of the total value of the crop absent the disaster. Farmers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in CDP benefits.

There are no provisions for late-filed applications. Producers who are unsure if they have already applied for benefits under this program should contact our office in advance of the February 27 deadline.

### NONINSURED CROP LOSS COVERAGE

Producers may now purchase catastrophic crop loss coverage for noninsurable 2009 spring planted crops under the *Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)*. The cost of the coverage will be \$250 per crop,

not to exceed \$750 per producer, per County. **The application closing date is March 15** for most spring planted crops. Producers interested in this program should call our office for an appointment to apply.

### USDA SETS DATE FOR LAMB REFERENDUM

USDA has announced that it will offer lamb producers, feeders, and first handlers the opportunity to vote in a nationwide referendum on whether to continue or terminate the Lamb Promotion, Research, and Information Order, authorized under the Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996. **The referendum is being held February 2 through 27, 2009.** The referendum will be conducted at the FSA county office. To be eligible to vote, persons must certify and provide documentation, such as a sales receipt or remittance form, which shows they have been engaged in the production, feeding, or slaughtering of lambs during the period, January 1 through December 31, 2008.

### EMERGENCY LOANS

Producers in Yakima County may be eligible for emergency loans under the following disaster declarations. The declarations cover damages and losses caused by the following conditions:

- Freezing temperatures which occurred April 22 through May 15, 2008; (*June 3, 2009 application deadline*).
- Severe winter storms, landslides, mudslides, and flooding which occurred January 6-16, 2009; (*October 6, 2009 application deadline*).
- Winter storms which occurred December 14, 2008 through January 15, 2009; (*September 26, 2009 application deadline*).

For more information on emergency loans please contact our office.

### 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). Producers can check the LDP rates daily on the Internet at the following address: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/psd/ldp/>. **March 31, 2009** is the final date to request a CCC commodity loan or loan deficiency payment (LDP) on 2008 crop wheat, barley, oats or honey

### MILC PROGRAM SIGNUP CONTINUES

The signup for the Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC) has begun and will continue through the program's expiration date, September 30, 2012.

Interested producers should contact our office to submit a MILC contract. Selecting a "payment start month" allows a producer the flexibility to select the consecutive months that they feel that the MILC payment rates will be the highest. Dairy producers should visit our office on or before the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the month before the month in which payment is sought, to initially select or change their payment starting date for the 2009 fiscal year.

### PAYMENT LIMITS & DIRECT ATTRIBUTION

To qualify for commodity and disaster programs under the new farm bill, applicants now must adhere to new **Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)** restrictions. The AGI ceiling limitation was reduced from \$2.5 million from all sources to a three-year average **nonfarm AGI of \$500,000**. Also, under the new regulations, an individual or entity must have a 3-year average AGI less than or equal to \$750,000 from farm income in order to qualify for direct payments issued under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or the Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE).

For conservation programs, the average nonfarm AGI limitation is \$1 million or less for eligibility. However, an individual or entity who has non-farm AGI in excess of \$1 million remains eligible for conservation programs only if 66.66 percent or more of the total AGI is derived from farming, ranching and forestry operations. In addition, the AGI limitation for conservation programs may be waived on a case-by-case basis if it is determined that environmentally sensitive land of special significance would be protected.

Another change in eligibility is that program payments are limited by direct attribution of payment totals directly to individuals or indirectly to individuals through entities. A legal entity is defined as an entity created under Federal or State law that owns land or an agricultural commodity, product or livestock. Through direct attribution, payment limitation is based on the total payments received by the entity and also the individual, both directly and indirectly as a partner or shareholder in an entity. Qualifying spouses are eligible to be considered separate persons for payment limitation purposes, rather than being automatically combined under one limitation. Also, individuals and entities must be "actively engaged in farming" with respect to a farming operation in order to be eligible for specified payments and benefits. To be "actively engaged in farming," the individual or entity must make significant contributions to the farming operation of: (1) capital, equipment, land, or a combination; and (2) personal labor or active personal management, or a combination. For more information on how these provisions apply to your own situation, contact your local FSA office.

### 12TH ANNUAL TREE & SHRUB SALE

Need a windbreak? Would you like to stabilize a stream bank, or maybe you want to add a little wildlife habitat to your property? The North Yakima Conservation District (NYCD) is having the **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Tree & Shrub Sale**. Plants are reserved on a first come first serve basis, and will be ready for pickup on March 27 and 28. More information is available at the NYCD web site: <http://nycd.scc.wa.gov>. To obtain a brochure and order form you can also contact Brian Schmidt with the North Yakima Conservation District, at 454-5736, Ext. #5. Plant supplies are limited so contact the conservation district today!!

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.