



November 15, 2006

## 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  
Daniel T. Martinez, Vice-Chair.  
Linda North-Spaulding, Member  
Gilbert Gonzalez, Jr., Advisor  
Carol Hull, Advisor

### Office Staff

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

### Next COC Meeting

November 28, 2006  
9:00 AM

### Dates to Remember

- November 17- EQIP Application deadline
- November 20- NAP and Crop Insurance application deadline
- November 23- Office closed in observance of Thanksgiving
- December 4- COC Election voting deadline

### FSA Web Sites

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



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

### FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION DEADLINE

FSA County Committee elections ballots must be returned to the FSA office or postmarked by Monday December 4, 2006. The Committee elections are being held in Local Administrative Area #1 this year. This area consists of farms located in the upper valley minus the land situated south of Ahtanum Creek. Producers in this area will be electing a County Committee person and an alternate to serve a three-year term. The following candidates have been nominated for the election:

- **Cherryl Gutierrez** farms two miles northwest of Selah, and has 6 years of experience in the production of apples and pears. Ms. Gutierrez is currently an Alternate to the FSA County Committee.
- **Jose J. Guzman** farms three miles southeast of Moxee, and has two years experience in the production of apples.
- **Daniel T. Martinez** farms east of Moxee and has 34 years experience in the production of hay, wheat, apples, cattle and sheep. Mr. Martinez is a member of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers and the FSA County Committee, and past member of the West Valley Fair Board.

The election ballots were sent out November 3, and must be returned by Monday December 4, 2006. In addition, voters must sign the certification on the ballot envelope for the ballot to be considered valid! Producers who did not receive a ballot and feel like they should have should contact our office. Please take the time to vote for the candidate of your choice.

### NONINSURED CROP LOSS COVERAGE

Producers may now purchase catastrophic crop loss coverage for noninsurable crops, for harvest in 2006, under the *Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)*. The cost of the coverage is \$100 per crop, not to exceed \$300 per producer, per County. Producers interested in this program should call our office for an

appointment to apply. Upcoming application closing dates are as follows:

- **November 20-** for prunes & plums and other noninsurable perennial fruit and vegetable crops, and honey

### CROP DISASTER INSURANCE DEADLINE

To qualify for a 2003 or 2004 Crop Disaster Program (CDP) benefits, producers who did not have crop insurance, or NAP coverage for noninsurable crops, in the disaster year agreed to purchase crop insurance or NAP coverage for the next two crop years. The insurance must be purchased at a level greater than the catastrophic level for insurable crops. **November 20<sup>th</sup> is the application deadline** for perennial fruit and vegetable crops and for honey. **Producers who fail to purchase crop insurance and/or NAP coverage will be required to refund the full amount of the CDP payment, plus interest.**

### PNW UNDERCUTTER PROJECT APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) is the recipient of an NRCS Conservation Innovative Grant for a 3-year project to demonstrate and advance the "Undercutter Method" for winter wheat summer fallow farming. The Grant will address the natural resources concerns of soil erosion reduction, overall soil quality, soil productivity; as well as agricultural particulate emissions. Project duration is through 2009, and will include a cost-share to the farmers administered by WAWG. Applications and criteria are now available at the WAWG website [www.wawg.org](http://www.wawg.org), or by calling 1-800-598-6890, Ext. #11.

### 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*).

For more information on emergency loans please contact our office.

### 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. Producers have until June 1, 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.

### LOANS AVAILABLE

FSA has direct and guaranteed loan programs available for family-sized farm businesses. FSA's loan programs are designed to help farmers who are temporarily unable to obtain private, commercial credit.

The loan limits for direct operating and farm ownership loans are \$200,000 each. The loan limit for guaranteed operating and farm ownership loans is a combined total of \$899,000. Funding is allocated for these programs after October 1 of each year.

Depending on the type of loan, funds can be used to purchase farms, livestock, and equipment, operate the farm, build or repair farm buildings, pay for water development for conservation practices and in some cases refinance debts. For additional information contact our office.

### DEADLINE FOR EQIP

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) is now taking applications for the 2007 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) through close of business Friday, November 17. The **deadline of November 17** is a new deadline for EQIP. In past years, signup began in the fall, with the deadline in early January. With this new deadline, NRCS will have more time to work with growers to develop sound conservation plans, which will make for better contracts. EQIP is a cost-share program that provides financial assistance for growers to implement conservation practices. If you have interest in signing up, please contact your local NRCS office.

### MILK (MILCX) PROGRAM REMINDER

Milk producers are reminded that if a MILCX production start month was not selected for fiscal year 2007, the month elected for the 2006 fiscal year will be production start month for the 2007 fiscal year. In order to change the production start month for fiscal year 2007, producers will need to come into the FSA office on or before the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the month originally selected by the dairy operation as their MILCX production start month, and the new production start month requested.

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.