



# Franklin County FSA News

## Franklin County FSA

1620 Road 44  
Pasco, WA 99301  
Office Phone: 509-545-8543  
Office Fax: 509-547-2007

### Office Hours

Monday – Friday  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

### County Committee

Mike Corrales– Irrig. (LAA-1)  
Terri Hayles– Irrig. (LAA-2)  
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:

**SERVICE CENTER  
CLOSED – November  
10 & 23, 2006 (with light  
staffing around the  
Thanksgiving Holiday)**

### LAA-1 ELECTION CALENDAR:

- Ballots to be mailed to eligible district voters by: **November 3, 2006**
- Ballots to be returned to this office by: **December 4, 2006**

### Franklin County 2006

#### Commodity Loan Rates:

SWW Wheat -	\$3.00/bu.
HRS Wheat -	\$3.20/bu.
HRW Wheat-	\$3.22/bu.
Barley-	\$2.12/bu.
Oats-	\$1.28/bu.
Corn-	\$2.33/bu.

### FSA WEB SITES:

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



## OCTOBER IS PAYMENT MONTH

The month of October's a very busy month at all FSA offices. CRP annual rental payments as well as final Direct and Counter Cyclical program payments are being issued. We are also trying to clean up due CRP cost share payments, Trade Adjustment Assistance payments for Concord grape producers, pea Loan Deficiency Payments as well as DCP counter-cyclical payments. Because October is such a busy month, we would greatly appreciate if you would call ahead to schedule an appointment to handle any program activity. Keep in mind the less interruptions, the quicker the payments for everyone get out the door. Thanks!

## COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION ANNOUNCED

The nomination period for election area LAA#1, (the northwest irrigated district) is over with one nominee choosing to serve. Mike Corrales was nominated to serve a third term. No other nominations were received; therefore, Mike will appear on the ballot, along with the opportunity for electors to write in the name of other persons willing to serve on the committee if elected. The election period will be from November 3 – December 4, 2006 with ballots being mailed directly to all eligible voters in LAA#1 in early November. Ballots need to be returned to our office, or be postmarked if mailed, not later than December 4<sup>th</sup>. Ballots will be counted here at the service center conference room on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006 beginning at 9:00 a.m. The election is open to the public.

## NEWS AND NOTES

**DCP past, present & future:** In addition to 2006 final direct payments **presently** being issued, we also issued the following final counter-cyclical payments tied to **past (2005)** program participation (remembering that the final rate is reduced if you requested both the first and second advance "CC" payments):

- Barley final payment rate = \$.13
- Corn final payment rate = \$.35

**Future (2007)** participation (through the most recent DCP legislation change) requires FSA pay a **reduced advance payment of 22%** of a farm's calculated earnings (down from 40% last year).

### **Non-insured Assistance Program and Federal Crop Insurance Deadline Nears:**

2007 NAP coverage for berries, tree fruit, grapes, asparagus, honey and other perennial crops (not including forage and perennials with the 9/30 deadline) must be purchased by **November 20<sup>th</sup>**.

This same deadline holds true for berries, tree fruit and grapes under the Federal Crop Insurance program. Remember, that generally we (FSA) do not sell NAP for the same crop that can be covered under Federal crop insurance. But there's always an exception isn't there? Sometimes a tree fruit crop (for example) can't be covered by Federal Crop because a young orchard does not yet meet insurable levels, which would allow for NAP eligibility.

See your crop insurance agent (an agent listing is available in our office) for FCIC coverage products and our office for NAP program information.

**NAP Forage change:** We believe we contacted all 2007 forage NAP purchasers about this change but need to get the word out to all producers. Effective for 2007 and later, **first year forage crops** are not eligible for NAP coverage (this includes grass, alfalfa and clover seed crops).

### **Are You One and the Same?**

**Farm Loan Programs and Farm Program** benefits are extended to eligible producers in the farming community. We have been notified recently that producers need to be farming under the same name or doing business as the same entity when involved in both programs (with limited exceptions). Notices are being sent out to producers where this is not the case so they can rectify the situation to be eligible for continued benefits. It is advisable that both divisions of the agency be consulted before changing the farm business structure, as eligibility rules for each program area differ and the producer may cause an unexpected adverse result.

### **New Commodity 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 a day or two was usually experienced. Under the new provisions, lien searches are only required for loans in excess of \$25,000 or in cases where CCC (through FSA) would be considered at risk. Historical loan violations would be considered risk criteria in the application of this new rule. An aggregate number of loans (for a crop year) exceeding \$25,000 will require a lien search. Producers are cautioned that an incorrect certification of "no lien holder" will result in the loan(s) and the producer being in violation.

