



Franklin County FSA News

Franklin County FSA

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Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Mike Corrales– Irrig. (LAA-1)
*Terri Hayles– Irrig. (LAA-2)
(2007/2008 Election
District)*
Kurt Harder– Dryland (LAA-3)

Office Staff

Farm Programs:

Bruce Clatterbuck, CED
Lynda O'Connor, PT
Bonnie Riehle, PT
Patty Welch, PT
Patsy Beck, PT (Temporary)

Farm Loan Program:

Jon Wilson, FLM
Pam Castoldi, FLO
Joyce Nevins-Ginsberg, FLO
Beth Farias, PT



QUICK LOOK KEY DATES AND REMINDERS:

- Next County Committee Meeting is **12/10/07**
- Livestock Compensation Program – call for appt.
- Crop Disaster Program – call for appt.
- Office is closed for Thanksgiving **11/22/07** with limited staffing on Friday.

2007 Crop Loan Rates:

Wheat Varieties –

HRS = \$3.12/ HRW = \$3.28
SWW = \$2.89

Barley - \$2.16/Oats - \$1.30

Corn - \$2.38 (\$85/ton)

FSA WEB SITES:

State: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>
National: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>
USDA: <http://www.usda.gov>

TIME TO VOTE FOR YOUR COUNTY COMMITTEE

Ballots for committee election in Local Administrative Area 2 (Southwest Franklin County) have been mailed out to eligible voters. While Terri Hayles is the only nominee for this district, we encourage you to vote in support of the dedication she's provided this county for a number of years, first as a COC advisor and then an elected member three years ago. Write-in ballots are also an option and will be accepted after we verify the candidate is eligible to run. **Please remember that ballots are not accepted if signed with power of attorney. Finally, remember to sign the ballot return envelope and return them no later than December 3, 2007.**

Due to a scheduling conflict (and contrary to what was announced in the last newsletter and on the ballot itself), ballots will be counted on Monday, December 10, 2007. We apologize for this unavoidable schedule change.

NO FARM BILL TO DATE

The prior farm bill expired September 30th of this year and we are still awaiting a new one. Most of the programs we administer come under farm bill legislation. The House of Representatives passed their version during the summer and the Senate is nearly done with theirs, but there will still be debate regarding the two versions before a bill finds its way to the President. Consequently there is no Direct and Counter-Cyclical program to administer and thus no sign-up (at least for the present). Additionally many of our eligibility forms are on hold for 2008 since they could change under new legislation. We hope the wait is not too long and we'll inform you of FSA's program role as quick as a bill is signed into law.

2007 FINAL PAYMENTS NEARLY COMPLETE

We're seeing light at the end of the tunnel in regards to closing out 2007 program responsibilities and producer payments. Thank you for your patience and quick response when paperwork completion and correction has been necessary. While it has been a year of greater detail and painstaking review, the recent national review results are showing 2007 to be more positive than the prior year. Again, we owe a great deal of gratitude to you for your cooperation with us in this effort. Thanks from all of us here in the office!

CROP DISASTER PROGRAM SIGN-UP

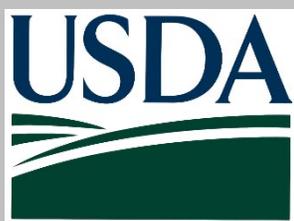
Authorized under the "U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriates Act, 2007" (*whew!*), the 2007 act provides approximately \$3 billion in agricultural disaster aid for America's farmers and ranchers. We are beginning the process of sign-up appointment scheduling for production loss applications only. When contacting our office, please provide your farm operation name, contact phone number, crop and year or years for application. Some of the rules and yield and rate factors are still being established. Additionally, FSA cannot pay on any applications until the rules for the program are published in the Federal Register which has not occurred for crop or livestock programs at this time. We anticipate CDP rules will not be completed until after the first of the year.

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses from natural disasters and related conditions that occurred in 2005 and 2006 and for 2007 crops if the crop was planted before Feb. 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in any of those years must choose only one year to receive benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple crops as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. We encourage applications of more than one year if losses were experienced in more than one year. Assuming both year's causes of loss and other eligibility requirements are met for each application, the computer will calculate out the more favorable year for payment.

Only producers who obtained Federal crop insurance coverage or coverage under FSA's Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.

Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35% to be eligible for CDP production loss. The payment rate is set at 42% of the established price. The payment quantity for quality loss will be equal to the lesser of: (1) the actual production of the crop affected by a quality loss; or (2) the quantity of expected production of the crop affected by a quality loss. Crops under quality loss must have suffered at least a 25% economic loss as one of the first criteria for quality loss eligibility. CDP assistance, together with any crop insurance indemnity or NAP payment received for the same crop and including the value of the crop production not lost, must not exceed 95% of the total value of the crop absent the disaster. **Remember, sign-up for quality loss has not been announced.** There is an \$80,000 program limitation per "person".

Currently, there is no sign-up deadline for the program, but it will be publicized in a future newsletter and through regular media channels when it's announced.



LIVESTOCK DISASTER

We are accepting applications for the **Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)** related to the 2005 drought that was officially declared for the county from January 1, 2005 through September, 2006. The program provides benefits to livestock owners that were adversely impacted by lost non-irrigated range (feed value). The program pays on the lesser of the value of the range feed loss or livestock calculated feed needs. Eligible livestock in the application include cattle, sheep, and domesticated ranch horses (not recreational use animals) to name a few. Eligible applications are those where eligible livestock were in an eligible disaster county as of January 1, 2005. Like the CDP, there is an \$80,000 per person program limitation. Payments will be factored by .61 or 61%. Certifications of pasture loss will be limited in the application by the maximum pasture loss established for the period for the county and approved by the state FSA Committee. It's anticipated that most payments would be based on a livestock per head basis and for the above listed animals would be with the following rates:

- Adult Cows and Bulls = \$10.66
- Non-Adult Beef = \$ 8.00
- Equine (all) = \$ 7.89
- Sheep (all) = \$ 2.67

Sign-up is ongoing with no announced deadline at this time. Call for an appointment. Like CDP, payments cannot be issued for approved applications until the rules for the program are officially published in the Federal Register.

The County Committee has reviewed the eligible disaster declarations for the county for 2005-2007, concluding that there should be no livestock mortality as a direct result of drought or any other eligible disaster condition that occurred between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007. However, if you've documented livestock losses due to disaster conditions and believe you could be eligible for the **Livestock Indemnity Program**, please call for an appointment. LIP provides per head benefits for animals that have died due to an eligible disaster condition in a disaster declared county up to a separate \$80,000 per person program limit.

CRP FALL WEED CONTROL/SEEDING PRACTICES

We've seen some great strides taken in the area of weed control in a number of contract stands this year and we commend those of you actively pursuing this obligation of the CRP contract. This is a reminder to a number of contract holders that have fall/winter weed control conservation plans that they need to perform their harrowing, mowing, burning and/or spraying operations as scheduled and report completion of these practices (by contract number). Reseed operation plans need to be followed carefully. Concerns have been raised about dry seeding conditions this fall, particularly to the north end of the county. Follow the plan and if needed, contact our office for seeding extensions. Practices eligible for cost share must show they were followed according to the plan.

FOREIGN LANDOWNER NOTIFICATION

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. Foreign investors, who buy, sell or hold a direct or indirect interest in U.S. agricultural land must report their holdings and transactions to the Farm Service Agency within 90 days of the closing. Failure to timely file an acreage report can result in a penalty with fines up to 25% of the fair market value of the Ag. Land. County government offices, realtors, attorneys, and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

SPOUSAL SIGNATURES

Husbands and wives may sign Farm Program documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse. There are important exceptions to this rule (such as in the case of most Farm Loan Program documents and forms). Check with county office staff for details.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Some producers often find it very difficult to complete FSA paperwork timely. Sometimes the complexity of the forms or the difficulty for retired farm landowners to travel, create a barrier to completing FSA forms on time. The answer may be to designate someone you trust with Power Of Attorney to act on your behalf for FSA business. FSA has a specific form for that purpose called FSA-211 which is available online or at the local office. Not every form can be signed using the FSA "POA" form (such as with the Committee election ballot form), but most of the usual programs, contract, and eligibility forms can be signed with the FSA-211. To be accepted, the form has to be completed properly, be legible and the grantor signature notarized or witnessed by a FSA employee in any FSA office located near you. Contact your local FSA office for more details.

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 monitor these websites frequently. FSA is dedicated to serving farmers and ranchers.

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotapes, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).
USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.