



February 2007

FERRY & OKANOGAN COUNTY FSA NEWS

Ferry County FSA

P.O. Box 323
84 E. Delaware
Republic, WA 99166
Phone (509) 775-3390
Fax (509) 775-3170

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

County Committee

Kathy Olson, Chairperson
Luanne Finley, Vice-Chairperson
Dave Konz, Regular Member

Office Staff

Gary Breiler, CED
Virginia Lane, PT



Okanogan County FSA

1251 2nd Ave. S. Rm 103
Okanogan, WA 98840
Phone (509) 422-3292
Fax (509) 422-0532

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Jeff Delfeld, Chairperson
Ray Colbert, Vice-Chairperson
Stan Stout, Regular Member
Marcia Henneman, Advisor
James McCuen, Advisor

Office Staff

Gary Breiler, CED
Stu Skidmore, FLM
Judy Adams, PT
Sandy Hinger, PT
Jose Limon, FLO
Cliffene Coyne, PT

Next COC Meetings:

Ferry – February 28th
Okanogan – February 22nd

Meetings start at 10:00 AM

CED – County Executive Director
FLM – Farm Loan Manager
FLO – Farm Loan Officer
PT – Program Technician

FSA Web Site Address:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

WA State Web Site:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>

ACCESSIBILITY

Persons with disabilities who require special accommodations may contact the county office. FSA is committed to making programs accessible to all customers.



FARM LOANS FOR MINORITY AND WOMEN PRODUCERS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency has a portion of its farm loan program funds specifically allocated for minority and women producers. FSA farm loans are available to all qualified applicants. By setting aside funds specifically for minorities and women, it ensures that they will receive a portion of available funds.

Loan funds can be used to purchase farms, livestock and equipment. They may also be used to operate the farm, build or repair farm service buildings, pay for soil and water conservation practices, and in some cases refinance debts. FSA offers both direct loans and also guaranteed farm loans made by participating lenders.

For direct loans made by FSA to purchase a farm, the terms may extend to 40 years with a current interest rate of 5.125%. In some cases, applicants may qualify for an interest rate as low as 5.00%. Applicants for direct real estate loans need to be aware that funding for this program may be limited, making it necessary to wait for a period of time before funds are available.

Direct operating loans may be made for one to seven years with a current interest rate of 5.00%, which is subject to change.

The FSA guaranteed loans are made by banks or other lenders for which FSA guarantees up to 90 percent of any loss. The guaranteed loan program includes both operating and real estate loan programs.

For additional information concerning these programs in Ferry and Okanogan Counties please contact Stu Skidmore, Farm Loan Manager, at (509) 422-3292.

THANK YOU TO PHIL BROWNLEE

Phil Brownlee has served on the Okanogan County FSA Committee (off and on) for 20 years. He just recently completed the end of his third three-year term. We owe many thanks to Phil for serving the farmers and ranchers of Okanogan County. He has made many contributions to the agency, the only branch of government with grass-roots input. His hard work and dedication was greatly appreciated!

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The County Committee (COC) elections for the Central region in Ferry County and the Southern portion of Okanogan County have been completed. **Dave Konz** of Republic and **Stan Stout** of the Chiliwist area were each elected to represent their respective local administrative areas and counties. They assumed their committee duties on January 1, 2007. Both will serve a three-year term.

Dave was re-elected to the Ferry COC. His alternate will be Sheila Anderson. In Okanogan County, Stan was newly elected to the committee. Alternates serve in the absence of the elected committee member. Thank you to all who took the time to vote! The COC is your voice in USDA programs.

CROP INSURANCE PROGRAM DEADLINE

Producers can purchase Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite (AGR-Lite) which is available throughout the Pacific Northwest and covers most farm-raised crops, animals and animal products. AGR insures your whole-farm revenue against low returns due to unavoidable natural disasters and market fluctuations that affect income from commodities produced during the insurance year. AGR-Lite is based on a producer's five-year historical tax form information. The sales closing date is March 15th. Contact your crop insurance agent for more information.

2007 DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL SIGNUP

Sign-up for the 2007 DCP is underway, and continues through June 1, 2007. When you sign the DCP contract you are agreeing to:

- ◆ comply with highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions on all your land,
- ◆ devote acreage equal to the contract acreage to an agricultural or conserving use,
- ◆ effectively control noxious weeds and otherwise maintain contract acres according to sound agricultural practices,
- ◆ not plant perennial fruits and vegetables or harvest them on contract acres,
- ◆ file acreage reports with respect to all cropland on the farm,
- ◆ notify this office when there is a transfer or change of interest on the farm.

This year, advance payments are 22% of the established payment rates, with the final payments made in October (the remaining 78%). Please contact this office for an appointment. We have been working on an internal review of last year's files, as a result of the "Improper Payment Information Act of 2002". Thank you for your patience as we have worked through this process. Please feel free to give us a call if you have any questions.

NEW STATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPOINTED

USDA recently announced the appointment of Jack Silzel as the State Executive Director for the Farm Service Agency in Washington State. Mr. Silzel replaces Jim Fitzgerald who left the agency for a new position in Washington D.C. with the Rural Development Agency. Mr. Silzel served more than 10-years in Washington D.C. as the Agriculture Policy Director for former Congressman George Nethercutt and Legislative Director for Congresswoman Cathy McMorris. Prior to his time in Washington D.C., Mr. Silzel was actively involved in his family's farm near Oakesdale, Washington. We look forward to working with him. Welcome!

IRS REPORTING OF PAYMENTS

Producers who receive FSA payments will get a CCC-1099G (Report of Payments to IRS) and Farm Loan Program borrowers will be receiving Form-1098 (Mortgage Interest Statement) mailed from our Kansas City Office. You should have received them near the end of January. The CCC-1099G indicates the total amount of payments made to you during 2006. Form 1098 indicates that amount of principal and interest paid to FSA during 2006. Please check the information for accuracy. If you have any questions, please contact your local FSA Office.

COLVILLE RESERVATION CONSERVATION DISTRICT (CRCD) & RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY (RMA) IS HOSTING A PREMISE ID INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP

When: March 28, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. **Where:** Okanogan Inn, Conference Room

Participation in premise registration is voluntary at this time, but eventually USDA may require premise and animal identification to ship beef and dairy out of the state. CRCD wants to make available every opportunity for education and open discussion as to what may come by 2009. Dr. Leonard Eldridge, DVM State Veterinarian, will explain the effect diseases are having on the marketable livestock and what the future may hold for producers. They invite your discussion on this subject. They want to give Tribal and Non-Tribal members every opportunity to have a voice and understanding as to what their options are. Animal health incidents can have a large economic, human health or food safety impacts. Identifying premises where livestock animals are born, raised, fed, sold or handled anywhere in the production chain is a priority, because it lays the foundation for a national system health or food safety impact. The benefits of registering your premise will have a positive effect on the dollar value of your product, because of the food safety issue on the market. For more information contact CRCD at 509-634-2374 or 509-422-0758.

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