



November 2007

CHELAN & DOUGLAS COUNTY FSA NEWS

Chelan County FSA

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Douglas County FSA

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Waterville, WA 98858-0489
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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 Staff

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

Next COC Meeting

Chelan - December 10th
8:00 a.m.

Douglas - December 6th
9:00 a.m.

Website Addresses:

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



COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Election ballots were mailed to all eligible voters in the applicable local administrative area by our Kansas City Management Office. Producers need to sign and return the ballots to the local FSA Office or mail them by **December 3, 2007**.

In Chelan County the following are candidates for election in the Wenatchee River Valley, Local Administrative Area No. 2:

- **Kelly Griffiths** is a third generation pear and apple grower in Cashmere.
- **Richard (Dick) Smithson** is a third generation pear, apple and cherry grower from Peshastin. He also owns forest land. Dick is currently serving on the committee.

In Douglas County the following are candidates for election in the Northeastern portion of the county, Local Administrative Area No. 2:

- **Norman Cavadini** is a third generation wheat farmer and cattle rancher from Pearl Hill. He also has CRP acreage. Norman and his wife farm with their two sons. He previously served a 9-year term on the committee.
- **Connie McKay** is a third generation cattle rancher. She began ranching and farming wheat and hay with her family in the Almira area. She now lives near Grand Coulee. Her cropland acreage is enrolled in the CRP.
- **Larry Nordby** is a third generation cattle rancher. He farms with his father near Mansfield and has land enrolled in the CRP.
- **Roger Wesselman** is a third generation farmer in the Mansfield area. He grows wheat and has land enrolled in the CRP. Roger is currently serving on the committee.

The grower-elected committee is your voice in USDA programs. Committee members work with area residents to maintain the local focus of many USDA programs, inform people of what's available, and help growers understand the programs. Please vote!

CROP DISASTER PROGRAM

The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides payments to producers who suffered damage to their crops. Damage includes decreased yields or prevented plantings. It also includes financial losses due to low quality. The program only covers losses that occurred due to weather related conditions in 2005, 2006 and 2007 crops planted before February 28, 2007. Producers may claim losses for only one year.

To be eligible for CDP producers must have obtained Federal Crop Insurance or coverage under the Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP) for the year in which benefits are requested. Yield losses must exceed 35% in order to be eligible. For additional information concerning this program, you can visit the FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> or contact our offices. Please call for an appointment if you would like to sign up. No ending date for this sign-up has been announced.

LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM

LCP provides funding to eligible livestock producers for feed losses that were caused by an eligible disaster between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007. The disaster events which caused the loss must be tied to a disaster designation. In Chelan and Douglas Counties the only qualifying disaster event was the 2005 drought. Eligible producers must meet all of the following criteria:

- Had legal ownership of or cash leased eligible livestock
- Suffered a loss of feed due to an eligible disaster
- Be a legal citizen or resident alien of the U.S.

Eligible livestock include the following: adult beef/dairy cattle (400 pounds or more), buffalo/beefalo, swine, sheep, goats, chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, deer, equine and reindeer. Eligible animals do not include those 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. Participants can only obtain benefits for a single calendar year.

Please contact our offices for an appointment or if you have any questions. No sign-up ending date has been announced.

LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM

LIP provides funding to eligible livestock owners and contract growers (but not both for the same livestock) for animal deaths due to a qualifying disaster event between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007. To qualify for LIP a rancher must have owned an eligible animal on the day the livestock died. Eligible livestock include the following: adult beef/dairy cattle (400 pounds or more), buffalo/beefalo, swine, sheep, goats, chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, deer, equine and reindeer. Eligible animals do not include those kept for recreational purposes, show, pleasure, rodeo stock, private consumption or as pets. In addition yaks, llamas, elk and unborn livestock that normally would not survive are not eligible. Documentation must be submitted to verify livestock losses. If no such records are available, third party certifications may be accepted. Guidelines for these certifications are very strict, and are available at our offices. Participants can only obtain benefits for a single calendar year. Please contact us for an appointment to sign up or if you have questions.

FOREIGN INVESTORS 90 DAY REPORTING RULE

Foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land are required by law to report your land holdings, acquisitions, leases of 10 years or more, and land use changes within 90 days of these transactions. Report these changes to the local FSA office. Failure to report these changes can result in a civil penalty of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of your interest in agricultural land.

ACCESSIBILITY

Persons with disabilities who require special accommodations may contact the county office. FSA is committed to making programs accessible to all customers.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITH FSA

Employment opportunities for the USDA Farm Service Agency and located within Washington State are listed on the FSA website <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>. Vacancies are posted on the home page and from the "Search for Job Openings Link" on the same page. Anyone interested is encouraged to frequently monitor these websites. FSA is dedicated to serving farmers and ranchers.

USE OF FSA LOAN FUNDS

If the cost-share requirement on a conservation practice is preventing you from adopting the practice or a new tractor is needed on the farm, FSA may be able to help with the financing. FSA provides low interest, long-term loans to producers who have difficulty obtaining commercial credit.

Direct Farm Ownership Loans may be used to purchase land, construct buildings or other improvements and apply soil and water conservation practices. FSA also has a Beginning Farmer Down Payment Program to help purchase a farm or ranch.

Producers may use Direct Operating Loans to purchase livestock, poultry, equipment, feed, seed, farm chemicals, and supplies; to apply soils and water conservation practices and to refinance indebtedness with certain limitations. When a county or contiguous county receives a disaster designation, FSA makes Direct Emergency Loans available. These loans may be used to restore or replace essential property, pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year, pay essential family living expenses, reorganize the farming operation or refinance indebtedness with certain limitations.

FSA also makes available Guaranteed Loans available through commercial lenders. Guaranteed Farm Ownership and Guaranteed Operating Loans can be used for the same purposes as the corresponding Direct Loans but they may also be used to refinance debt. For more information about FSA loan programs, contact our Chelan County office.