



May 2007

# LINCOLN COUNTY FSA NEWS

## Lincoln County FSA

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Davenport, WA. 99122-0047  
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(509) 725-4515 (FAX)

FSA Farm Loan Office  
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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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>

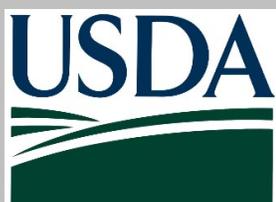
### Dates to Remember

- May 28: Office closed in observance of Memorial Day
- June 30: Crop acreage reporting deadline
- June 30: Final date to submit 2006 crop production for NAP actual yields
- August 3: Signup deadline for DCP

### 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.

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



## Acreage Reports

Significant workload in association with the recent internal payment reviews has put our office behind in the scheduling of 2007 acreage reports. Annual reporting or certifying crop acreage is required to maintain eligibility for the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP), commodity marketing loans, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP), Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP), and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The deadline to timely file 2007 acreage reports is **June 30, 2007**. Therefore, when all your spring crops have been planted, please call the office for an appointment to complete an acreage report. Also, as with the last couple of years, planting dates will be needed for the crops being reported. Finally, please remember that what is reported should match the information supplied to crop insurance agents and warehouses in terms of planted acres, seeding dates, or crop shares.

## Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program

The signup deadline for the 2007 DCP has been extended from June 1, 2007 to **August 3, 2007**. The nationally approved decision to extend the deadline was made as a result of workload issues impacting program enrollments. This extension applies only to the enrollment time frame, and does not extend the annual DCP contract period beyond September 30, 2007. A late-file fee of \$100 will be assessed for farms that are enrolled after August 3, 2007, but before September 30, 2007. Consequently, applications signed after September 30, 2007 cannot be approved.

During signup producers can choose to currently take 22% of the annual direct payment with the remainder being paid in October. Presently, we are working through a list of producers who previously contacted the office to be included on a program signup list, and we are now calling them back in the sequential order taken for an actual appointment. Eligibility documents such as payment limitation, highly erodible land or wetlands, and gross income forms for the 2007 program year are being updated during the DCP signup, thus the entire process takes extra time so please plan accordingly.

As a final note, the DCP is intended to allow producer flexibility in the crops they may wish to plant with the exception of fruits or vegetables on contract acres. A contract violation may occur if fruits or vegetable are planted on DCP contract acres when the farm has no history of fruits or vegetable production, or the producer sharing in the crop has no history of planting the specific fruit or vegetable. Any fruit and vegetable planting questions should be directed to Sally at our office.

## Conservation Reserve Program

All CRP field inspections and producer notifications have been completed by our office with respect to 2007 through 2010 program contracts that were potentially eligible to be re-enrolled or extended. The majority of contracts met the CRP maintenance requirements; a significant number needed additional activities performed such as some noteworthy weed control; and a lesser amount were determined to be out of compliance which generally meant that some or all of the contract acreage needed reseeding to get back into compliance for continuance in the program.

Consequently, producers whose contracts needed additional maintenance measures applied to their CRP land, were required to sign and agree to a modified conservation plan listing those actions to be completed in order to qualify for a re-enrollment or extension. Thus, as a reminder, please be advised that the timely completion of these listed and required operations on the conservation plan are necessary to remain in compliance with the CRP

contract, and some field spot checks will be done to verify performance. Also, cost-sharing is not available for any actions required as result of these field inspections. Moreover, all producers with CRP contracts should realize that maintenance measures such as weed control are a program requirement, and \$5 per acre of the annual rental payment is dedicated for this purpose. Thus, these measures are expected to be continued in 2007, and for the entire term of the contract period.

The primary nesting season for CRP contract acreage is April 1 through June 1. During this time period of non-disturbance, prior approval from the County Committee is needed for weed control activities on CRP vegetative covers that have been certified as meeting grass stand requirements. However, outside the nesting period, or for stands that have *not* been certified which are mostly newly established covers, no prior approval is necessary to conduct such measures and these weed control treatments are encouraged.

Additionally, beginning with CRP Signup 26 in May 2003, cost-sharing for mid-term management practices, up through in most cases the 6<sup>th</sup> year of their contract, are available to assist producers in keeping their CRP in good condition. These practices include spraying, mowing, harrowing, fertilizing, burning, inter-seeding, light disking, or chiseling. However, there are restrictions which include that approval for the practice must be granted by the County Committee before work begins, this assistance does not apply to the last 3 years of the contract, and again it is not available on contracts that required maintenance actions in conjunction with revised conservation plans for re-enrollment or extension.

Finally, many producers are reporting completion of newly seeded CRP acres. During these busy times, it is best to call Jan before visiting the office and submitting bills for cost-share, so that all pertinent information needed is discussed and an office appointment is scheduled.

### **Noninsured Assistance Program**

NAP provides loss protection to crops that have been affected by adverse weather conditions, and whose crops are not eligible for Federal Crop Insurance coverage. This coverage is at a level similar to catastrophic (CAT) insurance, wherein qualifying losses must exceed 50% of the yield established for the crop. Payment rates are based on 55% of average market price for the crop as determined by FSA.

Notices of loss must be filed by producers and received in our office within the earlier of either 15 days after the disaster event occurred, or 15 days after the damage to the crop was evident. Please be aware that failure to timely report disaster occurrences could make a crop ineligible for any NAP benefits. Thus, especially with grass seed crops, if there is any inclination that a weather related loss in production may have occurred, it is best to timely file the notice of loss immediately after the adverse weather event, and not wait until the seed has been cleaned to submit the notice of loss to the office.

Lastly, it is very important to note, that if a crop will be destroyed; abandoned and not harvested; or the use of the crop changed for example hay intended to be cut/harvested but instead grazed; our office needs to be notified *before* taking such alternative actions so that a field appraisal of the crop can be completed.

### **Spousal Signatures**

A husband and wife may sign on behalf of each other on most program documents unless written denial has been provided to the office. This provision does not apply on some Farm Loan Program documents.

### **Reasonable Accommodations**

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing loss. If accommodations are required, please contact Jeff Lust at (509) 725-4501 Ext. 102.

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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.