



JULY 2007

CHELAN & DOUGLAS FSA NEWS

Chelan County FSA
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Office Hours
Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Chelan County Committee
Phyllis Gleasman, Chair
Richard Smithson, V-Chair
Kelly Riedinger, Member
Raul Sanchez, Advisor

Douglas County Committee
Roger Wesselman, Chair
Rodney Peterson, V-Chair
Randy Mittelstaedt, Member
Terri Brandt, Advisor
Jesus Limon, Advisor

Office Staffs
Michel Ruud, CED
Mike Cada, FLM
Bill Henry
Anita Perez
Dawn Peaslee
Lori Tabler
Sherry Ramin
Janice Badten
Paul Daling

Next COC Meeting
Tuesday, September 11th –
Douglas @ 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, August 15th –
Chelan @ 8:00 a.m.



ECP REIMBURSEMENT FOR LOSSES DUE TO JANUARY WIND STORM

Cost share payments of up to 75% are available in Chelan and Douglas Counties under the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). This program is designed to address damages caused by high winds which occurred last January. Eligible producers may be reimbursed for conservation expenses related to the disaster. Eligible practices include debris removal, restoring permanent fences, restoring conservation structures and other installations, field windbreaks and farmstead shelterbelts. ECP payment limitation is \$200,000 per person. Cost sharing is also limited to 50% of the agricultural value of the affected land. The local County FSA Committee can approve practices where work has already been started. **Sign-up will be held August 6th – August 30th.** Eligibility for ECP assistance is determined by the County FSA Committee based on individual on-site inspections, taking into consideration the type and extent of the damage. For an appointment to sign up or for additional questions, please contact our offices.

SEND YOUR NOMINATIONS FOR COUNTY COMMITTEE

Here's your chance to guide federal farm programs. **FSA will be accepting nominations for county committee membership through August 1, 2007.** The Chelan and Douglas County Committees have positions open. Committee members make decisions related to commodity price support, conservation and disaster assistance programs. They receive an hourly wage for their attendance and representation at County Committee meetings.

Persons eligible to run for office must:

1. participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA;
2. be eligible to vote in a county committee election; and
3. reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate. (NOTE: In special cases, this requirement may be waived. Check with the local county office.)

FSA encourages all interested producers, including women and growers of different ethnic backgrounds, to seek nominations. Contact the county office for a nomination form. The election period will be from November 2 – December 3, 2007.

COMMODITY LOANS

All 2007 crop wheat, barley, corn, oats, oil seeds, and dry peas are eligible for price support benefits. Producers have the choice between taking a regular 9-month loan or receiving a Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP). Loan rates for 2007 are as follows (small/feed grain rates are in bushels & oilseeds are in hundred-weights):

	Durum Wheat	HRS Wheat	HRW Wheat	SW Wheat	Barley	Oats	Corn	Mustard Seed	Canola
Chelan	----	3.12	3.44	2.84	2.15	1.30	2.47	8.19	6.92
Douglas	3.27	3.12	3.34	2.79	2.15	1.30	2.41	8.32	7.07
Grant	3.27	3.12	3.34	2.84	2.17	1.30	2.41	8.32	7.07
Okanogan	----	3.07	3.34	2.79	2.15	1.30	2.41	8.32	7.07

Producers who use CCC loan programs must maintain beneficial interest (control and title) of the commodity from harvest through the date of repayment. Commodity loans mature at the end of the ninth month following the month of disbursement. The current interest rate for July is 6%. The interest rate changes monthly and applies when the loan is disbursed. The rate remains the same through December 31st and then adjusts to the January rate. Lien searches are required before disbursement of loans. Lien waivers are required for prior crop liens. The final date to request a 2007 crop loan is March of 2008. Grain acquired through purchase, trade, or as wages is not eligible for loan. Please contact this office if you have any questions.

PROPER SIGNATURES

Please remember that when you are signing FSA documents on behalf of an entity (Corporation, LLC, Trust, Estate, etc.) or joint operation, be sure to sign the word “by” in front of your name and your title. If you are signing for a spouse, please sign the word “by” in front of your name and “spouse” following your name. If you are authorized to sign for someone using a Power-of-Attorney, a “by” in front of your name and “P.O.A.” following your name is required. Proper signatures are required in order for contracts and forms to be valid. Documents signed improperly will have to be returned. Please help us to keep the flow of paperwork running smoothly. Give us a call if you have any questions. Thank you for your cooperation!

COMPLIANCE SPOT CHECK CHANGE

County FSA Offices perform a variety of compliance reviews and spot checks to ensure the accuracy of payments and integrity of programs. Selections are made annually through a variety of processes. However, based upon the recommendation of the Office of Inspector General (OIG), changes have been made to this process. In order to increase program efficiency, a nationwide selection process of individual producers instead of individual farms and contracts has been adapted using a statistical sampling method. Producers were selected based on their participation and paid program benefits in CRP, DCP, LDPs, Marketing Assistance Loans and NAP. Thus this new policy means FSA will do fewer, but more comprehensive reviews that are to take place throughout the year at times applicable to certain program activity.

DISASTER PROGRAM

On May 25, 2007, President Bush signed new legislation which included provisions for \$3 billion in agricultural disaster relief. This Act provides funding for a Crop Disaster Program (CDP), a Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), a Livestock Assistance Program (LAP) and several other types of disaster assistance. Dates for sign-up have not been announced.

The CDP will provide funds for production and quality losses suffered to crops in 2005, 2006 or 2007 for crops that were planted prior to February 28, 2007. Only one year of the three can be chosen. Production losses must be in excess of 35% to be eligible. Only producers with crop insurance coverage for insurable crops, or Non-insured Assistance Program coverage for un-insurable crops will be eligible for assistance. Watch for specific details as they become available.

Se habla español en esta oficina de FSA. Si quiere informacion tocante a los programas de crédito, conservacion y otros programas que se administran en esta oficina, por favor visite o llame la oficina de FSA. El número de teléfono es (509) 664-0283 en el condado de Chelan. La direccion se encuentra al frente.