

Lower Columbia Area Farm Service Agency

11104 NE 149th St C-500
Brush Prairie, WA 98606
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Phone: (360) 883-1987
FAX: (360) 885-2284

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

Disaster Program Signup Periods Announced

Signup for the Livestock Indemnity Program and the Livestock Compensation Program began September 10th. Signup for the Crop Disaster Program (Quantity losses) will start October 15th. A signup for quality losses will be announced later. Please be aware that in order to qualify for the Crop Disaster Programs you must have obtained Crop Insurance or, in the case of uninsurable crops, you must have obtained Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for your crops. At this time, no ending dates have been announced for any of these programs. For the Livestock Programs, the insurance or NAP provision isn't applicable. Under the Livestock programs there are no late-filed provisions and any late-filed applications will be disapproved. Staff training is scheduled for October 9-11 so it would be greatly appreciated if applications can be delayed until after training. To better serve you, applications will be taken on an appointment basis.

Lower Columbia Area Committee:

Dee Bajema – Skamania Co.
George Thoeny – W. Clark/SW Cowlitz Co.
Fred Aegerter – Wahkiakum Co.
Gary Boldt – E. Clark Co.
Joe Shulke – Greater Cowlitz Co.

Committee Meeting Date:

Last Thursday of the Month

Office Staff:

Sandra Starbuck,
County Executive Director
Amy Paulson, Program Technician

Mark Turner, Farm Loan Manager,
FSA Lynden, WA (360) 354-5658
Jeff Peterson, Farm Loan Officer, FSA
Chehalis, WA (360) 748-0084

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) for Livestock Deaths

LIP provides funding to eligible livestock owners and contract growers (but not both for the same livestock) for deaths of eligible livestock due to a qualifying disaster between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007. The eligible disasters are listed below. To qualify for LIP one must have owned an eligible animal on the day the livestock died and the animal must have died as a result of an eligible disaster. Contract growers (swine and poultry only) are eligible if the eligible livestock was in their possession on the date of death.

Eligible livestock include the following: adult beef/dairy cattle (400 pounds and up), buffalo/beefalo, swine, sheep, goats, chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, deer, equine, reindeer, catfish and crawfish. Eligible animals do NOT include animals kept for recreational purposes, show, pleasure, private consumption or as pets. In addition, yaks, llamas, elk, and unborn livestock that normally would not survive are not eligible. Documentation such as rendering receipts, vet records, insurance documents, must be submitted to verify livestock losses. If no such records are available, third party certifications may be submitted under strict guidelines available from the county office. Participants can only earn benefits for a single calendar year (i.e. 2005, 2006, and up to February 28, 2007.)

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) for Feed Losses

LCP provides funding to eligible livestock owners and cash lessees of certain types of livestock for feed losses that were caused by an eligible disaster between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007. The eligible disaster criteria are listed below. To qualify for LCP, one must meet ALL of the following criteria: 1) had legal ownership or cash leased eligible livestock. Owners and cash lessees are not eligible for the same livestock; 2) suffered a loss of feed due to an eligible disaster; and 3) be an eligible producer. An eligible producer is defined as someone who is a legal citizen or legal resident alien of the US, a Native American Tribe as defined in the Indian Self-Determination and Assistance Act, or any economic enterprise under the Indian Financing Act of 1974. Eligible Livestock are the same as under LIP, except the minimum weight for cattle is 500 pounds instead of 400 pounds. To be an eligible feed loss, the feed must be suitable for the claimed livestock. Grazing losses must be grouped into the following categories: improved grasses (non-irrigated), native grasses (non-irrigated), and forage sorghum (non-irrigated.)

Irrigated pasture, small grain forage crops and grazing land that is rented on a basis of weight gain or cost per head per day/month is not eligible. Benefits will be limited to a 30-day feed supply and participants can only receive compensation for a single calendar year (2005, 2006, or 2007.) Hay which was stored on your farm and later lost due to flooding or another qualifying disaster is eligible. Losses of purchased feed must be documented by submitting invoices.

