



NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 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

December 6, 2007  
9:00 AM

### Important Dates

#### November 12<sup>th</sup>

Veteran's Day  
Office Closed

#### November 22<sup>nd</sup>

Thanksgiving Day  
Office Closed

#### December 3<sup>rd</sup>

Committee Elections Ballots  
in LAA # 3 are due

### 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

Ballots for committee elections were mailed out November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007. This year's nominations are for a committee member to represent producers in Local Administrative Area (LAA) # 3. This area better known as Upper County/ Westside encompasses West Ellensburg, Thorp, Cle Elum, Roslyn, Ronald, and Easton to the King County border. Bart Bland currently represents this area and is eligible for re-election. Ballots must be returned by December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007. Please remember to sign your ballot return envelope. The following have been nominated and have agreed to serve if elected to the FSA County Committee. You will be casting your ballot for either:

- **Bart Bland**, a 2<sup>nd</sup> generation farmer who farms in the Manastash area and raises timothy, sudan grass, sweet corn, and spring wheat.
- **Gene Tomich**, a 2<sup>nd</sup> generation farmer who farms off the Thorp Highway and raises both timothy and alfalfa.

The FSA farmer-elected committee system has been a key factor in the successful administration of farm programs. The Secretary of Agriculture considers the committee very important to the success of the farm programs Congress has provided. The committee members assist in carrying out programs assigned to the FSA.

The committee is responsible for the overall direction of the operations, the County FSA office and the administration of the various farm programs at the county level.

Elected county committee members have an outstanding opportunity to serve both farmers and the public. The programs they help administer directly affect the farmers so your vote is very important.

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 member.

## 2005 – 2007 CROP DISASTER PROGRAM DETAILS

Signup appointments for the 2005-2007 Crop Disaster Program (CDP) are being accepted. A signup deadline has not been announced yet. The 2005-2007 Crop Disaster Program has two components – a quantity loss component and a quality loss component for crops that were planted or prevented from being planted from 1/1/05 through 2/27/07. Program eligibility is limited to producers who had either Federal Crop Insurance through Risk Management Agency (RMA) or NAP (Non-Insured Assistance Program) coverage. To qualify for quantity loss benefits, one must have suffered a weather related crop loss (including weather related insect or disease infestations) of at least 35%. Loss determinations will be based on the higher of one's historical yield or the county average yield. To qualify for quality losses, one must have suffered a 25% economic loss. Participants have the option to receive disaster benefits for only one crop year (i.e. 2005, 2006, or 2007).

For producers who received a RMA or NAP indemnity payment, in general, records used to calculate the indemnity will be used for determining CDP benefits. If an indemnity was not earned, actual production records will need to be provided. Due to the complexity of quality loss issues, the county office should be contacted to determine the records needed to complete an application on an individual basis.

## ● ANNUAL NOTICE TO PRODUCERS

Annually, FSA is required to notify producers of several program provisions. Please review the following provisions so that one does not jeopardize their ability to take advantage of FSA programs.

### ***Signature Authorizations:***

As a community property state, in the State of Washington, spouses can sign for each other as individuals without any specific written authority. If this authorization is not desired, a written request to rescind the implied authorization must be submitted; otherwise your spouse can sign on your behalf. Partnerships and entities are required to have signature authority information on file before any signatures can be accepted.

### ***Continuous Forms:***

The forms for determining payment eligibility (including adjusted gross income certification) and for certifying compliance with “Sodbuster-Swampbuster” provisions are continuous forms, meaning if nothing changes, updates are not necessary. However, if there are any changes, updates will need to be filed. Changes requiring updates include addition/deletion of land; draining, dredging, filing or clearing land; changing the status of the participant (i.e. forming/dissolving a partnership/entity or adding new members); or a change in income status. In short, if there is any type of change, FSA should be notified and we will determine if an update is needed.

### ***Direct Deposit:***

Every year we issue several payments to bank accounts that have been terminated or changed. This often occurs when banks restructure causing account numbers or routing numbers to change. Please keep us posted on these changes so your payment goes to your account and not “Electronic La La Land”.

### ***Payment Limitations:***

The following programs have annual limitations on the amount a “person” (as determined by the County Committee) can earn in a given program year: DCP direct payments - \$40,000; DCP counter-cyclical payments – \$65,000; total of gains from marketing loans and LDP’s for all commodities except wool, peanuts, mohair, and honey - \$75,000; total of wool, peanuts, mohair, and honey - \$75,000; Conservation Reserve Program annual rental payments including signing incentive payments and practiced incentive payments - \$50,000; NAP - \$100,000; Trade Adjustment Assistance - \$10,000; Livestock Indemnity Program, Livestock Compensation Program and Crop Disaster Program - \$80,000.

### ***Farm Constitutions & Landowner Designation:***

When part of a farm is sold, crop acreage bases can be allocated based on how the buyer and seller agree. Without an agreement, bases will be prorated to the resulting farms based on cropland ratios on historical base contribution ratios. We have seen parent farms “lose” base when 10 - 20 acres are sold for rural home sites and the acreage that is sold is never enrolled.

## ● JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Employment opportunities with the USDA Farm Service Agency can be found at the following websites: [www.usajobs@opm.gov](http://www.usajobs@opm.gov) or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa/stateoffice.htm> (Washington State).