



November 2007

# FERRY & OKANOGAN COUNTY FSA NEWS

## COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The final day to vote in the committee election is **Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**. The Farm Service Agency Committee members are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA. They help administer farm programs at the local level. Farmers who serve on the committee help fit the needs of area producers. This year's election will cover Local Administrative Area (LAA) # 1 in **Ferry County**, the northern portion of the county (lands lying within Townships 38 and 40) and **LAA # 1 in Okanogan County**, lands lying within the Colville Indian Reservation and portions of Omak and Okanogan lying west of the Okanogan River.

The candidates for the elections are:

- ♦ **Ferry County Candidates:** Kathleen Olson and Llois Copelan.
- ♦ **Okanogan County Candidates:** Jeff Delfeld and Maurice Joy.

Ballots have been mailed to eligible voters (producers who did not receive a ballot and feel they should, please contact our office). Ballots must be postmarked or returned to the county office by December 3, 2007. Please be sure to read and follow the instructions exactly (only vote for one). **A proper signature is required on ballots.** If signing for an entity, always enter the word "by" in front of your signature followed by your title for the entity. A Power of Attorney is not authorized for voting purposes. Ballots that are not completed properly will not be counted. Thanks to all who took time to vote.

## CROP DISASTER PROGRAM

Signup for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) is currently in progress. We are now accepting applications for losses from natural disasters and related conditions that occurred in 2005, 2006, and 2007 (limited to crops planted by February 28, 2007). Producers who incurred qualifying losses must choose only one year to receive benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple crops as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

**Only those producers who obtained Federal Crop Insurance or coverage to non-insurable crops under the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) are eligible for CDP benefits.**

CDP covers losses to quantity and quality. We are accepting applications for quantity losses at this time. Signup for quality losses will be at a later date. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for payment. The 35% loss threshold is determined from the higher of the producer's individual actual production history (APH) or the county average yield, whichever is higher. The payment rate for eligible losses is 42% of the established price. Assistance, together with any crop insurance indemnity payment or NAP payment received for the same crop and including the value of the crop production, must not exceed 95% of the value of the crop if there had not been a disaster. The maximum payment limitation for CDP is \$80,000 per person. Please call for an appointment to apply for the CDP program. This will enable our staff to have records researched and ready for you.

## LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM

Signup for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) is in progress. Ferry and Okanogan Counties have been approved for the program. Livestock producers that suffered losses from natural disasters may be eligible for payment based on their feed loss and livestock numbers. The major disaster that qualifies producers in Ferry and Okanogan Counties is drought from 2005. The beginning of the disaster period had been determined to be January 1, 2005. Producers must apply in the county where their FSA records are kept. Eligible livestock must have been

### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

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### Next COC Meetings:

Ferry December 5<sup>th</sup>  
Okanogan December 6<sup>th</sup>

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.



in the county on the beginning date of the disaster (in this case, January 1, 2005). When applying for the program, producers need to provide their livestock numbers as of January 1, 2005 and their rangeland pasture acreage (for leased pastures, we need a copy of the lease). Producers who are interested in applying for LCP benefits should contact our office for an appointment.

## **LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM**

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) may compensate livestock owners whose livestock died as a result of a natural disaster (the only declared natural disaster was drought in 2005). Contact the county office for more information.

## **CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM**

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a voluntary program that provides incentives to restore and improve salmon and steelhead habitat on private lands. To date, 3.2 miles and 43.4 acres of forest buffers have been planted along eligible streams and rivers in Okanogan County. The portion of CREP funding received from the Farm Services Agency is contained in the 2002 Farm Bill. At this time we are not sure whether CREP will be contained in the new Farm Bill.

Cooperators receive annual rental payments and 100% cost share (up to cost share limits) for practice installation. Furthermore, all of the cost of maintenance is covered for the first five years. Other benefits to being enrolled in CREP are:

- Eligibility for certainty from the Endangered Species Act
- The program is administered by local agencies
- You maintain full ownership of the property and are exempt from the Forest Practices Act
- Improves water quality and reduces erosion—thereby reducing your concern about the Clean Water Act, TMDLs, AFOCAFO Regulations, and Shorelines regulations, to name a few.

To be eligible, your land must be located on a water body that contains fish species listed as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act.

If you are interested in CREP, contact Bob Clark at the Okanogan Conservation District, 1251 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Room 101, phone (509) 422-0855, extension 122.