

Franklin County FSA News

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

Incumbent, Terri Hayles, is our one and only nomination received for this year's election to the FSA Committee for the southwest irrigated Local Administrative Area. Prior to serving her current 3-year term as a County Committee member, Terri was an official advisor to the Committee and as such brings much FSA Committee experience to the table. You might ask if we need an election. Yes, we do. Even though there is only one candidate on the slate, we do still hold an election as "write-in" candidates are allowed. Please note the following important election deadlines and please vote if you receive a mailed ballot and are in LAA #2. **Thank you (ahead of time) for your participation!**

November 2, 2007 – Ballots mailed to eligible voters.

December 3, 2007 – Last day to return ballots.

December 6, 2007 – Election Day (ballots are counted)

CLOSING OUT THE OLD & OCTOBER IS PAYMENT MONTH

We have numerous program year-end closing activities to be completed before issuing the bulk of our 2007 program year payments. We're busy completing the last of the eligibility form reviews and will be contacting producers as is needed to complete new or update prior year filed forms so the October payments can be made. This includes a number of outstanding forms previously mailed to producers but not returned. **Because it is such a busy time, and we need to close out 2007 and also soon deal with the announced Disaster Programs, we strongly encourage producers to call ahead to schedule appointments for any FSA business, (including sign-up's, submitting CRP cost share requests, making farm record changes, etc.). Your prompt response to form needs and courtesy in calling first is greatly**

appreciated!

DISASTER PROGRAMS ANNOUNCED

Three disaster programs have been announced for upcoming sign-up's. These programs are:

- Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) – (compensation for feed losses in disaster designated and contiguous counties).
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) – (compensation for livestock losses in disaster designated and contiguous counties)
- Crop Disaster Program (CDP) – (compensation for crop quantity and quality losses).

Losses for the three programs must have occurred between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007. Below are the basics we know at this time with many more details to be ironed out in addition to training we will be receiving in mid October.

Livestock Disaster:

Official disaster declarations are tied to eligibility for the two livestock programs. Drought caused much of the feed loss for most of Washington State during the above period (including Franklin County), but loss from other disasters may be eligible (depending on declaration status). Producers could be eligible for both programs which carry separate program limitations, but only one eligible year can be selected for each program (and it can be the same year). For all intents and purposes, it appears that participation for livestock programs will probably be limited to the LCP for dryland range losses experienced in 2005. [For those with good memories, this LCP program is not at all the same as the LCP we administered several years ago.]

Crop Disaster:

Official disaster declarations are not required for participation. The CDP provides payment to producers who suffered quantity and quality losses to their crops. The program covers losses that occurred in 2005 or 2006 or 2007 (if planted or prevented to be planted by Feb. 28th). Producers may claim losses for multiple crops but they are limited to one loss year and must have obtained Federal Crop Insurance or coverage under FSA's NAP for the crops and year they are claiming benefits for. Yield losses must exceed 35%. Losses are not automatically considered valid. Producers must adequately document causes of crop loss (quantity or quality). There are many more rules to be ironed out with this CDP program.

Additional general information about these three programs can be found at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>. A national press release announced the Livestock programs sign-up starting September 10th and October 10th for the CDP. We've been told that enrollment for quantity losses in the CDP will come first (though we have no details about this). There are no announced sign-up ending dates. Completing 2007 program payments and required year-end activities will be an office priority. Please do not call now with CDP questions as we have very little in the way of answers and as stated, closing out 2007 is a must. **We are taking calls for the livestock programs (particularly dryland range grazing operations). When calling, provide your livestock operation name, contact producer name and most commonly used phone contact number.**

ASSIGNING PROGRAM PAYMENTS TO THIRD-PARTIES

Producers eligible for specified FSA program payments can choose to have them assigned directly to a 3rd party, normally a bank. This done with a CCC-36 Assignment of Payment form. Both the producer and the 3rd party must agree to this arrangement, and it is imperative that both parties communicate concerning changes in the operation that may affect the payment amount each receives, as privacy laws prevent FSA from reporting any changes directly to the 3rd party without authorization from the producer. For more information consult the following website: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.



Franklin County FSA

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Pasco, WA 99301
Office Phone: 509-545-8543,
or 8544 or 8546
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)
(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 **9/27/07**
- DCP Contract Signature Deadline is **9/30/07**
- NAP forage seed and hay deadline is **9/30/07**
- FCIC coverage deadline for winter Wheat and Mint is **9/30/07**
- Office is closed for Columbus Day on **10/8/07**.

