

February 2007

BENTON COUNTY FSA NEWS

Benton County FSA

415 Wine Country Rd.
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Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

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

Office Staff

Bonnie Anderson, Acting CED
Teresa Johnson, PT
Alison Burgett, PT

Farm Loan Staff

Jon Wilson, FLM
Pam Castoldi, FLO
Joyce Nevins-Ginsberg, FLO
509-545-8543

COC Meeting Schedule

Feb 28th, 2007 @ 9:00 AM

Important Dates:

Oct-June - DCP sign-up
Office closed for Holidays:
• Feb 19th

Web Sites

www.fsa.usda.gov – FSA National

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa/> - WA State FSA

<http://www.usda.gov> - USDA



County Committee Election Results

Larry Wilkerson was elected to serve on the County Committee for a 3-year term. Larry will serve with current members *Jeff Freepons* and *David Roseberry*. *Carl Anderson* was elected as first alternate to the Committee. We would like to thank the candidates in this year's election for their willingness to run, and also everyone who took time to vote. The County Committee is your link to USDA, making local control possible in implementing FSA programs.

At the COC's January organizational meeting *Jeff Freepons* was elected Chairperson and *Larry Wilkerson* was elected Vice-Chairperson for 2007.

Spousal Signature Authority

A husband and wife can sign most documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office. There are limited exceptions to the spousal signature provisions for specific programs and for farm loans.

Report of Payments

All producers who received FSA program payments during calendar year 2005 should receive a Form CCC-1099-G, in the latter part of January. This form indicates the amount of payments that you received during the calendar year 2005. The amounts listed on this form have been reported to the Internal Revenue Service.

In addition, producers who had a farm credit loan with the Farm Service Agency in 2006 should receive Form FmHA 1951-9 at the end of January. This is an annual statement of Loan Account and provides useful income tax information such as interest paid in calendar year 2006.

New State Executive Director Announced

Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Teresa Lasseter recently announced the appointment of Jack Silzel to State Executive Director (SED) for FSA in Washington.

Prior to accepting the FSA appointment, Jack served more than 10 years in Washington, D.C. as the agriculture policy director for former Congressman George Nethercutt, and legislative director for Congresswoman Cathy McMorris. He worked closely with House and Senate Agriculture Committee members and staff on issues surrounding re-authorization of the Farm Bill. He served nine years as senior advisor for agriculture and rural affairs, assisting House Appropriations committee members.

A fourth-generation farmer, Jack was actively involved in his family's diversified farm operation near Oakesdale, Washington, where they produced wheat, barley, lentils, dry peas, Kentucky Bluegrass turf seed and hogs prior to his congressional aide service. Jack replaces Jim Fitzgerald, who accepted a position with USDA Rural Development in Washington D.C. in July 2006.

DCP Sign-up Continues

Sign-up for the Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) continues through June 1, 2007. We are accepting sign-ups on an appointment basis. During sign-up, we will also be reviewing all files to complete the Improper Payment Review. This will take additional time to complete this process so we appreciate your patience. Please plan your schedule accordingly as it is taking 2 or 3 times longer than normal to complete the sign-up and the Improper Payment Review.

We will be issuing DCP advance direct payments as time permits during DCP sign-up and Improper Payment Review. The direct advance percentage is only 22 % of the total payment for 2007. The final payment of 78% will be issued in October 2007.

Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP)

NAP:

Producers are reminded that to be eligible for coverage of your 2007 spring planted crops, CCC-471 Application for Coverage must be filed no later than March 15th, 2007 and administrative fees must also be paid. For more information on NAP, please refer to www.fsa.usda.gov/wa. Also, please be reminded that crop losses due to weather related events must be reported to FSA no later than 15 days of the weather event.

Loans & LDP Availability Dates

Request for Loans and LDP's shall be made on or before the final availability date for the respective commodities. The following provides the final availability date for loans and LDP's for the commodities listed.

Commodities	Final Availability Date
Mohair Unshorn Pelts Wool	January 31 st
Barley Honey Oats Wheat	March 31 st
Corn	May 31 st

2007 Loan Rates & Farm Stored Loan Reminders

County loan rates have been announced for wheat, barley, oats and oilseeds. Loan rates for corn will be announced later. The following are loan rates for 2007 in Benton County:

Soft white Wheat	\$2.92/Bu
Hard Red Spring Wheat	\$3.17/Bu
Hard Red Winter Wheat	\$3.34/Bu
Barley	\$2.20/Bu
Oats	\$1.30/Bu

Do not forget to obtain approval from FSA prior to removing grain from a bin that is under Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loan. Check bins regularly for bugs, heating, mold, etc. Remember, it is the producer's responsibility to maintain the quantity and quality of the grain while under loan. CCC is not responsible for losses in quality.

/s/ Bonnie Anderson

Acting County Executive Director

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