



September 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

October 25, 2007 @ 9:00 a.m.
Regular Business

FSA/USDA National Website:

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

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

2007 Loan Rates Announced

Spokane County

SWW	\$2.74/bu
HRW	\$3.19/bu
HRS	\$2.97/bu
DURUM	\$3.27/bu
Barley	\$2.07/bu
	(\$86.25/ton)
Lentils (CWT)	\$13.31
Peas (CWT)	\$6.63



LAST CALL FOR 2007 DCP CONTRACT SIGNATURES

The final day to return signatures for the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) is September 28. Producers returning signatures late are required to pay a \$100 per farm late filing fee if you want the contract approved.

NAP SALES CLOSING DATE - 2008 PERENNIAL FORAGE CROPS

Growers of perennial forage crops (hay and grazing) or perennial seed crops (bluegrass) have until October 1, 2007 to purchase coverage for the 2008 crop year. Tree fruits have a closing date of November 20. **Recently passed disaster legislation for 2005, 2006, 2007 will only be available to those producers who had NAP coverage or Federal Crop Insurance in those years.** A NAP policy costs \$100 per crop not to exceed \$300 per county. This may be cheap insurance to maintain eligibility for future disaster programs.

FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE DEADLINES

Federal Crop Insurance purchased through private agents have an October 1, 2007 deadline for 2008 Wheat policies. Please check with your local insurance agent concerning levels of coverage and price options.

USDA ANNOUNCES LIVESTOCK AND CROP DISASTER PROGRAM SIGN UP DATES

Sign up dates have been announced for the Livestock Compensation Program, Livestock Indemnity Program and the Crop Disaster Program. Sign up for the livestock programs began September 10th and sign up for the crop disaster program begins on October 15, 2007. A later sign up date will be announced for crop losses related to crop quality. The livestock compensation program compensates livestock producers for feed losses occurring between 1/1/2005 and 2/28/2007 due to a natural disaster. Drought caused much of the feed loss in Washington State during that time but loss from other disasters may also be eligible. The livestock indemnity program pays producers for the physical loss of livestock due to natural disasters that occurred during the same 1/1/2005 to 2/28/2007 timeframe. Producers who suffered losses in multiple years must choose one year for which to receive payments for both livestock programs. Not all the rules have been finalized, but a Secretarial or Presidential Disaster Declaration for drought was on file in crop year 2005 for Spokane County making both Spokane and Pend Oreille Co. eligible for taking applications. Currently, the maximum amount of loss has not been established for either county. Clarification on the amount of loss in grazing for 2005 is being requested from our National Office.

The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides payments to producers who suffered damage to their crops. Damage includes decreased yields or prevented plantings. It also includes lower prices received due to impaired crop quality. The program covers losses that occurred in 2005, 2006 or 2007 if the crop was planted, or prevented from being planted, before 2/28/2007. Producers may claim losses for multiple crops but must choose one crop year if losses occurred in multiple years.

To be eligible for the Crop Disaster Program producers must have obtained Federal Crop Insurance or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year for which the benefits are requested. Yield loss must exceed 35% to be eligible for CDP. For additional information concerning these crop disaster programs check the FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> or give our office a call. We will take applications by appointment so please give us a call to get an appointment.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The nominating period for the 2007 County Committee Elections closed on August 1st. One nominating petition was received from each Local Administrative Area (LAA) up for elections. James Ryan and Charlotte Yergens submitted nominating petitions. Both Charlotte and James are currently members of the County Committee. The election will take place by mail ballot during November. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters in the LAA up for elections.

FARM RECORD CHANGES

Changes in leases, ownerships, or reorganization of farm entities should be updated in our records as soon as they are known. Changes for the 2008 crop year are now being taken and we will start processing these changes after 10/01/07.

SIGNUP FOR EQIP SET FOR OCTOBER 1 THROUGH NOVEMBER 2, 2007

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a program from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) which provides financial and technical help with conservation practices on agricultural land. **The 2008 EQIP signup begins October 1 and the cutoff for applications is November 2, 2007.** Priorities for 2008 include crop residue management practices such as mulch tillage and direct seed to prevent soil erosion, structural practices for erosion control, grazing land protection and streamside vegetation enhancement, and forestland practices to thin or prune trees and plant adapted trees on under stocked land. EQIP offers contracts which run a minimum of two years to a maximum of ten years, and provide funds to help install planned conservation practices based on identified natural resource concerns. Conservation practices are subject to NRCS technical standards and federal environmental protection provisions. Management is a key component to successful conservation so plans will include management practices. Check facts and features of EQIP on the WA NRCS website www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov under "Programs" or contact your local NRCS office.

USE OF FSA LOAN FUNDS

Is cost-share requirements on conservation practices preventing you from adopting a practice or is a new tractor needed on the farm to increase efficiencies? FSA may be able to help with the financing. FSA provides low interest, long-term loans to producers who have difficulty obtaining commercial credit. Direct Farm Ownership Loans may be used to purchase land, construct buildings or other improvements and apply soil and water conservation practices. FSA also has a Beginning Farmer Down Payment program to help purchase a farm or ranch. Producers may use Direct Operating Loans to purchase livestock, poultry, equipment, feed, seed, farm chemicals, and supplies; to apply soil and water conservation practices and to refinance indebtedness with certain limitations. When a county or contiguous county receives a disaster designation, FSA makes Direct Emergency Loans available. These loans may be used to restore or replace essential property, pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year, pay essential family living expenses, reorganize the farming operation or refinance indebtedness with certain limitations. FSA also makes available Guaranteed Loans through commercial lenders. Guaranteed Operating loans can be used for the same purposes as the corresponding Direct Loans but they may also be used to refinance debt. FSA also has Youth Loans for the 4-H and FFA projects as well as starting other youth projects.

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Ave. SW, Washington D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.