



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY NEWSLETTER

GRAYS HARBOR, LEWIS, and PACIFIC COUNTIES

May 1, 2007

Phone 360-748-0084 Ext. 2 1554 Bishop Rd, Suite 100; Chehalis, WA 98532-8710 FAX: 360-740-9745

Wa. State FSA web site: www.fsa.usda.gov/wa/

National FSA web site: www.fsa.usda.gov

Office Hours:

Monday- Friday: 8:00 a.m – 4:30 p.m
 Except Holidays (New Years Day, Martin Luther King B-day
 President's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day,
 Columbus Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, & Christmas)

Staff:

Lyle Heimbigner, County Executive Director
 Mark Turner, Farm Loan Manager (360) 354-5658
 Jeff Peterson, Farm Loan Officer
 Lynne White & Ruth Wynn, Program Technicians

Twin Harbors – Lewis FSA Committee: Byron Bentson, Vic Boekelman, Robert Quinby, Sam Zion, and Leo Zylstra. Advisors: Liz Anderson and Anne Aho. The committee meets monthly on Thursday of the 2ND full week of the month. Meeting dates are subject to change. Please contact the office to verify meeting dates.

CROP ACREAGE REPORTS DUE JUNE 30TH

Crop acreage reports are due June 30th. While it is recommended that all farmers report their acres, reports **must be filed** by producers who desire to receive **commodity loans or loan deficiency payments**; by producers who are enrolled in the **Conservation Reserve Program/Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program**; by **Non-Insured Assistance Program** participants; and by **Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program** participants. (Note: for DCP all cropland must be accounted for.) It is recommended that all producers report their crop acres to establish a record of their planting practices for future reference and to maintain eligibility for future programs. **Crop reports filed after June 30th are subject to late-filed fees (\$46 minimum).** Producers are reminded that acres and shares reported to FSA should be the same as those reported to Risk Management for crop insurance purposes. Producers who report crop acres are reminded that planting dates will need to be provided. **It should be noted that the office has mailed several reports for signature and have not received them back. If you received a crop report in the mail and have not returned it, you have NOT filed your crop report.**

CROP REPORTS NEEDED TO OBTAIN WOOL/MOHAIR PAYMENTS

Producers can receive Market Assistance Loans or Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's) for their wool and mohair. Wool/Mohair producers who desire to receive price support benefits need to be aware of the requirement to file a crop acreage report. The deadline for filing crop acreage reports is June 30th. Crop reports received after June 30th will be subject to late fees (\$46 minimum).

LDP rates for ungraded wool have ranged from 18-26 cents per pound since last October. Mohair rates ranged between zero and 88 cents per pound. To be eligible for price support benefits, a producer must have produced/sheared domestic wool or mohair during the calendar year for which benefits are requested. In addition, one must retain beneficial interest (title and control) in the wool/mohair through the date of application. Producers can request benefits for 2007 through January 31, 2008. Producers interested in obtaining price support benefits should complete form CCC-633EZ as soon as possible to avoid inadvertent loss of beneficial interest

CORN AND SMALL GRAIN PROGRAM SIGNUP EXTENDED

Signup for the 2007 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program was extended from June 1st to August 3rd. If your farm has a grain base for wheat, barley, oats, or field corn, you could be earning direct payments up to \$50 per acre or more. In addition, counter-cyclical payments could be earned if market prices fall below target levels.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER

FSA is seeking qualified farm owners, operators or tenants who are interested in serving on the county committee. This fall, elections will be held in Local Administrative Areas (LAA) One and Two. LAA1 includes the coastal area of Grays Harbor & Pacific counties lying west of Range 10 and includes the Quinault Indian Reservation. LAA2 includes the inland area of Grays Harbor not included in LAA 1. While the August 1 deadline for nominations is a long way off, why wait for the busy spring/summer season to toss your name or your neighbor's name into the hat? With a new farm bill being drafted that will most likely cover a wider range of commodities, it will be an excellent time to become involved on the FSA committee. Nominating forms can be obtained from the county office.

