



NEWSLETTER



May 2012

Yakima County FSA

1606 Perry Street, Suite A
Yakima, WA 98902
(509) 454-5746 ext. 2
Fax (509) 454-5682

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Mark Barrett, Chair
Nadeen Boyle, Vice-Chair
Brad Bonny, Member
Steve Isaac, Advisor
Sergio Marquez, Advisor

Office Staff

Lisa Ruff, Acting CED
Maria De La Mora, PT
Jennifer DeWeese, PT
Kimberly Miller, PT

Farm Loan Staff

Lisa Ruff, FLM
Scott Smith, FLO
Crispin Garza, SCL
Sandy Christensen, FLPT

Next COC Meeting

May 22, 2012 – 9 a.m.

Dates to Remember

- June 1 – DCP/ACRE sign up deadline
- June 1 – 2010 SURE sign up deadline
- June 30 – Acreage report deadline
- August 1 – Deadline to nominate for County Committee

More Information may be found at

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>

2012 DCP/ACRE DEADLINE

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment began January 23, 2012 and ends **June 1, 2012**. Appointments are being scheduled to sign up producers. If you have not been contacted for an appointment, please contact the Yakima County FSA office.

ACREAGE REPORTING DEADLINE

Acreage reports are required under the 2008 Farm Bill to maintain eligibility for the DCP and ACRE programs, as well as CRP, NAP, SURE and most livestock disaster programs. Reports are also required for commodity loan eligibility. **June 30, 2012**, is the final date to timely certify. Beyond that date, fees will be assessed for late-filed acreage reporting.

FARM CHANGES AND RECONSTITUTIONS

Any changes in your farm's physical makeup, such as adding or removing land, can impact your acreage base. Farm reconstitutions must be requested by **August 1** to be effective for the 2012 program year. Your farm must comply with program requirements as it is currently structured, including required signatures and acreage reporting. Requesting a farm reconstitution after signup could delay your payment, require refunds, or require the process to be completed again.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

Local farmers and ranchers have an opportunity to influence federal farm programs. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting nominations for the Kittitas County Committee between **June 15 and August 1, 2012**.

The FSA county committee system provides a unique federal government experience. Farmers and ranchers are elected by their peers to help the agency administer farm programs and provide an important information link between producers and the agency. The three-person committee is the place producers can appeal most agency determinations.

The committee also makes decisions which can impact program payments. It meets approximately once a month.

To be eligible for involvement, producers must participate or cooperate in at least one FSA program and be of legal voting age. Nomination forms must be submitted to the local FSA office.

The committee draws its members from local administrative areas (LAAs). Counties are broken up into administrative areas for the purposes of representation and voting. This year's election is for LAA 1. This area consists of farms located in the upper valley (north of the Rattlesnake Ridge), minus the land situated south of Ahtanum Creek.

Candidates must live in the local administrative area they will represent and must be eligible to vote in the county election. Members serve on staggered three-year terms so that one-third of the seat is up for reelection each year. Committee members are compensated for official duty hours.

We encourage all producers to consider being a candidate. Producers benefit from a diverse committee representing all of agriculture in our area.

More information about the elections and nomination forms may be obtained from the local FSA office or the Farm Service Agency website -

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>.

SURE 2010 SIGNUP DEADLINE

The deadline for producers to submit applications for 2010 crop year Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) is **June 1, 2012**. The application and all required documentation must be on file and signed by close of business on that day.

The SURE program provides benefits for crop losses due to eligible weather related disaster conditions affecting crops grown from 2008 through 2011 crop years. A farmer or rancher is eligible for the program when a disaster designation has been made for their county or when actual production is less than half of the normal established production. Producers who suffer eligible losses must have crop insurance or a Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program policy for all crops of economic significance to be eligible for SURE benefits. Socially disadvantaged, limited resource, or beginning farmers and ranchers are exempt from the insurance linkage requirement.

A fact sheet with more detailed information is available on the FSA website. Maps of disaster designations by county are on the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/wa. For more information, contact this office.

GRAIN LOANS AND LDPS

FSA offers 9-month marketing assistance loans, using the harvested commodity as collateral. Obtaining a loan enables a producer to extend their marketing season by allowing them to hold the commodity beyond harvest when prices are usually lowest. Producers must maintain beneficial interest in the commodity for the entire length of the loan. The commodity may be stored on the farm or in CCC licensed warehouses. Producers who use farm-storage must provide safe storage of the crop and are responsible for maintaining quality of the grain through loan maturity. The structure must allow for safe inspection, measurement, and sampling of the commodity. FSA will disburse a commodity loan after receiving acceptable documentation from the producer. Documentation must show that all in-handling charges have been provided for or paid.

Producers who obtain a marketing assistance loan agree to loan provisions. Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans. The most common violations are removing or

disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity of the available loan commodity.

Producers may choose a Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs) in lieu of a loan. The LDP payment amount is determined by comparing the posted county price (PCP) for a commodity to the county loan rate for that commodity in the county. If the PCP is less than the county loan rate, the producer may file for a payment of the difference between the two prices on the date of application, or the date beneficial interest is lost. Producers must have beneficial interest when applying for an LDP.

The following crops are eligible for commodity loans or LDPs: barley, oats, wheat, corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, canola, crambe, flaxseed, mustard seed, rapeseed, safflower seed, sesame seed, sunflower seed, dry peas, lentils and large and small chickpeas. Honey and wool are also eligible. Unshorn pelts are eligible for LDP only. Mohair is no longer eligible for marketing assistance loan or LDP.

Final availability date for loans and LDP's are January 31 for wool and unshorn pelts; March 31 for barley, canola, crambe, flaxseed, honey, oats, rapeseed, wheat and sesame seed; May 31 for corn, dry peas, lentils, mustard seed, safflower seed, chickpeas, soybeans and sunflower seeds.