



April 23, 2007

# YAKIMA COUNTY FSA NEWS

## Yakima County FSA

1606 Perry Street, Suite A  
Yakima, WA 98902-5769  
Phone- (509) 454-5746, Ext. #2  
Fax- (509) 454-5682

### Office Hours

Monday – Friday  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

### County Committee

Nadeen Boyle, Chairperson  
Linda North-Spaulding, Vice-Chair.  
Daniel T. Martinez, Member  
Gilbert Gonzalez, Jr., Advisor  
Jose Guzman, Advisor  
Carol Hull, Advisor

### Office Staff

Raquel Calderon, PT  
Sandy Christensen, PT  
Jennifer DeWeese, PT  
Sherry Fadden, PT  
Crispin Garza, SCL  
Brian Miller, CED  
Kim Miller, PT  
Lisa Ruff, FLM  
Scott Smith, FLO

### Next COC Meeting

April 24, 2007  
9:00 AM

### Dates to Remember

- May 31- Loan/LDP deadline for corn and grain sorghum
- June 30- Acreage Reporting Deadline
- June 30- NAP 2006 crop production reporting deadline

### FSA Web Sites

State- <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>  
National- <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>  
USDA- <http://www.usda.gov>



## COMMITTEE UPDATE

Gilbert Gonzalez, Jr., Jose Guzman and Carol Hull have been appointed by the Washington State FSA Committee to serve as County Committee Advisors for a one-year term. We look forward to the advisors' continued contributions to the Committee during the coming year.

## ACREAGE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Producers who wish to maintain eligibility for the following programs need to file an acreage report with our office by June 30th:

- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) participants.
- Direct and Counter-Cyclical (DCP) program participants
- Wheat, feed grain, honey & wool producers who wish to maintain eligibility for price support loans and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's)
- Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP) participants.

**As was required last year, planting dates are needed for the crops being reported.** Please take note of your planting dates, and have them with you when you come in to file your acreage report. If you have perennial crops, or have completed planting your 2007 crops, please contact our office for an appointment to file your acreage report.

## NONINSURED CROP LOSS REPORTING

Producers who purchased catastrophic crop loss coverage for noninsurable 2007 crops, under the *Noninsured 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.

## 2007 DCP PROGRAM SIGNUP

Producers who will be operating farms in 2007 with crop acreage bases established under the Direct and Counter Cyclical Payment (DCP) program may signup now. The signup period has recently been extended until August 3, 2007 to enroll farms in the 2007 DCP program.

There are two types of payments available for producers who participate in the DCP program:

**Direct Payments-** Regardless of the price of commodities, direct payments will be issued annually on 85% of the crop acreage base times the payment yield. Direct payment rates include 52 cents/bu for wheat, 28 cents/bu for corn, 24 cents/bu for barley and 2.4 cents/bu for oats. 22% of the direct payments can be requested at signup.

**Counter-Cyclical Payments-** Will be paid if market prices fall below certain levels during the 12-month marketing periods for each commodity. Depending on the comparison between national average market levels and target prices, it is possible that counter-cyclical payments could be paid 3 times during the crop year.

## FRUITS AND VEGETABLES ON DCP FARMS

The DCP program is intended to allow producers flexibility in the crops they may wish to plant with the exception of fruits or vegetables on contract acres. A contract violation may occur if fruits or vegetables are planted on DCP contract acres when the farm has no history of fruit or vegetable production or the producer sharing in the crop has no history of planting the specific fruit or vegetable. Before planting a fruit or vegetable crop, please contact this office to ensure planting eligibility.

## 2006 GRAIN LOANS AND LDP'S

All corn and grain sorghum are eligible for price support benefits for 2006. Producers have a choice between taking-out a regular 9 month Price Support Loan or receiving a Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP). Producers can check the LDP rates daily on the Internet at the following address:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/psd/ldp/>. **May 31, 2007** is the final date to request a CCC commodity loan or loan deficiency payment (LDP) on 2005 crop corn or grain sorghum.

### EMERGENCY LOANS

Producers in Yakima County may be eligible for emergency loans under the following disaster declaration by the Secretary of Agriculture. The declaration covers damages and losses caused by the following conditions:

- Adverse weather conditions since April 1, 2006; (*May 1, 2007 application deadline*).
- Severe storms, flooding, landslides, and mudslides which occurred November 2-11, 2006; (*August 13, 2007 application deadline*).
- Severe **physical losses only** due to winter storms which occurred from December 14, 2006 through January 15, 2007. (*September 30, 2007 application deadline*).
- Severe winter storms, landslides, and mudslides which occurred December 14-15, 2006. (*October 15, 2007 application deadline*).

For more information on emergency loans please contact our office.

### CRP MAINTENANCE

The primary nesting season currently established for Washington State is April 1 through August 1, except for CRP contracts approved before September 26, 2006, with scheduled mid-contract management practices. For these contracts the primary nesting season is considered to be April 1 through June 1. During the primary nesting season, prior approval of the County Committee is required to treat weeds by spraying on CRP contracts that have received final stand certification. In addition, mowing, light tillage and interseeding shall not be conducted during the primary nesting season. Burning shall not occur April 1 to August 15.

While prior approval may be required during certain times, FSA will generally grant approval for any legitimate weed problem. Also, activities such as harrowing or chopping of dried up mustards and Russian thistle after the nesting period has ended can be a valuable tool to keep these weeds from getting on your neighbor's property. These activities help maintain grass vigor and ensure that you have a viable cover for the entire contract period. CRP contracts contain a \$4-5 per year, per acre maintenance incentive to perform these activities so you are already being compensated to keep your stand in good health.

The above rules only apply to contracts that have been certified as meeting stand requirements. If your stand has not been certified, you may, and are contractually required to perform any reasonable weed control activities necessary, at any time of the year as called for in your conservation plan. Failure of your stand due to lack of weed control may lead to payment reductions or contract termination.

### USDA 2007 FARM BILL PROPOSALS AVAILABLE

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 hard-copy 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>.

Se habla español en esta oficina de FSA. Si quiere información tocante a los programas de crédito, conservación y otros programas que suministra esta oficina, por favor visite o llame la oficina de FSA. El número de teléfono es (509) 454-5746. La dirección se encontra encima.