



MAY/JUNE 2007

Kittitas County FSA News Today

Kittitas County FSA

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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

May 16, 2007
9:00 AM

Allen Aronica's Retirement Open House

Friday, June 1st 1 – 3
@ USDA Service Center

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>



■ ALLEN ARONICA'S RETIRING

Allen Aronica, Soil Conservation Technician is retiring after 20 years of service with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in the Ellensburg Field Office. Allen began his federal service with the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) in 1970 where he completed a training program within Washington State and later accepted a County Executive Director position in Clarkston, Washington. 1973 - 1978 Allen returned to the Ellensburg area working for the Forest Service. 1979 – 1988 Allen worked at various jobs logging, farming, and milling in the Ellensburg area. Allen began working as a Soil Conservation Technician with the Soil Conservation Service in 1988. Allen plans to spend his new found time with his children, hunting, fishing and working on the farm. Allen also plans to return to NRCS as a volunteer assisting with snow survey during the winter months.



Everyone is invited to join us in a big send off on Allen's last day June 1, 1:00 – 3:00 in the Ellensburg Field Office. Come join the fun and share a story or two.

■ 2007 ACREAGE CERTIFICATIONS

The Kittitas County Farm Service Agency is now scheduling appointments to complete this year's acreage reporting. As you're aware from previous years, acreage reporting is important for the following reasons:

- determine compliance with farm programs
- verify compliance with HELC and WC provisions
- collect data for FSA and other USDA agencies for program decisions
- determine eligible producers for loans and LDP's
- determine crop and producer eligibility for NAP

For your convenience we have scheduled a set date and time for you. However, understand that the scheduled time may or may not work in your particular situation. If not, simply give us a call and we will reschedule a more flexible time for you.

The Kittitas County FSA office has completed a new set of computer-generated maps for each farm. In this process we are able to certify acreage calculations using the new computer software and imagery. Although these maps are new and acreage should be more precise, we will be allowing additional time to review boundary line work and farm eligibility records with you.

■ 2007 DCP PROGRAM SIGNUP

Producers who will be operating farms in 2007 with crop acreage bases established under the Direct and Counter Cyclical Payment (DCP) program may signup now. This appointment can be coupled with the appointment date and time we made for you to come in and certify your acreage. There are two types of payments available for producers who participate in the DCP program:

Direct Payments - Regardless of the price of commodities, direct payments will be issued annually on 85% of the crop acreage base times the payment yield. Direct payment rates include 52 cents/bu for wheat, 28 cents/bu for corn, 24 cents/bu for barley and 2.4 cents/bu for oats. 22% of the direct payments can be requested at sign-up.

Counter-Cyclical Payments - Will be paid if market prices fall below certain levels during a 12-month marketing period for each commodity. Depending on the comparison between national average market levels and target prices, it is possible that counter cyclical payments could be paid 3 times during the crop year.

■ **USDA 2007 FARM BILL PROPOSALS AVAILABLE**

The US Department of Agriculture recently printed "America's Farm Bill 2007 Farm Bill Proposals." The 183-page document provides in-depth details of 65 proposals put forth by the Administration for consideration by Congress. The proposals cover the ten titles of the Farm Bill: commodity operations, conservation, trade, nutrition programs, credit, rural development, research and related matters, forestry, energy and miscellaneous. If you would like a hard-copy of the proposals, you may contact the Farm Service Agency office at (509) 323-3000. The proposals and additional information may be found online at the Farm Bill link on the USDA website: <http://www.usda.gov>.

■ **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.

■ **ASSIGNING PROGRAM PAYMENTS TO THIRD-PARTIES**

When producers request such a service, FSA will issue all or portion of a producer's program payment to a third-party, such as a lender. This can save time and effort for a producer and any third-party with which the producer has an agreement. However, it is important that the producer and third-party communicate concerning any changes in operation that may affect the payment amount each receives. Privacy laws prevent FSA from reporting any changes to the third-party, or assignee.

FSA will make every attempt to pay the full amount designated by the producer on an assignment form. FSA will only pay the third-party to the extent the listed producer earns the payment. In situations where the assignee or the producer receives a portion of the other's payment, they are responsible for working together to resolve any differences.

If you would like to sign up for Assignment of Payment or would like more information on assigning program payments, contact the FSA office.

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