



May 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
Candi Wilson, SCEP

Next COC Meetings:

Ferry – June 26th
Okanogan – June 28th

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.



2007 DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL SIGNUP

The deadline to sign-up for the DCP program has been extended until **August 3, 2007**.

The decision to extend the deadline was made as a result of workload issues impacting DCP enrollments. Enrollment in DCP for the 2007 contract period began on October 1, 2006, and was scheduled to end on June 1, 2007.

The 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 only be assessed for farms that are enrolled after August 3, 2007, and before September 30, 2007. Applications signed after September 30, 2007 cannot be approved.

Please remember that fruits and vegetables cannot be planted on contract acreage. Advance payments are available at 22% of the total. Please contact this office if you are interested and have not yet signed up.

EMERGENCY LOANS FOR PHYSICAL LOSSES DUE TO SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS

Winter storms in Douglas and Chelan counties exceeded more than normal crop losses due to adverse weather. The high winds caused significant physical damage to farm structures such as buildings, irrigation pipe, and trees. As a result, FSA Administrator Teresa Lasseter, determined that the federal agency will make emergency loans available to farmers in Douglas and Chelan as designated disaster areas and the surrounding county of Okanogan as a contiguous county.

Family farmers who suffered property damage due to winter storms which occurred between December 14, 2006 and January 15, 2007 may qualify for the emergency loans. The emergency loans have a 3.75% interest and payment terms up to 40 years with real estate security. **FSA is accepting loan applications in county offices through September 30, 2007.** The federal government does not intend to compete with private business, so applicants must be unable to obtain credit elsewhere to finance their needs at reasonable rates and terms. Applicants must be United States citizens or aliens legally admitted for permanent residence, must be established farmers and must have suffered an agricultural loss in a designated or a contiguous county. Please contact the Okanogan County Office for more information or a loan packet.

ACREAGE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

2007 crop acreage reports can now be taken. **June 30th** is the last day to timely certify your acreage. Planting dates will have to be provided. Several programs require the filing of an acreage report in order to remain in compliance. They include:

- ❖ Farms with a DCP Contract
- ❖ Farms enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program
- ❖ Crops for which benefits may be requested under the NAP
- ❖ 2006 Crops intended for Commodity Loan or LDPs (grain and oilseed)

If you do not timely report your planted acreage, a measurement service fee will be charged for a field visit to verify crops and acreage. **We are taking appointments for certification. Please contact our offices to schedule yours.**

ASSIGNMENTS

Producers who are eligible for specified program payments from Farm Service Agency may have their payments or partial payments assigned directly to a third party by direct deposit or check if they wish to do so. This allows for a third party to receive payments directly instead of receiving the payment from a producer. These assignments may be for any purpose but only for the amount the assignor is eligible for in FSA program payments less any debt owed to the Federal government. FSA will make every attempt to pay the full amount of the assignment but does not guarantee the payment in full. To assign program payments, producers must use either the web-based assignment application or complete the CCC-36 and both the assignee and assignor must sign the form. To access these forms, assignors and assignees must obtain either a level 2 e-Authentication to access the USDA eForms Website at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/> or come to your local FSA office.

PAYMENT LIMITATION ANNUAL NOTIFICATION

Payment eligibility and limitation provisions apply to all producers receiving FSA benefits. To be eligible for these benefits, a producer must be considered “actively engaged in farming” and meet the definition of a “person”. Program benefits cannot be paid until these requirements are satisfied. Proper forms must be filed, and in some cases documentation provided before benefits can be distributed. Husband and wife are usually combined for one payment limitation. However, spouses may be considered separate “persons” if the determination is requested and the applicable requirements are met. All cases are subject to spot check and possible end of year review. Payment limitations for the following programs are:

➤ DCP DIRECT PAYMENTS	\$ 40,000
➤ DCP COUNTER-CYCLICAL PAYMENTS	65,000
➤ MARKET LOANS/Loan Deficiency Payments	150,000
➤ CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM/CREP (Including Signing/Payment Incentives)	50,000
➤ NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM	100,000
➤ CROP DISASTER PROGRAM	80,000

NON-INSURED CROP LOSS REPORTING

Producers who purchased catastrophic crop loss coverage for non-insurable 2007 crops, under the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), need to remember the reporting requirements for crop losses. NAP participants must file a written notice of loss within 15 days after the disaster event occurred, or damage to the crop became evident. Also, if you do not intend to harvest the crop, you must request an appraisal by an FSA representative prior to destruction or abandonment of the crop.

USDA 2007 FARM BILL PROPOSALS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently printed “America’s Farm Bill 2007 – 2007 Farm Bill Proposals.” The 183-page document provides in-depth details of 65 proposals put forth by the Administration for consideration by Congress. The proposals cover the ten titles of the Farm Bill: commodity operations, conservation, trade, nutrition programs, credit, rural development, research and related matters, forestry, energy and miscellaneous. If you would like a hardcopy of the proposals, you may contact the Farm Service Agency State Office at (509) 323-3000. The proposals and additional information may be found online at the Farm Bill link on the USDA website: <http://www.usda.gov>.

FAXED SIGNATURES

FSA will accept producer’s faxed signatures, without having any other authorization form on file.

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.

FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE

The Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 requires FSA and Risk Management Agency (RMA) employees to work together to improve program compliance and integrity within the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA will assist RMA and insurance providers in monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season and will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse about the Federal Crop Insurance Program to RMA. FSA will also assist RMA with auditing claims.

“The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs 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, audiotapes, etc.) should contact USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, 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.”