



May 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
May 16 – Chelan
8:00 a.m.

May 15 – Douglas
9:00 a.m.

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



CRP WEED CONTROL

If you received a “conditional certification” notification on your CRP contracts last year for re-enrollment or extension, the COC has granted permission in advance to complete the spot treatment activities (including border spraying of 100 feet). Please follow the plans you submitted. **Once you have completed one or more of your maintenance activities, please let us know so we can make a final review.**

Please remember to be diligent in controlling your weeds on CRP contract acreages. For Washington State, the established primary nesting period is April 1st through August 1st. CRP managed haying or grazing is prohibited, as well as any maintenance activity on the established CRP contracts during this time period. CRP acreage in Washington State may not be used for “managed” haying and grazing more than one out of every 10 years (outside of nesting period dates). For maintenance activities, permission can be granted by the local County FSA Committee in advance of the treatment for those areas on your contracts that need some “spot” spraying or mowing. These written spot treatment requests are reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and only approved for the problem areas. Failure to comply with the above dates can result in a violation of your CRP contract for non compliance.

Some CRP contract participants had previously scheduled mid-management practice, which were approved where a modified conservation plan was adopted. These contracts have a primary nesting season of April 1st to June 1st. Managed haying or grazing can be conducted one out of every 4 years for these specific producers only, again outside of this primary nesting season. We would like to thank those producers who are being proactive in keeping their weeds under control.

DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM

Producers with Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program contracts are allowed the flexibility to plant any crop on contracts acreage except fruits and vegetables. Dry peas are exempt from being categorized as a fruit or vegetable. Please contact the office if you have any questions or before you plant fruits or vegetables.

In order to sign-up for DCP timely, **contracts must be signed and returned by August 3rd**. After that date, late filed contracts can be accepted through September; however an administrative fee of \$100 (per contract) must be paid.

ANNUAL ACREAGE CERTIFICATION

2007 crop acreage reports can now be taken. **June 29th** is the last day to timely certify your acreage. Planting dates will have to be provided. Several programs require the filing of an acreage report in order to remain in compliance. They include:

- ❖ Farms with a DCP Contract
- ❖ Farms enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program
- ❖ Crops for which benefits may be requested under the NAP
- ❖ 2006 Crops intended for Commodity Loan or LDPs (grain and oilseed)

If you do not timely report your planted acreage, a measurement service fee will be charged for a field visit to verify crops and acreage. **We are taking appointments for certification. Please contact our offices to schedule yours.**

USDA 2007 FARM BILL PROPOSALS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently printed “America’s Farm Bill 2007 – 2007 Farm Bill Proposals.” The 183-page document provides in-depth details of 65 proposals put forth by the Administration for consideration by Congress. The proposals cover the ten titles of the Farm Bill: commodity operations, conservation, trade, nutrition programs, credit, rural development, research and related matters, forestry, energy and miscellaneous. If you would like a hardcopy of the proposals, you may contact the Farm Service Agency State Office at (509) 323-3000. The proposals and additional information may be found online at the Farm Bill link on the USDA website: <http://www.usda.gov>.

WETLAND SYMBOL CHANGE

Recent concerns about the use of the blue dots to identify wetlands on our new maps have been raised. Some farm organization and individuals have thought that the blue dots are showing a change in the Wetland Conservation Compliance policy or that the blue dots will eventually be revised with an alternative wetland determination. There have not been any policy changes that would impact the wetland boundaries or change how they are currently being managed. To address these concerns, NRCS and FSA have come up with new wetland symbols and a way to delineate between them. These new wetland symbols will be included on all new GIS maps with the following disclaimer:

“Wetland identifiers do not represent the size, shape, or specific determination of the area. Refer to your original determination for exact wetland boundaries and labels, or contact NRCS.”

Wetlands will now be determined in 1 of 3 categories:

- “Restricted Use” will be represented by a red octagon.
- “Limited Restrictions” will be represented with an upside-down yellow triangle.
- “Exempt from Conservation Compliance Provisions” will now be represented by a green square.

ASSIGNMENTS

Producers who are eligible for specified program payments from Farm Service Agency may have their payments or partial payments assigned directly to third party by direct deposit or check if they wish to do so. This allows for a third party to receive payments directly instead of receiving the payment from a producer. These assignments may be for any purpose but only for the amount the assignor is eligible for in FSA program payments less any debt owed to the Federal government. FSA will make every attempt to pay the full amount of the assignment but does not guarantee the payment in full. To assign program payments, producers must use either the web-based assignment application or complete the CCC-36 and both the assignee and assignor must sign the form. To access these forms, assignors and assignees must obtain either a level 2 e-Authentication to access the USDA eForms Website at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/> or come to your local FSA office.

FAXED SIGNATURES

FSA will accept producer’s faxed signatures, without having any other authorization form on file.

FARM STORED LOAN REMINDERS

Do not forget to obtain approval from FSA prior to removing grain from a bin that is under loan. Check bins regularly for bugs, heating, mold, etc. Please remember that it is your responsibility to maintain grain quality.

FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE

The Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 requires FSA and Risk Management Agency (RMA) employees to work together to improve program compliance and integrity within the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA will assist RMA and insurance providers in monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season and will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse about the Federal Crop Insurance Program to RMA. FSA will also assist RMA with auditing claims.

Se habla español en esta oficina de FSA. Si quiere información tocante a los programas de crédito, conservación 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 dirección se encuentra al frente.