



MARCH/APRIL 2007

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

Bart Bland, Chair
Rick Haberman, V-Chair
Brent Dekoning, 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

April 11, 2007
9:00 AM

Farm Loan Staff in Ellensburg Office

April 11, 2007
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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>



● 3rd Annual Women & Agriculture Conference March 23 – 24, 2007

The 3rd Annual Statewide Women & Agriculture Conference, *Cultivating Our Reality*, will be held on March 23 – 24 in East Wenatchee, Washington. The conference is being conducted by Washington State University Extension to give women the tools and information they need to help their family farm operations and agribusiness succeed. The conference begins with a social and networking event on Friday evening followed by a full-day of featured speakers and workshop sessions on Saturday. For conference program and registration information, visit the web site <http://www.ncw.wsu.edu/> and click on Women & Agriculture Conference. WSU Extension is sponsoring the event in cooperation with the WSU Western Center for Risk Management Education, Chelan/Douglas County & Washington State Farm Bureau, County Insurance & Financial Services and more than 40 other businesses, lenders and commodity groups.

Jane Eckert, a nationally known speaker from the St. Louis area, will speak on “Agritourism: A Reality That Grows on You!” and “Making Money Without Going Off Farm”. The program also includes ten morning and afternoon sessions on a variety of topics geared to farm family and business issues. Valoria H. Loveland, Washington State Director of Agriculture will present the closing session.

The conference is open to the public. Those planning to attend need to register by March 16th. The cost is \$20.00, lunch and snacks included. Registration fees postmarked after March 16 are \$30. For more information, contact WSU Extension at 509/ 745-8531.

● FSA’S AG LENDING PROGRAM

Each year Congress allocates dollars to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to operate an Agricultural Lending Program. We presently have priority funding set aside to assist beginning farmers with their farming operations. Also, a portion of the funds is specifically allocated for minorities and women. While FSA farm loans are available to all qualified applicants, by setting aside funds specifically for minorities and women, it ensures that they will receive a portion of available funds.

FSA has direct lending authority in which FSA makes a real estate or operating loan directly to farmers and ranchers. FSA also puts a federal guarantee on loans made by banks and other agricultural lending institutions. Funding availability relies on Congressional authorizations. Contact the Yakima County Farm Service Agency office at 509-454-5746 if you have questions about availability of loan funds or other questions about FSA’s loan programs.

The Farm Service Agency has farm loans available for farmers who cannot obtain credit elsewhere and also for rural youths participating in 4-H clubs, FFA, or similar organization. A member of the Farm Loan staff from the Yakima County FSA Office will be in the Kittitas County Office on Wednesday April 11, 2007 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to answer questions and discuss the loan program. If you are in need of a farm loan or already have a loan with FSA but have questions on your account please stop by. Appointments are not necessary. If you are unable to come by on this day, feel free to contact the Yakima County FSA loan staff at (509) 454-5746 ext. 2 with any questions.

● **MARCH 31 DEADLINE FOR '06 CROP LOANS & LDPS**

Do you have any unsold 2006 crop wheat, barley or oats? If so, March 31, 2007 is the deadline for requesting CCC Marketing Assistance loans and LDPs on these commodities. Marketing Assistance loans are available on farm-stored or warehouse-stored commodities at a 9-month term. Loans taken in March will mature December 31, 2007; however, the loans can be repaid at anytime during the 9-month term. The loans are nonrecourse, meaning the collateral can be forfeited to CCC at loan maturity to satisfy the loan.

● **ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE-LITE CROP INSURANCE**

Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite (AGR-Lite) is a whole farm revenue protection package offered by the Risk Management Agency. It provides protection against low revenue due to unavoidable natural disasters and market fluctuations. Most farm raised crops, animals and animal products are eligible for coverage. The level of coverage is based on a producer's 5-year historical IRS farm income information and a producer has the option to decide what percentage of their adjusted gross income to guarantee. March 15, 2007 is the final date to obtain new application/enrollment policies. For more information, please go to <http://www.rma.usda.gov>.

● **PAYMENT LIMITATIONS**

Program participants are reminded of the requirements to timely and accurately file payment limitation forms. A new form is required to be done if there has been a change in the farming operation. Entities are required to provide names, addresses, and ID numbers of members. The members of entities are required to designate which permitted entities are to receive USDA benefits. Spouses may be considered separate "persons" for payment limitation purposes if applicable requirements are met. The payment limitation status date for 2007 is April 1, 2007. Payment limitations per "person" per program year are \$40,000 for DCP Direct payments and \$65,000 for DCP Counter-Cyclical payments; \$75,000 for LDP and market gain payments; \$50,000 for CRP payments; \$100,000 for the Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP); and \$80,000 for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP). Also, producers are ineligible for certain FSA program payments and benefits if their Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) on an average of the 3 previous year's tax returns is in excess of \$2.5 million, unless 75% of the AGI is from farming, ranching, and/or forestry.

● **ASSIGNMENT & JOINT PAYEES**

Changes to your farming operation that impact the name and ID number under which you are paid may require you to update assignment (CCC-36) or joint payment (CCC-37) authorizations you may have with a financial institution. It is a producer's obligation to inform their financial institution of any changes and to ensure a new assignment or joint payment authorization is completed.

● **ALWAYS REMEMBER...**

Please report any changes in your operation to the County Office as soon as possible. These changes would include: addresses, phone numbers, shares in joint operations and corporations and any land transactions.