



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE  
**FARM SERVICE AGENCY NEWSLETTER**

GRAYS HARBOR, LEWIS, and PACIFIC COUNTIES  
October 20, 2006

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Wa. State FSA web site: [www.fsa.usda.gov/wa/](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa/)

National FSA web site: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

### COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS UNDERWAY

Ballots will be mailed by November 3rd for the upcoming county committee election that will be held on December 4<sup>th</sup>. This year, only Local Administrative Area No. 4 (LAA#4) will be holding an election. LAA#4 takes in the western third of Lewis County and includes all land west of the E/W meridian. The E/W meridian runs through Ethel and is 1 mile west of Onalaska. Anyone who is of minimum voting age (18) and who owns or operates a farm or shares in the risk of producing a crop or livestock is eligible to vote. Eligible voters who do not receive a ballot can obtain one by contacting the county office. **Producers are reminded to sign their ballots.** Ballots must be post-marked or hand delivered to the county office no later than December 4th. Write-in candidates are permitted. Candidates nominated by producers include:

**Anne Aho** – raises sheep/wool & Christmas trees NW of Onalaska - previously owned/operated a small dairy

**Don Osborn** – raises cattle and produces hay SW of Boistfort

**Sam Zion** – raises cattle and produces hay and grain NE of Toledo

### FARM OPERATING LOANS AND FARM OWNERSHIP LOANS AVAILABLE

The government fiscal year began October 1, 2006 and it is anticipated funding will be available for all of the loan programs. The Direct Loan program has a loan limit of \$200,000 for annual, intermediate and long term loans. The guaranteed loan program has a lending limit of \$899,000. The guaranteed program is offered through local banks that participate in the program. Ask your banker if this is something that could be beneficial to you.

FSA continues to offer Youth Loans for a maximum of \$5000 that can be used for any 4-H or FFA project. If you have a 4-H or FFA member that might be interested in taking their project to the next level have them contact us.

### DIFFICULT TIMES – EMERGENCY LOANS AVAILABLE

Agricultural producers in Lewis County who suffered at least a 30 percent crop loss due to adverse weather conditions since April 1, 2006 may be eligible for federal financial assistance. Under the Emergency Loan Program, affected producers are eligible for emergency loans at 3.75% interest to repair farm buildings/machinery, clear debris from fields, or replace damaged crops. Loan amounts are limited to actual losses with repayment terms up to 40 years with real estate security. Applications can be filed through May 1, 2007. To qualify for the Emergency Loan Program, applicants must not be able to obtain credit from normal lending sources at normal terms.

### MILK INCOME LOSS CONTRACT NEWS

**October Payments:** Due to software issues, October payments will be delayed at the very least until the end of October. **Startup Changes:** Dairy producers are reminded that requests to change their milk startup month must be filed on or before the 14<sup>th</sup> of the month before the: 1) month originally selected by the dairy operation as their MILCX production start month; 2) newly selected MILCX production start month. EXAMPLE: May 2006 was the original startup month chosen. – the dairy operation can choose a later month up to April 14<sup>th</sup>; If an earlier month is desired, the operation has until the 14<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding the desired startup month to request a change. (ie Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> if December is to be the new startup month. **New Contracts:** New dairy operations can still enroll in this program.

### 2007 DIRECT & COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM (DCP)

Signup for the 2007 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program began October 2<sup>nd</sup> and will run through June 1<sup>st</sup>. Late-filed signups can be accepted from June 2<sup>nd</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>, however, late fees of \$100 will apply. Under DCP, direct payments and counter-cyclical payments can be earned on farms with an established base for wheat, barley, oats, or field corn. It is important for producers to understand that these crops do not currently have to be planted on the farm to be eligible for DCP benefits. The benefits are based on past planting history. If wheat, barley, oats, or field corn was raised on your land, there is a good chance that a base was established. Under DCP typical direct payments range from \$26-50/ acre for wheat (.52/ bushel); \$12-20/ acre for barley (.24/ bushel); \$28-32/ acre for corn (\$.28/ bushel, which is equivalent to 16-18 ton silage) and about \$2/acre for oats (.024/ bushel). In addition, counter-cyclical payments can be earned if market prices fall below the following target levels ( Wheat - \$3.92, Barley - \$2.24, Corn \$2.63, and Oats \$1.44). The DCP program comes with very few restrictions so producers should be looking closely at this program.

### NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PROVIDES DISASTER PROTECTION

The Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) is a disaster compensation program that protects against losses from adverse weather and natural occurrences such as earthquakes/volcanic eruption. Virtually every crop (including aquaculture) not covered by federal crop insurance is eligible for NAP. Benefits under NAP are limited to production losses that exceed 50% of one's expected production. The cost for NAP coverage is \$100 per crop not to exceed \$300 in a county. Application deadlines are as follows: 3/15 – Spring seeded crops; 8/31 - fall planted crops; 9/30 – perennial grazing/forage crops & wheat; 11/20 – perennial crops excluding forage.

### **ANNUAL REMINDERS**

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 certifications) 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, filling, or clearing land; changing the status of the participant (ie 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 to "Electronic Laa Laa 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 practice incentive payments - \$50,000, NAP-\$100,000; Trade Adjustment Assistance -\$10,000.

### **DAIRY INDEMNITY PAYMENT PROGRAM (DIPP)**

Under DIPP dairy producers are eligible for payments for losses caused by pesticides, chemical and toxic substances, and nuclear radiation or fallout if the producer was not responsible for the cause of loss. December 31<sup>st</sup> is the final date to apply for compensation for 2006 losses.

### **NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) SIGNUP DEADLINES**

November 17th is deadline for applying for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and November 3<sup>rd</sup> is the final date for applying for the Wetland Reserve Program. Details can be obtained by contacting NRCS at 875-6300 in South Bend, 249-5900 in Montesano, or 748-0083 in Chehalis.

*TWIN HARBORS-LEWIS COMMITTEE- Byron Bentson,  
Vic Boekelman, Robert Quinby, Sam Zion, and Leo  
Zylstra. The committee meets Wed. of the 3<sup>rd</sup> full  
week of the month. Meeting dates are subject to change,  
so please contact the office to verify dates.*



Lyle Heimbigner,  
County Executive Director