



August 5, 2010

## 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  
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

August 31, 2010  
9:00 AM

### Dates to Remember

- August 27- CRP application deadline
- August 31- NAP application deadline
- September 6- Office closed in observance of Labor Day
- September 23- TAAF asparagus application deadline
- September 30- NAP application 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

### CRP SIGN-UP DEADLINE

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general sign-up application deadline is Friday, August 27, 2010.

CRP allows producers to enroll land in ten year contracts that help preserve environmentally sensitive land. Farmers and ranchers enrolled in the program plant cover crops to improve wildlife habitat, water or air quality; have enduring benefits; or reduce erosion. In return, FSA pays the producer a rental rate based on a producer's accepted bid.

Eligibility and ranking scores are based on several factors. Eligible land must have been planted to an annual crop or conserving use in at least four years between 2002 and 2007. In addition, the land must have an erodibility index of 8 or greater, be in the state air quality or wildlife Conservation Priority Area or be CRP expiring in 2010.

Offers will be ranked using the Environment Benefits Index. Points will be awarded based on the environmental and habitat benefits of the proposed cover crops. Extra points will be awarded in this sign-up for the most erosive land and bids that include pollinator habitat

There are 2.8 million acres of CRP contracts expiring this year. A very competitive sign-up is expected. The announcement of accepted offers is expected to be faster. The average wait time between the end of sign-up and the awarding of contracts has been several weeks. Now, with systematic improvements, the process may take only matter of days.

### 2008 SURE PROGRAM SIGN-UP DEADLINE

The deadline to apply for the SURE Program for 2008 crop losses is September 30, 2010. 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.

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.

### TAA FOR ASPARAGUS

The deadline to apply for the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Program, currently authorized for asparagus, is September 23, 2010.

To be eligible for the program, producers must be able to provide evidence that they produced asparagus during 2009 and at least one of the three years prior. In addition, to qualify for benefits producers must meet one of the following criteria: a reduction in production for the 2009 crop year from the 2008 crop year; or a lower 2009 market price than the previous three year average; or the USDA county price was lower in the 2009 crop year than the previous three year average.

The Trade Adjustment Assistance Program is based around training farmers how to create and implement business plans. Completion of training and an initial plan includes a maximum payment of \$4,000. Completion of long term training and a more complete business adjustment plan provides another payment of up to \$8,000.

### 2010 GRAIN LOANS AND LDP'S

All wheat, corn, barley, oats and grain sorghum are eligible for price support benefits for 2010. Producers have a choice between taking out a regular 9-month Price Support Loan or receiving a Loan Deficiency Payment (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. Producers can check the LDP rates daily on the Internet from the link on the FSA home page: [www.usda.gov/fsa](http://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.

Regular 9 month loans on warehouse or farm stored grain at a reasonable interest rate (1.375 % in July) 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.

### CRP MAINTENANCE

Weed control is required on CRP land. While prior approval may be required during certain times, FSA will grant it for any legitimate weed problems. Also, activities such as harrowing or chopping of dried up mustards and Russian thistle after the nesting period has ended can be a valuable tool to keep these weeds from getting on your neighbor's property. These activities help maintain grass vigor and ensure

that you have a viable cover for the entire contract period

Failure of your stand due to lack of weed control may lead to payment reductions or contract termination. CRP contracts may be revised to include certain maintenance practices in mid-contract to maintain stand vigor and diversity. Fifty percent cost-sharing is available if these activities are approved by FSA before work begins. Examples of practices include: mowing, herbicide application, inter-seeding or fertilization.

### NAP APPLICATION DEADLINES

Producers may now purchase catastrophic crop loss coverage under *Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)*. Upcoming application deadlines are as follows:

- August 31- Canola and rapeseed; radishes, carrots, and cabbage; value loss crops; artichokes and any fall planted crops not listed below.
- September 30- Perennial grazing crops; perennial forage crops; forage seed crops; and garlic.
- November 20- All perennial crops not listed in the 09/30/2010 category, (including berries, tree fruits, grapes & asparagus), honey and hops.

The cost of the coverage is \$250 per crop, not to exceed \$750 per producer, per County. Producers interested in this program should call our office.

Remember, all current and future disaster assistance eligibility, except for LIP, is subject to producers obtaining at least a CAT level of crop insurance, or NAP coverage for uninsurable crops, for all crops on all farms.

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.