



September 2006

CHELAN & DOUGLAS COUNTY 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
Donald Jagla, V-Chair
Richard Smithson, Member
Jesus Limon, Advisor

Douglas County Committee

Leroy Thomsen, Chair
Roger Wesselman, V-Chair
Rodney Peterson, Member
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
Diana DeFord

Next COC Meeting

October 10th – Douglas
At 9:00 A.M.

October 11th - Chelan
At 8:00 A.M.

FEDERAL LOAN FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR AGRICULTURAL DISASTER RELIEF

Agricultural producers who suffered 30 percent or more crop loss due to adverse weather conditions since April 1, 2006 now may be eligible for federal financial assistance. The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently designated Chelan and Douglas Counties as primary agricultural disaster areas, making low-interest emergency loans available in each county and surrounding counties.

Under the Emergency Loan program, affected producers are eligible for emergency loans at 3.75 percent interest to repair or rebuild farm buildings or machinery, clear debris from fields so they can be replanted, or replace harvested crops that were lost. Loan amounts are for actual losses. Payment terms are up to 40 years with real estate security. FSA is accepting loan applications in county offices through May 1, 2007.

Because the federal government does not intend to compete with private business, applicants must be unable to obtain credit elsewhere to finance their needs at reasonable rates and terms.

Applicants must be United States citizens or aliens legally admitted for permanent residence, must be established farmers and must have suffered an agricultural loss in a designated or a contiguous county. An applicant's farm must be family-sized. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of programs available, in addition to the emergency loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity. **At this time no grant type crop disaster programs are available.**

Interested farmers may contact our Wenatchee office at (509) 664-0283 for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for Emergency Loans and other programs. Additional information is also available online at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov/fsa.asp>

CRP CONTRACT EXTENSIONS

All participants with expiring 2007 CRP contracts which were offered an extension must return their forms to our offices for approval by September 30, 2006. Failure to do so will result in the contract expiring on September 30, 2007. All participants on the original contract are required to sign the CRP-1F extension form. If you have not sent your forms to us, please do so immediately!

Extension and re-enrollment forms for expiring 2008 CRP contracts are now beginning to be mailed out. If your acreage included a large amount of weeds, you will be notified and are required to satisfactorily respond to our offices in writing before the extension will be considered.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The nomination period for the 2006 County Committee Elections closed on August 1st. The candidates for these elections will be:

- ♦ **Chelan County Candidates:** Kelly Riedinger and Raul Sanches.
- ♦ **Douglas County Candidates:** Terry Brandt, Jesus Limon and Randy Mittelstaedt.

The election will take place by mail-in ballot, from mid-November through December 4th. More information on the candidates will be provided in the next County Newsletter. Thanks to those who have been nominated and stated their willingness to serve on the County Committee.

NONINSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM DEADLINE

The Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP) provides catastrophic coverage on crops considered to be non-insurable by USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA). Participants with NAP coverage are reminded that a written notice of loss (Form CCC-576) for crop losses must be reported promptly to our office within 15 days after a disaster event occurred, or when damage to the crop became evident. This is very important as failure to timely report disaster occurrences could make a crop ineligible for any NAP benefits. Lastly, if the disaster affected NAP crop is not going to be harvested a field appraisal prior to destruction or abandonment of the crop is required, which is the same procedure that is followed with crop insurance.

Producers may now purchase NAP coverage for 2007. The cost of the coverage is \$100 per crop, not to exceed \$300 per producer per county. Upcoming sales closing dates for coverage are as follows:

- ♦ **September 30** — Forage (hay and seed) crops and perennial grazing coverage.
- ♦ **November 20** — Fruit crops.

FINAL DATE FOR DCP LATE FILED APPLICATIONS

September 30th is the final contract deadline for 2006 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program. Contract revisions (changes of owners or operators) with all signatures must be obtained and returned to our office no later than September 29, 2006.

NEW LOAN PROVISIONS

FSA commodity loan provisions have recently been revised to make loan applications much simpler and faster. In the past, lien searches were required for all loans and a delay of several days was usually experienced. Under the new provisions, lien searches are only required for loans in excess of \$25,000 or in cases where the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) would be considered at risk. CCC is considered at risk when making a loan to a producer with a history of past loan violations.

STATE FSA DIRECTOR GOES TO WASHINGTON DC

Former Washington State Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency, James Fitzgerald, has accepted a position as Chief of Staff with the Rural Development Agency in Washington DC. Mr. Fitzgerald will oversee day to day operations of Rural Development. District Director, Robert Nordstrom, from Yakima has been appointed as Acting State Executive Director and will serve in that position until a replacement for Mr. Fitzgerald has been announced.

OFFICE CLOSURE

This office will be closed on October 9, 2006 in observance of Columbus Day.

Se habla español en esta oficina de FSA. Si quiere informacion tocante a los programas de credito, 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.