DO YOU KNOW OF A YOUNG PERSON INTERESTED IN A LIVESTOCK OR OTHER AG. PROJECT???

Funding up to \$5000 for various agricultural projects is available for individual youth who reside in rural areas. To qualify, youth must be at least 10 years old but not older than 20. Youth must also be sponsored by a project advisor such as a 4-H leader or an FFA advisor. Parental permission is also required. Over 40 successful youth loans have been processed in the Chehalis office in the past four years. Now is the time to initiate that spring project! Details about this program can be obtained by contacting Jeff Peterson @ (360) 748-0083.

SALES, LEASES, ADDRESSES, & MORE

We need your help. We cannot provide the service which you are entitled to without good information. Please inform the office if you sell or purchase property; if you add or drop leases; or if your address changes. It is important to keep your farm records up to date so that we can help you take advantage of federal programs to the maximum extent possible.

FOREIGN HELD AGRICULTURAL LAND AND FORESTLAND TO BE REPORTED

The Agricultural Foreign Investor Disclosure Act requires any foreign person/entity to report to FSA within 90 days when U.S. ag/timberland is bought, sold, or title is transferred in any other manner. Failure to report timely can result in penalties up to 25% of the fair market value for the land. Form FSA-153 is available for reporting.

CRP/CREP MAINTENANCE REMINDERS

Participants enrolled in CRP/CREP are reminded the primary nesting season runs from April 1 through August 1. Activities taking place on CRP/CREP acres should be limited during the nesting season. Participants are reminded that while noxious weeds must be controlled, if activity is necessary during the nesting season, authorization should be obtained from FSA. (Note: this requirement is not necessary on 1-3 year old tree stands that have not been certified as being "established".) Producers are also reminded there is to be no haying, grazing, or harvesting of any kind (including the salvage of firewood from downed trees) on CRP/CREP acreage.

COMMODITY PAYMENTS FOR small GRAINS, FIELD CORN, AND HONEY

Market Assistance Loans (MAL) and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) are available for honey, field corn, and small grains. LDP's are available only when market prices are below the applicable loan rate. Commodity crops harvested as hay, silage, or green chop are eligible for LDP's. Producers are reminded that to qualify for price support benefits, beneficial interest (ie, title, control, risk of loss) must be held at the time price support benefits are requested. If interested in obtaining price support benefits, form CCC-633EZ (page 1) should be completed as soon as possible to avoid inadvertent loss of beneficial interest (ie one sells or feeds a commodity prior to requesting price support benefits). In addition, producers need to file a crop acreage report to be eligible for price support benefits. Deadlines for requesting price support payments are March 31st for small grains and honey, and May 31st for field corn. LDP rates can be found at (www.fsa.usda.gov) and clicking on the link "View Daily LDP Rates" in the upper right hand corner under "I Want to".

VALUE-ADDED PRODUCER GRANT PROGRAM

If you are an agricultural producer or if you know of an agricultural producer(s) who could benefit from adding value to your/their product, please help us in sharing the news of funding available to assist with planning activities or working capital to enter into a new market or expand an existing value-added market for your/their product(s). The maximum grant award for planning activities this year is \$100,000 and for working capital it is \$300,000. \$19.3 million is available through the national competition. There is a 50% match requirement to be eligible for the funding. The application guide and reference materials may be obtained at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/vadg.htm>. If you are interested in making an application for the program, please contact the USDA Rural Development office in Olympia (Carlotta Donisi) at (360) -704-7724. Applications must be postmarked by May 16th to be eligible for this year's funding.

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Special accommodations will be made for those who are physically handicapped or who are vision or hearing impaired. If special accommodation is needed, please contact the county executive director at (360) 748-0083 extension 106.

ON-LINE FORMS AVAILABLE

Need a form and don't want to wait for the mail?? Most forms are now available on-line and can be obtained by accessing the national FSA web page (www.fsa.usda.gov) and clicking on the "Forms" button toward the top of the page.