



March 2007

## CHELAN & DOUGLAS FSA NEWS

### Chelan County FSA

301 Yakima Street, Room 303  
Wenatchee, WA 98801  
Phone (509) 664-0283  
Fax (509) 664-0289

### Douglas County FSA

PO Box 489  
Waterville, WA 98858-0489  
Phone (509) 745-8561  
Fax (509) 745-8758

### 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 Mittelsteadt, 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

April 10<sup>th</sup> – Douglas  
April 11<sup>th</sup> – Chelan

### Website Addresses:

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



## EMERGENCY LOANS FOR PHYSICAL LOSSES DUE TO SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS

Winter storms in Chelan and Douglas counties exceeded more than normal crop losses due to adverse weather. The high winds caused significant physical damage to farm structures such as agricultural buildings, pipe, and trees. Loans are available to farmers suffering severe physical losses due to winter storms which occurred from December 14, 2006 – January 15, 2007. Eligible family farmers impacted by these storm events may qualify for FSA Physical Loss Emergency Loans. Producers in Chelan and Douglas counties are eligible. These loans differ from our typical emergency loans in that they are only for repair or replacement of physical losses. The loans have a 3.75% interest rate and payment terms up to 40 years with real estate security. **FSA is accepting loan applications through September 30, 2007.** The federal government does not intend to compete with private business, so applicants must be unable to obtain credit elsewhere to finance their needs at reasonable rates and terms. Applicants must be US citizens or aliens legally admitted for permanent residence, must be established farmers, and must have suffered an agricultural loss. Other eligibility criteria may apply. Please contact the Chelan County Office (administering loans for both counties) at (509) 664-0285 for more information or for a loan packet.

## USDA FUNDS EMERGENCY PROGRAM

The Farm Service Agency in Douglas County recently received national funding for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). Farmers and ranchers who suffered damages from fire last fall in the northern portion of the county, may be reimbursed for conservation expenses related to the disaster. The program makes available cost-share dollars for fencing repair/replacement as a result of the fire. Farmers and ranchers may **sign up for the program at the Farm Service Agency office in Waterville from April 2 through April 20, 2007.** Producers will eventually need to provide documentation for the costs of any work completed.

Eligibility for ECP assistance is determined by the county Farm Service Agency Committees based on individual on-site inspections, taking into account the type and extent of the damage. Cost-share assistance of up to 50 percent of the cost is available; however adjustments for the age of the fencing may apply. The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will provide technical assistance for the program. For additional information or to sign up for ECP, please contact the Douglas County office at (509) 745-8561.

## EMERGENCY COST SHARE FUNDING REQUESTED

Chelan and Douglas County FSA Committees are requesting Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) assistance for producers who suffered losses due to winter storms. ECP is a cost share program, where producers and FSA share in the cost of repairing or replacing certain conservation practices. Cost share for wind breaks, irrigation system repairs, fencing, debris removal, tree propping required due to severe weather conditions are some types of practices that will be requested and may be funded. In normal circumstances, applications must be approved before work has begun. However, given the emergency situation producers may need to conduct work before authority/funding for the program has been received. If you are in this situation, please keep good records and take pictures of work completed. This will help the County Committees in determining if producers meet program qualifications. When/if funding is approved, the program will be publicized.

## DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM (DCP)

Enrollment in DCP for the 2007 contract period began on October 1, 2007 and ends on September 30, 2007 with an enrollment deadline of June 1, 2007. September 30, 2007 is the deadline for late-filed enrollment. **This year the enrollment deadline has been extended to August 3, 2007.** A late-filed fee of \$100 will be assessed for farms that are enrolled after August 3, 2007 but on or before September 30, 2007. Please remember that fruits and vegetables cannot be planted on contract acreage. Advance payments are available at 22% of the total. Please contact this office if you are interested and have not yet signed up.

## FARM CHANGES

To be effective for the 2007 payment year, farms with Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program contracts must have farm reconstitutions requested by August 1<sup>st</sup>. This office must be timely notified about farm changes such as separating out land that has been sold, or adding land that has been purchased. Advance DCP payments will have to be refunded if they were issued prior to the change.

If land changes are not reported and later discovered, the farm may be ineligible for benefits and payment refunds may be required. Therefore, please remember to keep us informed.

## SPOUSAL SIGNATURES

A husband and wife may sign on behalf of each other on most program documents unless denial has been provided to the County FSA Office, in writing. Husbands and wives may not sign for each other on some Farm Loan Program documents.

## PAYMENT LIMITATION ANNUAL NOTIFICATION

Payment eligibility and limitation provisions apply to all producers receiving FSA benefits. To be eligible for these benefits, a producer must be considered "actively engaged in farming" and meet the definition of a "person". Program benefits cannot be paid until these requirements are satisfied. Proper forms must be filed, and in some cases documentation provided before benefits can be distributed. Husbands and wives are usually combined for one payment limitation. However, spouses may be considered separate "persons" if the determination is requested and the applicable requirements are met. All cases are subject to spot check and possible end of year review. Payment limitations for the following programs are:

❖ DCP DIRECT PAYMENTS	40,000
❖ DCP COUNTER-CYCLICAL PAYMENTS	65,000
❖ MARKET LOANS/Loan Deficiency Payments	150,000
❖ CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM/CREP (Including Signing/Payment Incentives)	50,000
❖ NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM	100,000
❖ CROP DISASTER PROGRAM	80,000

## 2007 FAILED CROPS

Acreage reports are required from producers before disposition of the crop, when requesting failed acreage credit. Failed acreage is acreage that was planted in a timely manner with the intent to harvest, but because of disaster-related conditions, the crop failed before it could be brought to harvest. Producers filing for prevented planting acreage must also report their acreage. Prevented planting occurs when a crop **cannot** be planted during the established planting period for the crop because of a natural disaster. A notice of loss must be provided within 15 calendar days after the latter of; the disaster condition occurrence, or the date the damage became apparent. FSA must perform a spot check of the land. If you have failed winter wheat, please remember to come in or call this office before you tear out and/or replant the crop.

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.