



December 1, 2009

YAKIMA COUNTY FSA NEWS

Yakima County FSA

1606 Perry Street, Suite A
Yakima, WA 98902-5769
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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
Lisa Ruff, FLM
Scott Smith, FLO
Clint, Wilson, FA

Next COC Meeting

November 24, 2009
9:00 AM

Dates to Remember

- December 7- COC election voting deadline
- December 10- ELAP deadline
- December 17- Open House

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 final day to vote in the Committee election is **Monday, December 7th.**

The elections are being held in Local Administrative Area #1 this year. This area consists of farms located in the upper Yakima Valley (north of the Rattlesnake Ridge), minus the land situated south of Ahtanum Creek. Producers in this area will be electing a County Committee person and two alternates to serve a three-year term.

- **Mark Barrett** farms west of Yakima, and has 30 years experience in the production of apples, apricots, cherries, grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears and plums. Mr. Barrett is a member of the Board of Directors for the Yakima County Farm Bureau, Chairman of the Horticulture Commodity Committee for the Washington State Farm Bureau, a member of the Washington State Growers Clearing House, a member of the Washington State Horticultural Association, and a member of the Yakima Pomology Club.
- **Cheryl Gutierrez** farms northwest of Selah, and has over nine years experience in the production of apples and pears. Ms. Gutierrez is currently an alternate to the FSA County Committee.
- **Jose J. Guzman** farms both east and west of Tieton, and has six years experience in the production of apples and pears. Mr. Guzman is currently an alternate to the FSA County Committee.

The election ballots must be returned or postmarked by Monday, December 7, 2009. In addition, voters must sign the certification on the ballot envelope for the ballot to be considered valid! Producers who did not receive a ballot and feel like they should have should contact our office. **Please take the time to vote for the candidate of your choice!**

EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM DEADLINE

The deadline for agricultural producers in Yakima County to sign up for the Emergency Conservation Program is Wednesday, December 9,

2009. The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) is intended to assist farmers and ranchers who had farm fences that were destroyed or seriously damaged due to the lightning caused fires that occurred on August 20, 2009. ECP makes available cost-share assistance for practices related to restoring or replacing fences needed to restore the land to a productive agricultural use.

Conservation practices for which expenses may be reimbursed include restoring different types of permanent fences. Producers will need to provide documentation for the costs of any conservation work done. Eligibility for ECP assistance is determined by the County Committee, based on individual on-site inspections, taking into account the type and extent of the damage. Cost-share assistance of up to 75 percent of the cost of repairing or replacing the damaged fences is available. Affected producers should contact the FSA office as soon as possible for an appointment to apply for ECP assistance.

SHERRY FADDEN TO RETIRE!

Yakima County Program Technician, Sherry Fadden will be retiring January 2, 2010 with over 37 years of service with the U.S. Government. Sherry has worked for FSA and its predecessor ASCS, providing service to local producers in Yakima County for over 33 years. During her years with the agency Sherry has worked in most of the programs that the agency delivers and has earned numerous awards for providing outstanding service to the local producers.

We will be holding an open house, for Sherry from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m., on Thursday, December 17 for producers and others that would like to stop by to wish Sherry well in her retirement.

2010 DCP PROGRAM SIGNUP

Producers operating farms with crop acreage bases established under the Direct and Counter Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) may signup now for the 2010 program at this time. The signup period ends on June 1, 2010, for enrolling farms in the 2010 DCP program. Late-filed applications can not be accepted.

There are currently two types of payments available for producers who participate in the DCP program:

Direct Payments - Regardless of the price of commodities, direct payments will be issued annually on 83.3% of the crop acreage base times the payment yield. Direct payment rates include 52 cents/bu for wheat, 28 cents/bu for corn, 24 cents/bu for barley and 2.4 cents/bu for oats. Twenty-two percent of the direct payments can be requested at signup.

Counter-Cyclical Payments - will be paid if market prices fall below certain levels during the 12-month marketing periods for each commodity. Depending on the comparison between national average market levels and target prices, it is possible that counter-cyclical payments could be paid two times during the crop year.

ACRE is an alternative to DCP participation. ACRE participants earn direct payments, but with a 20% reduction. Grain loan rates on ACRE-enrolled farms are also reduced by 30%. The benefit of ACRE is potential revenue protection payments on **planted crops** when market prices, state yields, and/or farm yields are below established guarantees. The opportunity to elect ACRE will be offered each year 2010-2012, but once elected the decision is irrevocable through 2012. All producers on a farm must agree to the election.

LOANS AVAILABLE

FSA's loan programs are designed to help family farmers who are temporarily unable to obtain commercial credit. In many cases, these are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for commercial credit.

The law also requires FSA to reserve or target loan funds for exclusive use by beginning farmers. Funds remain targeted for beginning farmers in the guaranteed programs until April 1 of each year. In the direct programs, funds are targeted for beginning farmers until September 1 of each year.

A beginning farmer or rancher is an individual or entity who:

- has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years
- substantially participates in the operation
- for Farm Ownership loan purposes, does not own a farm greater than 30 percent of the average size farm in the county
- for Farm Ownership loan purposes, must have participated in the business operation of a farm for at least three years.

Maximum amounts of indebtedness are \$300,000 for Direct Loans and \$1,112,000 (amount varies annually based on inflation) for Guaranteed Loans. FSA also has a down payment program to assist beginning farmers and socially disadvantaged applicants to purchase a farm or ranch. This program also provides a means for retiring farmers and ranchers to transfer their land to a future generation.

ELAP APPLICATION DEADLINE

FSA is currently accepting applications for the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP). The program provides financial relief to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather or other conditions, including blizzards and wildfires.

Eligible livestock include beef cattle, alpacas, buffalo, beefalo, dairy cattle, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, llamas, poultry, reindeer, sheep and swine in addition to honeybees and farm-raised fish. Prior purchase of crop insurance or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage is required for LFP and ELAP eligibility.

FSA has set a December 10, 2009 notice of loss deadline for losses that occurred between January 1, 2008 and September 10, 2009. In the future, a notice of loss is due 30 days after damage is apparent.

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.