Eligible Disasters can be found on the web at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov> and then checking the applicable State/County Code. Clark County is 53-011, Cowlitz is 53-015, Skamania is 53-059, and Wahkiakum is 53-069. Following is a table showing the different disaster declarations for our area, which also includes disasters declared by virtue of being contiguous to primary disaster counties. **See page two for definitions and dates of these designations.**

2005 Disaster Designations				2006 Disaster Designations			
Clark	Cowlitz	Skamania	Wahkiakum	Clark	Cowlitz	Skamania	Wahkiakum
M1632	M1632	S2215	M1632	M1632	M1632	M1671	M1632
S2215	S2215	S2252	S2215	M1671	M1641	M1672	M1641
			S2216	M1682	M1671	M1682	M1671
				M1683	M1682	S2380	M1672
					M1683		M1682, M1683

See designation definitions and dates, page 2.

Following is a key to the above disaster designations chart, showing descriptions and applicable dates of the events.

Disaster No.	Description	Applicable Dates	
M1632	Flooding, severe storms, landslides, mudslides, debris flows	12/18/2005	01/12/2006
M1641	Flooding, severe storms, landslides, mudslides, debris flows	11/02/2006	11/11/2006
M1671	Flooding, severe storms, landslides, mudslides, debris flows	12/14/2006	12/15/2006
M1672	Flooding, severe storms, landslides, mudslides, debris flows	11/05/2006	11/08/2006
M1682	Winter storms, ice storms, landslides, mudslides, debris flows	12/14/2006	12/15/2006
M1683	Flooding, winter storms, ice storms	12/14/2006	12/15/2006
S2215	Drought	01/01/2005	continuing
S2216	Hail	09/09/2005	09/09/2005
S2252	Excessive rain	06/06/2005	06/28/2005
S2380	Flooding, excess rain, severe storms, freeze, high winds, hail, heat, excess heat	05/01/2006	continuing

Nominees for Committee Election Announced



Skamania County, Local Administrative Area (LAA) 3 is the area up for election this year, for the Lower Columbia Area FSA Committee. Nominations were accepted until September 7, and have now closed. Skamania received one nominee for a candidate for the FSA Committee elections. Nominated to be on the ballot is Kenneth Bajema of the Washougal area, who raises Belted Galloway cattle and has a commercial holly orchard. Ballots will be prepared and mailed on November 2, 2007, by a National contractor and are to be returned to this office or postmarked no later than December 3, 2007. If you do not receive a ballot and believe you should, please call our office.

Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) Deadlines

NAP is a program that provides protection against weather-related crop losses in a manner similar to crop insurance. The program covers virtually all crops for which insurance is not available. Benefits are paid when losses exceed 50%. NAP is available for virtually all crops that are not covered by Federal Crop Insurance. The following deadlines for obtaining coverage are: September 30 for perennial grazing crops, and perennial forage crops; November 20 for all other perennial crops not listed under September 30 including caneberries and strawberries; March 15 for all spring-seeded crops; and August 31 for all other crops not listed above including value-loss crops such as Christmas trees, turf grass sod, nursery stock and aquaculture. Producers enrolled in NAP are required to file annual acreage reports by June 30 for the year of coverage. In addition, production and yield reports are due June 30th of the year following planting/harvesting (i.e. 2006 yield data was due June 30 of 2007.) Failure to provide production and yield data results in a zero effective yield, which is equal to zero coverage, so it's important to remember to do this. NAP coverage costs \$100 per crop with a \$300 cap per county.

October Payments and other Important Information

October is a busy month for FSA. Payments are issued for the major programs, including DCP, CRP and CREP. Remember to promptly report any changes in your banking information, as incorrect information results in delays of direct-deposits.

Office Closed October 9 thru October 11 – the Lower Columbia Area FSA Office staff will be attending training in Yakima on the new Crop Disaster Program, Livestock Indemnity Program, and Livestock Compensation Program on these dates. We appreciate your patience while we are closed during these dates, and urge you to call and leave a voice mail message, and we will return your call as soon as we are back in the office.

The US 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, Room 326-W Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Ave. SW, Washington D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.