



April 16, 2010

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
Wes Underwood, Vice Chairperson
Mark Barrett, Member
Carol Hull, Advisor
Sergio Marquez, Advisor

Office Staff

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

Next COC Meeting

April 27, 2010
9:00 AM

Dates to Remember

- May 31- Office closed in observance of Memorial Day
- June 1- DCP/ACRE signup deadline
- June 30- Acreage reporting 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

COMMITTEE UPDATE

Carol Hull and Sergio Marquez have been appointed by the Washington State FSA Committee to serve as County Committee Advisors for a one-year term. We look forward to the advisors' continued contributions to the Committee during the coming year.

NONINSURED CROP LOSSES?

Producers who purchased catastrophic crop loss coverage for non-insurable 2010 crops, under the *Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)*, need to remember the reporting requirements for crop losses. NAP participants must file a written notice of loss within 15 days after the disaster event occurred, or damage to the crop became evident. Also, if you do not intend to harvest the crop, you must request an appraisal by an FSA representative prior to destruction or abandonment of the crop. **Failure to adhere to these timelines will result in ineligibility for NAP benefits.**

EMERGENCY LOANS

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

- Drought which occurred January 1 through the 2009 crop year; (*July 7, 2010 application deadline*).

For more information on emergency loans please contact our office.

SURE PROGRAM SIGN-UP

Currently SURE Program applications are being taken for 2008 crop losses. The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster that incurred starting in the crop year 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops of economic significance in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to obtain Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for crops excluding grazed acreage.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

The following are the conditions that trigger SURE payments:

- at least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition
- the farm experiencing the loss must be in a county declared a disaster county by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties. In the absence of a Secretarial Disaster Designation, those who show proof of an individual loss of at least 50% are eligible to receive SURE payments for production losses or crop quality losses.

Losses are measured with consideration to the whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.

Producers who feel that they have a qualifying 2008 crop loss, and who do not already have an appointment to apply for SURE, should contact our office.

2010 DCP/ACRE 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.

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 2010-12, but once elected the decision is irrevocable through 2012. All producers on a farm must agree to the election.

The signup period ends on June 1, 2010, for enrolling farms in the 2010 DCP and ACRE programs. Late-filed applications cannot be accepted.

PAYMENT LIMITATION & ELIGIBILITY

Producers participating in certain FSA programs are subject to limitations on the total annual payments that can be received. Under the 2008 Farm Bill, payments are limited by direct attribution. The maximum amount persons or entities can receive per year are: Direct payments - \$40,000; Counter-Cyclical (CC)/ACRE payments - \$65,000; SURE, LFP, LIP, and ELAP - \$100,000 combined; TAP - \$100,000; NAP - \$100,000; CRP and CREP rental/incentive payments - \$50,000; GRP - \$50,000; LDP and market loan gains - unlimited. With ACRE participation, the direct payment limitation will reflect a 20% direct payment reduction. The DCP CC/ACRE payment limitation will then be increased by the direct payment reduction amount.

The following provisions apply to certain programs: actively engaged in farming, cash rent tenant, foreign person, and average adjusted gross income (AGI). No program benefits will be provided until all required forms are filed and determinations are complete. Producers determined not actively engaged in farming are ineligible for any payment which requires such a determination. AGI noncompliance, either by exceeding applicable limitations or failure to submit a certification statement, will result in ineligibility for all program benefits subject to AGI provisions. Program benefits to legal entities shall be reduced by an amount that is commensurate with the direct and indirect interest held by ineligible members.

All payment eligibility forms are subject to spot check through an end-of-year review process. Producers selected for spot check must provide adequate documentation to support that: inputs used to determine contributions to the farming operation were significant; contributions were at risk and were commensurate with claimed shares of the farming operation; applicable "common attribution" determinations were correct; land ownership was accurately reported when the landowner rule was used; the producer was in compliance with applicable AGI limits; and any other factors pertinent to the original determinations are substantiated.

A farm operating plan is not required to be filed annually, if the farming operation continues to be conducted as reflected on the operating plan and supporting documents are on file in the County Office. If any changes occur that could affect the determinations, producers must timely notify the County Office by filing revised forms and applicable supporting documentation.

ELAP PROGRAM SIGNUP 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. A new deadline has not been announced but will be 14 days after the final regulations are published and is expected soon. The extended signup period is expected to be very short once the rules are published so producers who are interested in the program are encouraged not to delay.

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. The rule correction will change some of the provisions about honey bee and farm-raised fish losses.

JOBS AVAILABLE WITH FSA

Loan Specialist- Career Intern Program (CIP)- Qualifications include a 4-year degree in Business or Agriculture; or diverse professional experience directly related to the position. The entry level pay scale will be a GS 5/7/9, based on experience. There are two CIP positions available. The application deadline is 05/15/2010. More information is available from this office, or at: www.fsa.usda.gov/wa

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 encuentra encima.