



# BENTON COUNTY

November 2006

## COC Elections

County Committee FSA elections ballots were mailed out November 3<sup>rd</sup>, for the Local Administrative Area #3, which is the Eastern part of the County. The elected will start in January. Included is a brief bio or each candidate, they are as follows:

### Carl Anderson

I am a fourth generation dry land wheat and cattle rancher. I was born and raised in the Rattlesnake Hills North of Prosser. I attended Prosser High School and graduated from Washington State University with a degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting. I put this degree to use during the winter working with a local CPA firm. I now live in the Tri-Cities with my wife and young daughter. I farm both in the Rattlesnake Hills and South of Kennewick

### Larry Wilkerson

I was born in Pendleton, Oregon in 1951 and moved in 1955 to the family farm that my great Grandfather Charlie Nicoson homesteaded in the 1890's. I graduated from Kennewick High in 1969 later attended CBC and Blue Mountain College. Lori Hays and I were married in 1974, we have two grown children: Erik and Beth. We raise Quarter Horses and have 3 studs and 30+ mares. Lori shows a few each year. We have had a World Champion, several national ten high points and several grand champions. Lori and I also love palominos.

Please hand deliver or postmarked your ballot by December 4<sup>th</sup> to be eligible to be counted.

## 2007 DCP Signup

Signup for 2007 DCP began on October 2, 2006 and continues to June 1, 2007. Producers may elect to receive their direct payment in December or soon after. In 2007, the advance payment option will be 22 percent of the DCP payment. Please contact the office to set up an appointment.

### **Benton FSA Committee (COC)**

- Jeff Freepons, Vice Chair Member
- David Roseberry, Member
- Larry Wilkerson, Chair Member
- Adolfo Alvarez, Committee Advisor
- Teresa Engbertson, Committee Advisor



### **Next COC Meeting**

December 6, 2006 at 9:00 am

## PNW Undercutter Project Applications Available

The Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) is the recipient of an NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant for 3 year project to demonstrate and advance the "Undercutter Method" for winter wheat summer fallow farming. The Grant will address the anural resources concerns of soil erosion reduction, overall soil quality, soil productivity; as well as agricultural particulate emissions. Project duration is through 2009, and will include a cost-share to the farmer's administration by WAWG. Application and criteria are now available at the WAWG website [www.wawg.org](http://www.wawg.org) or by calling 1-800-598-6890 ext#1.

### Help for Online Access

Do you want to do FSA business online from the convenience of your home but need to know how to get started? For any business that requires transmitting sensitive information electronically, FSA requires users to have an electronic authorization. This keeps your information secure. FSA has developed a slide show to walk you through the computer screens and steps to establish your electronic authorization (e-authorization). The slide show is available on the Washington FSA Internet site <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa/>. Look for the "Slide Show" link on the left side of the page. PowerPoint software is required to view the slide show. Contact the county office if you have questions about doing business online or how to establish your e-authorization.

### Dates to Remember

- Oct-June: DCP Sign up
- Nov. 23: Office Closed Observance Thanksgiving
- Dec. 6: COC Meeting
- Dec 4: Ballots are due

### Web Sites

- [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) – FSA National
- <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa/> - WA State FSA
- <http://www.usda.gov> – USDA

### Office Staff

- Bonnie Anderson, PT
- Alison Burgett, PT
- Luis R. Garza Jr., CED
- E-mail - [luis.garza@wa.usda.gov](mailto:luis.garza@wa.usda.gov)
- Todd Meyer, PT
- Teresa Johnson, PT
- Office Hours & Address** 415 Wine Country Rd.
- Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Phone (509) 786-2313 ext#2 Fax (509) 786-1175

### **Foreign Investors 90 Day Reporting Rule**

Foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land are required by law to report your land holdings, acquisitions, leases of 10 years or more, and land use changes within 90 days of these transactions. Report these changes to the local FSA office. Failure to report these changes can result in a civil penalty of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of your interest in agricultural land.

### **Job Change**

I recently was presented with a job opportunity to work some where else in the private sector. I have accepted the position and will continue to live here in Prosser Washington.

I have enjoyed working here in the Benton County Office, with the excellent staff and producers that I interact on a daily basis. This was one of the most difficult choices I have made, I will sincerely wish you all the best and maybe we will cross again.

### **Farm Operating Plan Signatures**

Producers are reminded to pay close attention when signing the CCC-502 form. A CCC-502, the Farm Operating Plan for Payment Eligibility Review form, is required when you apply for many FSA benefits. When signing, you certify that your farm operation is constructed for the year as indicated on the form. CCC-502s are compared with actual operations to maintain program integrity. Although county staff can answer technical questions related to filling out the form, they are prohibited from giving advice on how to set up your operation.

**Si a usted le gustaría mas información sobre alguno de nuestros programas favor de visitar o háblenos a nuestra oficina al 509-786-2313 extensión 2, o nos encontramos en el 415 de la Wine Country Road.**

### **Handicapped Accommodations**

Special accommodation will be made for physically handicapped, vision, or hearing-impaired persons upon request. If accommodations is required please contact us at (509) 786-2313.

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotapes, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

### **Storage Facility Loan Program**

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFLP) is a program where Commodity Credit Corporation provides low cost financing for producers to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities for eligible commodities. Eligible applicants may qualify for the 7-year loan program and may borrow up to \$100,000 per "person." A down payment of 15% is required and a non-refundable application fee of \$45 must be paid at the time of application. Loans may be made for purchasing and installing eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. The need for more storage capacity for your farming operation must be documented. Please contact the County Office for further information

### **Adjusted Gross Income**

Under the 2002 Farm Bill, producers are ineligible for certain FSA program payments and benefits if their adjusted gross income (AGI) is in excess of \$2.5 million; unless, 75 percent of the AGI is from farming, ranching or forestry operations. This is based on an average of the 3 previous years' tax returns. AGI is effective through 2007. Entities and all ownership members must certify individually on form CCC-526 before payments can be issued.

AGI is not to be confused with the gross revenue limit which applies to programs such as CDP and LCP. The gross revenue limit restricts eligibility for benefits if a "person" has gross revenue in excess of \$2.5 million for a previous tax year.