



JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2008

Kittitas County FSA News Today

Kittitas County FSA

607 Mt. View Avenue
Ellensburg, WA 98926
Office Phone: (509) 925-8585
Office Fax: (509) 925-8591

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Kittitas County Committee

Rick Haberman, Chair
Brent Dekoning, Vice Chair
Bart Bland, Member
Barb Weber, Advisor

Office Staff

Brent Reitmeier, CED
Betty Cervine, PT

Farm Loan Staff

(509) 454-5746
Lisa Ruff, FLM
Scott Smith, FLO
Crispin Garza,
Service Center Liaison
Sandy Christensen, FLP Tech.



Next COC Meeting

February 19, 2008
9:00 AM

Important Dates

February 18, 2008
Office Closed in
Observance of:



WA State FSA Website

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

National FSA Website

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

National USDA Website

<http://www.usda.gov>



2007 COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

We would like to express our appreciation to those who took the time and effort to vote in this year's county committee election. We are especially thankful to the candidates who showed dedication to the FSA committee system by agreeing to run for the committee position in Local Administrative Area 3. Ballots were counted on December 6, 2007 and the following were elected:

- Bart Bland County Committee Member
- Gene Tomich Alternate Committee Member

Elected county committee members have an outstanding opportunity to serve both farmers and the public. The programs they administer directly affect the well-being of our farmers.

We are proud of the county committee's record of service to farmers and of this system of farmer-elected leaders. We look forward to welcoming the newly elected members as part of our FSA team.

2007 EARNING STATEMENT

Form CCC-1099G, Report of Producers Payments should be mailed around January 31, 2008 to all FSA participants who received a FSA payment in 2007. These reports are mailed from FSA's Kansas City office so please watch your mail for your report. If you do not receive it, or it does not match your records, contact our office immediately so that corrective action can be taken. It is important that the 1099G's be accurate since the data is reported to the Internal Revenue Service.

CROP DISASTER PROGRAM (CDP) SIGNUP CONTINUES

Signup for the CDP program began October 15, 2007. The CDP program covers losses for crop years 2005, 2006, and 2007.

(Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under FSA Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of the loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.)

The Risk Management Agency (RMA) provides FSA with an electronic download of all applicable insurable crop loss information for processing CDP applications. However, there may be situations where a producer may be eligible for CDP but was not paid on a loss under crop insurance. CDP covers losses in excess of 35%, but under CAT coverage, Federal Crop Insurance covers a 50% loss. Therefore, you may not have been paid by crop insurance, but you would be eligible for CDP.

CDP loss calculations are based on the higher of either the County CDP yield or your proven yield with crop insurance, also known as your APH. If your proven yield is higher than the county yield you can take your proven yield times 65%. If your actual yield for the given crop was below that 65% level you may be eligible for loss assistance under CDP. Please contact the office if you want to make an appointment to apply for CDP.

LIVESTOCK PROGRAM SIGNUP CONTINUES

Signup began September 20, 2007 for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Due to the 2005 drought, the Kittitas County LCP program is the most applicable of the livestock program options. If you suffered a pasture loss due to the drought in 2005 you will want to contact us to see if you qualify. The deadline for the program signups has not yet been announced. Please contact the office if you want to make an appointment to apply for LCP or LIP.

HOW FSA FUNDS LOANS

Each year Congress appropriates money for FSA farm loans as part of the USDA budget. The funds are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning October 1 until September 30 of the following year. Each state is allocated a portion of the funds. When funds run low, the national office may pool money from the states and redistribute it based on need. If FSA runs out of loan funds before the end of the fiscal year, Congress may pass a supplemental appropriations bill to make additional money available. If Congress does not do so, loan applications wait until the next fiscal year to be funded.

FSA reserves loan money for two specific categories: under-represented groups and beginning farmers. By law, FSA sets aside a portion of funds for socially disadvantaged applicants. Applicants may include women, African Americans, Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asians and Pacific Islanders.

The law also requires FSA to reserve loan funds for use by beginning farmers. The funds remain targeted in the guaranteed programs until April 1 of each year and until September 1 of each year in the direct programs.

Loans are funded in date order, based on the date the applications are received. Submitting an application sets your place in the waiting line for funds, so it is advantageous to apply early in the fiscal year. FSA still accepts, processes, and approves loan applications even after funds are exhausted. Approved applications are held until money becomes available or the applicant expresses a desire to withdraw the application.

Emergency loans are funded on a first-come, first-served basis when a natural disaster is declared. Funds are kept at the national office. For more information about FSA loans, contact the farm loan staff in Yakima, WA, (509) 454-5746.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR OWNERSHIP

Please notify your local FSA office of all deaths, land ownership and address changes as soon as possible so your farm records can be updated timely. A copy of the applicable recorded deed should be provided to complete the land ownership changes.