



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

GRAYS HARBOR, LEWIS, and PACIFIC COUNTIES

October 29, 2007

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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)

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 2<sup>ND</sup> full week of the month. Meeting dates are subject to change. Please contact the office to verify meeting dates.

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**PRODUCERS REMINDED TO VOTE AND SIGN BALLOTS**

Ballots will be mailed by November 2<sup>nd</sup> for the upcoming county committee election that will be held on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. This year elections are being held in Local Administrative Area (LAA) No. 1 and 2. LAA1 includes the coastal areas of Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties located in Range 11 plus the area encompassed by the Quinault Indian Reservation. LAA2 includes all of Grays Harbor County except the portion included in LAA1. 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 and to only vote for ONE candidate.** Ballots must be post-marked or hand delivered to the county office no later than Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Write-in candidates are permitted. Candidates nominated by producers include:

**LAA1**

**Allen Devlin** is an active cranberry grower in the Grayland area.

**Robert Quinby** is an active cranberry grower in the Grayland area.

**LAA2**

**Byron Bentson** manages a dairy and raises a variety of vegetable and forage crops in the Elma area

**2005-2007 CROP DISASTER PROGRAM DETAILS**

Signup for the 2005-2007 Crop Disaster Program (CDP) began October 15<sup>th</sup>. 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 the 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 and 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 1 crop year (ie 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.

**FARM OPERATING LOANS AND FARM OWNERSHIP LOANS AVAILABLE**

Applications are currently being accepted for all 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 \$949,000. The guaranteed program is offered through qualifying local banks who have "partnered" with FSA to provide agricultural credit. Check with your banker to determine 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.

## **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 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, Livestock Indemnity Program, Livestock Compensation Program, etc., 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 or historical base contribution ratios. We have seen parent farms "lose" base when 10-20 acres are sold for rural homesites and the acreage that is sold is never enrolled.

## **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 2007 losses.

## **ATTENDEES SOUGHT FOR SW WASHINGTON SHEEP PRODUCERS MEETING**

The next meeting of the Southwest Washington Sheep Producer Association has been scheduled for Friday, November 9, 2007 at the PUD building in Chehalis. Potluck dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. and the general meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. Anyone owning sheep or interested in owning sheep is invited. FSA staff will be in attendance to discuss federal benefits available to sheep producers.