



July 2007

LINCOLN COUNTY FSA NEWS

Lincoln County FSA

P.O. Box 47
1310 W. Morgan St.
Davenport, WA. 99122-0047
(509) 725-4501
(509) 725-4515 (FAX)

FSA Farm Loan Office
Steve King, Farm Loan Manager
8815 E. Mission Ave; Suite B
Spokane Valley, WA. 99212-2532
(509) 924-7350

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
7:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

County Committee

Stan Dormaier, Chairperson
Judy Scrupps, Vice Chairperson
Pete Carstensen, Regular Member

Committee Meetings: 8:00 A.M. on
Wed. of 3rd full week of the month.

Office Staff

Jeff Lust, CED
Debbie Sweet, PT
Sally Simpson, PT
Jan Bowdish, PT
Paula Reed, PT
Aaron Landreth, PT
Nancy Reinbold, Temp. PT
Deb Knight, Temp. PT

Web Sites

National USDA
<http://www.usda.gov>

National FSA
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

Washington State FSA
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>

Dates to Remember

- Aug. 1: Committee election nominating petitions due
- Aug. 1: 2007 reconstitution request deadline
- Aug. 3: DCP enrollment deadline without late fee
- Aug. 31: NAP sales closing date - many vegetable crops
- Sept. 3: Office closed in observance of Labor Day

2007 Lincoln Co. Loan Rates

SWW Wheat:	\$2.79/Bu.
HRS and HWS Wheat:	\$3.07/Bu.
HRW and HWW Wheat:	\$3.24/Bu.
Durum Wheat:	\$3.27/Bu.
Barley:	\$2.12/Bu.
	or \$88.33/Ton
Oats:	\$1.30/Bu.
	or \$81.25/Ton
Dry Peas:	\$6.63/Cwt.
Small Chickpeas:	\$7.43/Cwt.

Please contact our office regarding any direct deposit bank account and/or farm record changes.



County Committee Elections

Nominations for the Lincoln County FSA Committee are now being accepted. Nomination is done by petition that needs to be delivered to the County FSA Office by **August 1, 2007**. The petitions have already been mailed out to eligible voters in the Local Administrative Area of the county that will hold an election this year, which is the general Davenport, Reardan, and Edwall area. Stanlee Dormaier is currently representing this area, and is eligible for re-election. A valid nominating petition requires only the signature of the person being nominated, which indicates that the candidate agrees to serve a 3-year term if elected. FSA supports the nomination of under-represented group candidates including minorities and women.

The County Committee is the most direct link between USDA farm programs and local producers, and many of the decisions made by the Committee are the best means to ensure these programs fit our area's agricultural conditions. Finally, producers are encouraged to get involved by nominating candidates of their choice to represent them on the FSA County Committee. Please contact our office if a petition is needed.

Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program Signup

Signup for participation in the 2007 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) will continue through the extended signup date of **August 3, 2007**. However, late-filed applications will be accepted through September 30, 2007, but a late fee of \$100 per farm is required for such filings. Annual DCP contracts must be signed in order to receive a program payment, and producers can choose to receive 22% of the direct payment as an advance with the remainder being paid this October 2007.

Conservation Reserve Program

Weed control on CRP is a mandatory requirement for program eligibility and participation. All types of weeds, not just noxious weeds listed for the county need to be controlled. Field inspections were made last year of contract acreage which resulted in some payment reductions being assessed for the failure of not taking timely action to control weeds. Consequently, do not be in the center of a complaint or inspection and possible payment reduction. Instead, be a responsible land steward and neighbor, while ensuring that timely and effective weed control measures are applied to properly maintain your CRP acres. It is important to check CRP stands often, and take the appropriate measures to prevent weed problems from developing.

On another CRP subject, at the *current* time it should be realized that haystacks and farm equipment should not be located on CRP contract acreage. Questions have been asked regarding the parking of farm equipment on CRP, so clarification of this matter has been requested, and this will be conveyed once it has been received.

