



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY NEWSLETTER

GRAYS HARBOR, LEWIS, and PACIFIC COUNTIES

September 25, 2007

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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.

DISASTER PROGRAM SIGNUP PERIODS ANNOUNCED

Signup for the Livestock Indemnity Program and the Livestock Compensation Program began September 10th. Signup for the Crop Disaster Program (Quantity losses) will start October 15th. A signup for quality losses will be announced later. At this time, no ending dates have been announced for any of the programs. **For the Livestock Programs, there are no late-filed provisions and any late-filed applications will be disapproved.** Staff training is scheduled for October 9-11 so it would be appreciated if applications can be delayed until after training. To better serve you, applications will be taken on an appointment basis.

LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM (LIP) - "THE DEAD ANIMAL PROGRAM"

LIP provides funding to eligible livestock owners and contract growers (but not both for the same livestock) for eligible **livestock deaths that were due to a qualifying disaster** between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007. The eligible disasters are listed below. To qualify for LIP one must have owned an eligible animal on the day the livestock died and the animal must have died as a result of an eligible disaster. Contract growers (swine and poultry only) are eligible if the eligible livestock was in their possession on the date of death. Eligible livestock include the following types of livestock: Adult Beef/Dairy cattle (400 pounds and up), Buffalo/Beefalo, Swine, Sheep, Goats, Chickens, Turkeys, Ducks, Geese, Deer, Equine, Reindeer, Catfish, and Crawfish. Eligible animals do NOT include animals kept for recreational purposes, show, pleasure, private consumption or as pets. In addition, yaks, llamas, elk, and unborn livestock that normally would not survive are not eligible. An eligible producer is one of the following: 1) A citizen or legal resident alien of the US, including a farm coop, private domestic corporation (and similar entities), partnership, or joint operation in which a majority interest is held by members, stockholders or partners who are citizens of or legal resident aliens of the US. 2) A Native American Tribe as defined in the Indian Self-Determination & Assistance Act; any Native American organization or entity chartered under the Indian Reorganization Act; or any economic enterprise under the Indian Financing Act of 1974. Documentation such as rendering receipts, vet records, insurance documents, must be submitted to verify livestock losses. If no such records are available, third party certifications may be submitted under strict guidelines available from the county office. Participants can only earn benefits in a single calendar year (ie 2005, 2006, or 2007)

LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM (LCP) – "THE FEED LOSS PROGRAM"

LCP provides funding to eligible livestock owners and cash lessees (but not both for the same livestock) for certain types of livestock for **feed losses that were caused by an eligible disaster** between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007. The eligible disasters are listed below. To qualify for LCP, one must meet **ALL** of the following criteria: 1) had legal ownership or cash leased (but not both for the same livestock) eligible livestock. 2) suffered a loss of **feed** due to an eligible disaster 3) be an eligible producer as identified above under LIP. Eligible livestock are the same as under LIP, except the minimum weight for cattle is 500 pounds instead of 400 pounds. To be an eligible feed loss, the feed must be suitable for the claimed livestock. Grazing losses must be grouped into the following categories: improved grasses (non-irrigated), native grasses (non-irrigated), and forage sorghum (non-irrigated). Irrigated pasture, small grain forage crops, and grazing land that is rented on a basis of weight gain or cost per head per day/month is not eligible. Benefits will be limited to a 30-day feed supply and participants can only receive compensation for a single calendar year (ie only 2005, 2006, or 2007). It should be noted that a hay crop lost in the field prior to harvest is considered a crop loss and not a feed loss and would be covered under the Crop Disaster Program. Losses of purchased feed must be documented by submitting invoices.

ELIGIBLE DISASTERS can be found on the web at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov> and checking the applicable state/county code (ie 53-041, 53-027, or 53-049). Eligible disasters include

Disaster No.	Adverse Weather Condition(s)	Lewis (53-041)	GH (53-027)	Pacific (53-049)	Start Date	End Date
2005						
S2216	Hail (Grayland Hailstorm 9/9/05)	C**	C**	P**	01/01/05	12/31/05
S2215	Drought (Cowlitz County =Primary)	C	N/A	C	01/01/05	12/31/05
2006						
M1641	Severe Storm, Excess Moisture, Tidal Surge	C**	P**	P**	01/27/06	02/04/06
C2380	Hail, Lightning, Severe Storm, Wind, Heat	C	N/A	N/A	04/01/06	03/31/07
M1671	Severe Storm, Excess Moisture, (Cowlitz/Other Floods)	C**	C**	P**	11/02/06	11/11/06
M1682	Winter Storm, Excess Moisture, (W. Wa. Wind Storm)	P**	P**	P**	12/14/06	12/15/06

P = eligible as a primary county (ie direct designation), **C = eligible** as a contiguous county (indirect designation)
N/A = not eligible since the county is not a primary or contiguous county **** It has been determined that Grazing Losses are not eligible for these disasters (ie zero loss) but other feed losses may qualify**

NOMINEES FOR COUNTY COMMITTEE ANNOUNCED

Ballots are scheduled to be mailed by November 2nd for this year's county committee election. Ballots need to be received in the county office or post-marked by December 3rd to be counted. Two of the five Local Administrative Areas (LAA) will be holding an election.

County Committee Candidates include:

LAA1 (Coastal areas of Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties located in Range 11, including the Quinault Indian Reservation).

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

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

LAA2 (All of Grays Harbor County except the portion included in LAA1 above)

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

PROGRAM COMPLIANCE SPOT CHECKS

FSA policy for conducting compliance reviews to ensure program compliance has been enhanced. The new policy means FSA will do fewer but more comprehensive reviews. Previously, reviews were done for a random sample of 15 percent of the acreage reported to the FSA office. The reviews were completed using high altitude photography to ensure acreage reports were filed correctly.

Producers will still be selected randomly for reviews, however the selection will be made at the national level. The selection will be made from participants in CRP, DCP, NAP, Marketing Assistance Loans and LDPs, and HEL/wetland compliance. FSA will look at acreage compliance, production records and compliance with program rules. Reviews may involve field visits. Depending on crops grown, multiple visits may be required.

Program compliance reviews are necessary to ensure the integrity of the farm programs, which is vital for continued public support. Your cooperation, if you are selected, is appreciated.

NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP) SIGNUP DEADLINE

NAP is a program that provides protection against weather related crop losses in a manner similar to crop insurance. Benefits are paid when losses exceed 50%. NAP is available for virtually all crops that are not covered by Federal Crop Insurance. The following deadlines for obtaining coverage are: September 30 (perennial grazing crops, perennial forage crops, mint & wheat); November 20 (all perennial crops not listed under Sept. 30); March 15 (spring planted crops); and August 31 (canola, rape seed, artichokes, onions, radishes, carrots, cabbage, most fall seeded crops not listed above, and value loss crops such as aquaculture, Christmas trees, turf grass sod, and nursery stock). Producers enrolled in NAP are required to provide annual acreage reports by June 30th for the year of coverage. In addition, production/yield reports are due June 30th of the year following planting/harvesting (ie 2006 yield data was due June 30, 2007). NAP coverage costs \$100 per crop with a \$300 cap per county.