### **Milk Income Loss Program "X"tension (MIICX)**

\*Dairy Producer Reminder\*: Dairy producers are reminded that in order to change the start month for crop year 2007, producers will need to come into the office no later than the 14<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the elected start month. (Example: A producer wants a new start month of December, 06. He'll need to come into the office by November 14 to complete the election.)

### **E-gov – Online Programs**

Give our office a call or complete your on-line program registration by accessing: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov>. Receiving your e-authentication account will allow you to access your program participation information, review your program payment history, and enroll in DCP or apply for LDP's.

"Return Service Requested"

**DISASTER DECLARATION NEWS:** USDA Secretary Johanns recently designated Franklin County, and an additional 11 counties in Washington State under a natural disaster declaration as a result of adverse weather conditions including excessive rainfall occurring from April 1, 2006 and continuing. This designation allows farmers and ranchers meeting eligibility requirements to apply for low interest emergency loans. Please contact the Farm Loan staff in this office for more information. No Crop Disaster Program has been announced at this time.

**CRP REX - "A Work In Progress":** Questions have been raised about the timing of required weed control on CRP contracts and stand acceptance, and whether "no news is good news". Let me answer the later right up front, "not necessarily", as few notifications have been sent out (though we do expect that most REX contracts are or will be in good standing to warrant REX approval). A brief explanation of where we're at and what the process is, should hopefully address these concerns. First of all, at the moment we are busy cranking out final program payments which is our number 1 priority, so efforts at the REX process has unfortunately slowed as of late. We were one of the last counties flown through the helicopter review process with a nominal number of ground checks done prior to and after the flight was completed, so please be patient as we work our way through this arduous, but important task. Please note: A latter discovered failed stand (found by field check) after REX approval, still means a "non-compliant" condition that must be addressed by the County Committee and you. Early analysis of the helicopter review has resulted in the following Committee planned activities that begin now and will continue for some time:

- 2007 expiring contracts are first on the County Committee priority list. We are in the middle of three varying notifications mentioned below or have moved on to extension approval based on producer returned concurrences and signed paperwork.
- 2008-2010 expiring contract notifications will follow as we evaluate whether the helicopter inspection will be accepted and/or field spot checks are conducted. Inspections for "hot spots" (weak/poor stands and other issues) identified by the aerial review will be conducted first and addressed with applicable notifications as stated below. **Therefore in this whole process, do not expect that all your REX contracts will be processed together.** This would be ideal, but unfortunately we have other issues affecting the order of completion.
- Notifications:
  1. Contracts identified by aerial inspection with no stand exceptions but "lots of weeds" will be sent a letter identifying the **contract number** (very important in this whole process) that will include a contract field map and a conservation plan that will identify control measures that must be exercised to bring the contract into a compliant condition (with the contractual rules that state that weeds must be controlled). The plan will be generic in that all will appear similar based on the broad understanding of the weed problem experienced in 2006. It is the participant's responsibility to review the plan and consult our office if something more site specific is required (including the knowledge that an area has failed and needs reseeding). It is the participant's responsibility to review all fields on the contract for weed infestation even though perhaps only several are highlighted as being identified by the helicopter. **Control of weed infestations from neighboring fields and within your CRP stands is required. Don't wait for our notification to take care of problem areas. Be a good neighbor.**
  2. Contract acreages identified by the aerial review or through ground inspection as having a: "failed stand" (i.e. not meeting the overall criteria of .5 plants per square foot), non-permissive use (unauthorized grazing, etc.), missing annual food plot, missing water wildlife facility (guzzler) or other non-compliant condition or contract violation, will require a different letter (one of several for differing scenarios). This letter will essentially report to you the failure, provide a map with the exception area identified and a request for additional information outside the case file (or NRCS's file) that would attest to "good faith efforts" at complying with the contract (pertinent to the exception). You will be afforded the opportunity to send or drop off data supporting good faith and/or meet with Bruce or the County Committee to explain the situation. The Committee will evaluate all information and the case file and determine if standard payment reductions apply, a conservation plan is needed (with reseed measures, etc.) and/or if termination with or without refunds is applicable.

The Committee is encouraging a proactive approach. Call our office or call for an appointment preferably after October, to provide "good faith" effort information, applicable contract and field numbers for stand areas you know have failed and for which you are requesting reseed (REX or waterway contract). Requests must be evaluated by the County Committee.

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).