

March 2007

KLICKITAT COUNTY FSA NEWS

Klickitat County FSA

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Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Kelly Kreps, Chair
Karl Enyeart, Vice-Chair
Susan Powers, Member

Office Staff

Kent Harris, CED
Betty Fahlenkamp, PT
Norene Bartkowski, PT

Next COC Meeting

March 28, 2007
9:00 AM

Dates to Remember

- March 15- NAP Application Deadline
- March 31- Loan/LDP deadline for wheat, barley, oats and honey

FSA Web Sites

State- <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>
National- <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>
USDA- <http://www.usda.gov>



LAA #1 ELECTION RESULTS

The Klickitat County FSA Committee (COC) met December 11, 2006 at 9:00 AM to count ballots for Local Administrative Area (LAA) #1. The county office received a total of 76 ballots. All 76 of these were valid. The results of the election are as follows:

Susan Powers – COC Regular Member

The term of office is three years, beginning January 1, 2007. The Klickitat County FSA Committee would like to thank the above producers for their willingness to participate in the election process and to everyone who took the time to vote.

We would also like to thank retiring regular member Bill Mains for his 14 years of dedicated service.

PAYMENT LIMITATIONS

Most programs administered by FSA have maximum payment limitation per "person" per program year. The most common annual payment limitations include:

- \$40,000 for Direct Payments (DCP)
- \$65,000 for Counter-Cyclical Payments (DCP)
- \$75,000 for Gains on Market Loans or Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP)
- \$100,000 for the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)
- \$50,000 for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Program benefits, subject to a payment limitation cannot be provided to any producer until the County Committee (COC) makes the necessary payment eligibility determinations. In order for producers to become eligible for benefits, they must file a Farm Operating Plan on form CCC-502. The plan specifies information needed by the COC to determine if the applicant is a "person" and is "actively engaged in farming" such as, who provides the land, capital, equipment, labor and management for the farming operation. For farms owned or operated by corporations, partnerships, joint ventures, trusts or estates, the COC reviews the Farm Operating Plan to determine how many "persons" will be allowed. Corporations or trusts, and partnerships must also provide the names, addresses and ID numbers of the members. Once determinations have been made, annual filings are not required as long as no changes occur. Producers whose gross income exceeds \$2.5 million per year may not be eligible to receive program payments unless at least 75% of that income is from farming, ranching or forestry. Producers must certify on form CCC-526 that they do not exceed the gross income limit before they are eligible for payments.

FARM CHANGES

Please report any changes in your farming 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.

2007 DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM

Signup for the 2006 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) began on October 1, 2006 and will continue through **June 1, 2007**. Late filed applications will be accepted through September 30, 2007. However, a fee of \$100 is required for any late filed application. Remember, you must sign an FSA-509 Contract each year in order to receive payment. Producers can elect to take 22% of the annual direct payment immediately with the remainder being paid next October.

CRP MAINTENANCE

The primary nesting season in the State of Washington is from April 1 through June 1. During this period you must have prior approval by the County Committee before performing weed control activities on certified stands. Outside the nesting period you are encouraged to treat weed problems without prior approval. Stands that have not been certified are not under the same restriction. Weed control is a contractual requirement on CRP land. A portion of the annual rental payment includes a \$5 per acre, per year incentive to perform maintenance. Failure to control weeds could result in annual rental payment reductions or possibly contract termination. To help maintain the vigor of late contract stands there is now a 50% cost-share available to perform practices such as mowing, burning, harrowing, fertilization and herbicide application. These practices must be approved by the County Committee before work begins.

2007 ACREAGE CERTIFICATIONS

Beginning now through June 30, 2007 the county office will be taking appointments for 2007 acreage reports. Acreage Reports are required for farms with CRP, Producers wanting to participate in Commodity Loan and LDP programs, farms participating in DCP and for the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP). In other words, virtually everyone who participates in a program through this office will need to report his or her acres to remain in compliance. Producers who have 100% of their cropland acres in CRP will be mailed an acreage report for signature.

AGRICULTURAL FOREIGN INVESTMENT DISCLOSURE ACT

Foreigners who have bought or sold agricultural land in the United States are reminded to report the transaction to the local FSA office within 90 days. To avoid Federal penalties and monetary fines, foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land must report their holdings, acquisitions, dispositions, leases of 10 or more years and land use changes to FSA within 90 days. Failure to file the AFIDA report could result in a civil penalty of up to 25% of the fair market value of the interest held in the agricultural land.

DIRECT DEPOSIT CHANGES

If your account number has changed or you have changed banks please inform the County Office as soon as possible. We have had many transmission failures the past few months because of account changes that the county office was not informed of. **This delays your payment!**