



November 2007

SPOKANE-PEND OREILLE COUNTY FSA

Spokane Pend Oreille County FSA

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Pend Oreille County Producers for which 447 is a local call can dial 447-4216 for a toll free call.

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Jim Ryan, Chairman
Charlotte Yergens, Vice-Chair
Regina Clausen, Member
Louise (Lou) McLam, Member
Sherman Norton, Member

Office Staff

Randy L. Primmer, CED
randy.primmer@wa.usda.gov
Lorri Anderson, PT
Kay Kjack, PT
Betty Diedesch, PT
Dave Olson, PT
James "Wes" Taylor, Temp

Farm Loan Staff

Steven King, FLM
steve.king@wa.usda.gov
Chris Sletager, FLO
Jo Anne Krupke, FLT

Next COC Meeting

December 7, 2007 @ 9:00 a.m. Count Ballots and Regular Business

FSA/USDA National Website:

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/>

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

Holidays

Office Closed

December 25, Christmas
January 1, New Year's Day
January 21, Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday



COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION DEADLINE IS MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2007

The 2007 County Committee ballots have been mailed and the deadline for having them postmarked is Monday, December 3, 2007. Eligible voters in Local Administrative Area (LAA) #2 and LAA #4 are electing a committee member this year. Up for elections in LAA #2 is James Ryan and in LAA #4 is Charlotte Yergens. Both Charlotte and James are currently members of the County Committee. When voting please remember that a proper signature is required on ballots. If signing for an entity, always enter the word "by" in front of your signature and enter your title for all trusts and estates. A Power of Attorney is not authorized for voting purposes. Votes will be counted on Friday, December 7, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. Thank you to all who took time to vote.

STATUS OF THE NEW FARM BILL

The House of Representatives has passed its version of the new farm bill and the Senate is now considering its version. Once the Senate approves their version, the process will move to a joint Conference Committee to "work out the differences." After approval by both Houses, the bill must then be approved by the President. At this time, we do not know if there will be a Direct & Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or similar program for 2008, whether there will be advance payments, or any other detail until a bill has been passed into law. We will let you know as soon as we know any details of the new farm bill.

CROP DISASTER PROGRAM (CDP) SIGNUP UNDERWAY

Signup for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) is currently in progress. We are accepting applications for losses from natural disasters and related conditions that occurred in 2005, 2006, and 2007 (limited to crops planted prior to February 28, 2007). Producers who incurred qualifying losses must choose only one year to receive benefits. Producers can apply for multiple years and the computer will choose the year which pays the most benefits.

Only those producers who purchased Federal Crop Insurance or purchased coverage for crops under the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) are eligible to apply for 2005, 2006, or 2007 CDP benefits. This is a requirement established by Congress when they approved Public Law 110-28.

CDP covers losses to quality and quantity. 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% 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. Scheduling an appointment allows our staff to have records pulled and do some research prior to your arrival for your appointment. In most situations, you do not need to bring production records unless if you have not turned them into crop insurance. Most of the records have already been received from Risk Management Agency (RMA) for producers who collected indemnity payment from crop insurance.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM OUR STAFF

LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM SIGNUP CONTINUES

Signup for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) is in progress. Spokane and Pend Oreille Counties have been approved for grazing losses suffered in 2005. Livestock producers who suffered losses from natural disasters may be eligible for payment based on their feed loss and livestock numbers. The major disaster condition that qualifies producers is the 2005 drought. The beginning of the disaster period has been determined to be January 1, 2005. Producers must apply in the county where FSA records are kept. Eligible livestock must have been 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 the January 1, 2005, their rangeland pasture acreage and cost of any additional feed that was purchased due to the disaster condition. Please call Kay for an appointment to signup for the 2005 Livestock Compensation Program.

COUNTY OFFICE SENDING OUT AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

The Spokane-Pend Oreille County staff is in the process of starting to mail out the “new” aerial photographs with the updated Crop Land Unit (CLU) information for your farm(s) and tract(s). What does all this mean to you? Our office has been working on updating our computerized aerial maps for the last few years using the latest technology. We are now doing all our mapping on the computer which allows us to measure and establish farm records in the computer. These new maps will be available for your use on your home computer at a later date. The tracts (ownerships) have been established as well as the field boundaries in the mapping software. Now we will start printing out copies of the records we have transferred from our paper maps for your verification. We plan to mail the maps by farm number to the operator. The operator should review the new colored maps and determine if FSA has drawn the field and tract boundaries correctly. The maps will also show the computer calculated acreage based on the field as drawn on the map. The CLU acreage will become the new cropland acreage for the field if you agree with the field boundaries. If you don’t agree with the placement of the field boundaries you will want to contact the county office and come into the office to go over your maps. We have established a 30 day time period to respond to the mailed maps. If we don’t hear from you, the “new” acreages as shown will be used for current and future USDA/FSA program purposes. Changes involving CRP fields will likely affect the respective CRP contract. If no response is received within 30 days, CRP contract will be revised using the “new” acreages.

We primarily are planning on sending maps to the operators. We encourage operators to share this new information with your owners. Our office staff will make maps for owners if they request them and they feel they have a good working knowledge of the field boundaries on their farms. Currently, we are trying to get as many maps completed as quickly as we can so limiting the number of maps printed and mailed is a priority. Your cooperation and patience on this project is greatly appreciated by the County Committee and office staff.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

The County Committee and office staff would like to wish each and everyone a happy and safe holiday season. We as Americans have so much to be thankful for and the American farmer/rancher produces the safest, least expensive and most readily available food for our country and many others around the world. Thank you for all you do.

Our office will be closed on Tuesday, December 25 for Christmas, and on Tuesday, January 1, 2008 for New Years Day. Office staffing may be limited around this holiday season as staff members spend time with their families.