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>



"Return Service Requested"

FSA Farm Loan Program: Financing Conservation Projects

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) have worked together to make conservation programs more available to beginning, small, and limited resource farmers as long as the producer has some farmland being cropped. As producers move from initial contract development into the implementation stage under NRCS' Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), many face the inability to acquire the initial capital investment of their cost-share portion needed for contract implementation.

To help producers implement conservation measures, FSA has several loan programs available to assist with up-front costs. FSA makes direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit otherwise. A primary objective of FSA's farm loan programs is to assist small, beginning, and socially disadvantaged (minority and female) producers. In fact, a portion of FSA's loan funds are reserved for beginning and socially disadvantaged producers. These loan programs are not new and have been used successfully in conjunction with conservation programs throughout the United States.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov and www.nrcs.usda.gov.

Youth Loans

With county fairs and livestock shows occurring all over the state, Parents, 4-H leaders and FFA advisors and interested young people are reminded that we have a direct loan program that provides financing for rural youth and their agricultural related projects. Contact the Farm Loan staff for a helpful brochure and/or to talk to a loan officer about the program.

New Farm Bill?

Congress, the Administration, farm groups, commodity groups and other interested parties continue to debate the next farm bill. The current bill expires this year. At this time, our office does not have any information regarding new farm bill provisions that would take effect in 2008.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM - Misl. News and Notes

(Other County) - CRP Emergency Grazing has been announced for Wallowa County, Oregon and Asotin and Klickitat Counties in Washington. Ranchers may graze their livestock in these counties for a 10% reduction of the CRP rental payment. CRP participants may offer their eligible CRP in these counties to other livestock owners and charge them a fee of no more than the applicable 10% rental payment reduction. "Emergency Use" of CRP has been authorized for affected wildfire producers in Asotin, Douglas and Klickitat counties (haying or grazing) at no reduction. If you are a producer in one of these counties, contact the applicable county FSA office for more information. In a new policy for this year, ranchers **with their own emergency declared county** may now graze their livestock on CRP within a 210 mile radius of that or any other nationally approved CRP Emergency Grazing county. The 210 mile areas can combine to form larger eligible areas. If interested, contact your local FSA office for a copy of the current map and eligibility requirements. Franklin County ranchers are not eligible to emergency graze Franklin County CRP or any other county CRP (unless they have an interest in that other county), but Franklin County CRP participants can offer their (eligible certified) CRP for grazing to ranchers from another declared Emergency Grazing county. Emergency haying may also be authorized in declared counties (contact the specific county to see if this is an option).

Wind Turbines & CRP: Producers contacted to place anemometers on their CRP land and/or to contract with a wind turbine company are required to contact the county FSA office before these activities occur. FSA needs to be in the loop regarding these potential uses of CRP before they get too far along, so that all parties are informed and understand related rules that are applicable to the CRP program and no violations of the contract occur. A copy of any proposed contract will be required.

Carbon Credit Contracts: This is a relatively new concept to CRP, at least in this area, but is coming more and more to the forefront of the program. As with turbines, contact our office before entering into any Carbon Credit program contract directly related to CRP acreage and be ready to provide a copy of the contract as well.

Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Deadlines

Please note the following NAP sales closing dates (some producers are still required to purchase 2008 coverage to remain linked to the 2003/2004 Crop Disaster Program):



Crop Names	Final Date To Obtain Coverage
Perennial grazing crops; perennial forage crops; forage seed crops (Examples; alfalfa hay, grass seed)	September 30
All perennial crops not listed in the 9/30 category (berries, fruit crops not allowed FCIC coverage, asparagus) and honey	November 20



Federal Crop Insurance - News and Notes

Contact a private insurance agent regarding the 9/30 sales deadline for wheat crop coverage, a new Mint coverage product available in this county with sign-up deadlines of 9/30/07 and 3/15/08, a new cattle Livestock protection product (recently released) that covers market loss and the November 20th deadline for grape and tree fruit coverage. A list of FCIC private agents can be found at <http://www.rma.usda.gov> and you can email warso@rma.usda.gov with questions about the new programs mentioned above.

Handicapped Accommodations: *Special accommodations will be made for the physically handicapped, vision-, or hearing-impaired person upon request. If accommodation is required, please contact Bruce Clatterback at 509-545-8543.*

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).