Also, recently there has been an option added for CRP practices that have included a legume/forb mix to be seeded in the grass stand. Specifications have been developed to authorize to plant these species in strips or blocks, which could aid in weed control operations and the maintenance of stand vigor. A significant amount of detailed criteria must be met for the establishment of this type of CRP vegetative cover, so please contact the office for more information if interested.

Lastly, there have been cases in which CRP seed mixtures planted have differed from approved mixtures. Producers are reminded that only listed and approved seed mixtures, which includes the species and pure live seed rates of each, should be planted to CRP practices. Therefore, substitutions of species and seeding rates must be reviewed and approved by Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) technicians and the FSA State CRP program manager *before* planting. Finding out *after* planting that a substituted seed mix cannot be accepted would be a big problem.

Reconstitution Deadline

The final date to request a reconstitution of a farm combination or division effective for the 2007 crop year is **August 1, 2007**. Requests that are received after August 1 will not become effective until 2008. Farms that have already received an advance DCP payment may not be reconstituted for 2007, unless the advance payment is refunded.

Noninsured Assistance Program

Producers with Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage are reminded that a notice of loss needs to be filed within the earlier of either 15 days after the date of the weather related disaster event, or when damage to a crop becomes apparent. If a NAP crop will be destroyed, not harvested, or the use of the crop changed, these intentions must be reported to our FSA office so that a loss adjuster can verify the damage *prior* to the change in plans for the crop. Failure to meet these requirements can compromise coverage, or make claims ineligible for assistance.

Producers who had 2007 NAP coverage should have gotten a letter from our FSA office informing them that they have continuous coverage, and need to submit the required administrative fee if they wish to continue coverage for 2008. The 2008 sales closing date for many vegetable crops for seed or fresh produce for example carrots and onions is **August 31, 2007**. Additionally, for forage (hay and seed) crops and perennial grazing coverage, the 2008 sales closing date is September 30, 2007, while it is November 20, 2007 for orchard crops.

New Disaster Programs

On May 25, 2007, President Bush signed new legislation which included provisions for \$3 billion in agricultural disaster relief. This Act provides funding for a Crop Disaster Program (CDP), a Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), and several other disaster assistance programs. Dates for sign up have not been announced yet.

The CDP program will provide funds for production and quality losses suffered to crops in 2005, 2006, or 2007 for crops that were planted prior to February 28, 2007. Production losses must be in excess of 35% to be eligible for benefits, and producers can only choose one of the three years to receive payments. Only producers with crop insurance coverage for insurable crops, or NAP coverage on those not insured for the year of loss will be eligible for assistance. The payment rate is set at 42% of the established price.

The LCP program compensates livestock producers for feed losses resulting from natural disasters occurring between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007. Some of the eligible livestock include beef and dairy cattle, equine, poultry, sheep, goats, and swine. Program details such as payment rates will be published as they become available.

Compliance Spot Checks

County FSA Offices perform a variety of compliance reviews and spot checks to ensure the accuracy of payments and integrity of programs, which are selected annually through a variety of processes. However, based upon the recommendation of the Office of Inspector General (OIG) to increase program efficiency, instead of selecting individual farms, contracts, loans, LDP's, etc. for spot check and review, a nationwide selection process of individual producers for 2007 has been adapted using a statistical sampling method. Producers were selected based on their participation and paid program benefits in CRP, DCP, LDP's, Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL's), and NAP. Thus, this new policy means FSA will do fewer, but more comprehensive reviews that are to take place throughout the year at times applicable for the certain program or activity.

Measurement Service Rates

With harvest approaching and some producers opting to have their farm-stored grain measured, it should be noted that measurement service rates have been changed to perform this service. The basic fee is now \$30 per farm, plus \$16 for the first hour and \$8 every 30 minutes after the first hour, with a minimum of 1 hour being charged. However, there is no charge for mileage as it is included in the basic farm rate.

Assignments

Producers eligible for specified FSA program payments can choose to have them assigned directly to a 3rd party. Both the producer and 3rd party must agree to this arrangement, and it is important that both parties communicate concerning any changes in the operation that may affect the payment amount each receives, as privacy laws prevent FSA from reporting any changes directly to the 3rd party without authorization from the producer.

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.