



JULY 2006

# CHELAN & DOUGLAS FSA NEWS

## Chelan County FSA

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## Douglas County FSA

PO Box 489  
Waterville, WA 98858-0489  
Phone (509) 745-8561  
Fax (509) 745-8758

## Office Hours

Monday – Friday  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

## Chelan County Committee

Phyllis Gleasman, Chair  
Donald Jagla, V-Chair  
Richard Smithson, Member  
Jesus Limon, Advisor

## Douglas County Committee

Leroy Thomsen, Chair  
Roger Wesselman, V-Chair  
Rodney Peterson, Member  
Mary Isaak, Advisor  
Jesus Limon, Advisor

## Office Staffs

Michel Ruud, CED  
Mike Cada, FLM  
Bill Henry  
Anita Perez  
Dawn Peaslee  
Lori Tabler  
Sherry Ramin  
Janice Badten  
Laura Klinger  
Paul Daling  
Bud Bareither

## Next COC Meeting

September 12 – Douglas  
August 17 – Chelan

9:00 AM



## CROP LOSSES DUE TO JULY STORM

If you suffered losses due to the recent storm that devastated much of Chelan and Douglas Counties fruit crops, please contact our offices if you have not already done so. A report was sent to the Governor's office regarding a disaster designation. Additional information will be required if one is made. FSA conducts a damage assessment, and makes a report. We need as much information as possible in order to provide accurate figures. **If you suffer any crop, farm or livestock losses due to a weather related condition, please remember to contact your local FSA office.**

## USDA OFFERS GUIDE TO HELP AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS PROTECT THE U.S. FOOD SUPPLY

The U.S. Department of Agriculture today released a guide entitled "Pre-Harvest Security Guidelines and Checklist 2006" to help agricultural producers enhance security at the farm level. These practical measures help to protect against natural disasters, as well as the unintentional or intentional introduction of plant or animal diseases.

Food and agriculture bio-security is an important component of USDA's mission. Improving awareness through enhanced outreach and communications is a key element of USDA's homeland security efforts. The voluntary guidelines and checklists were developed based upon recommendations made by producers throughout the United States. Guidelines have been developed for general agriculture; dairy; crops; cattle and poultry security.

You can pick up your "Pre-Harvest Security Guidelines and Checklist 2006" at the local FSA office or contact us to mail one to you. For more information about USDA's homeland security efforts, go to [www.usda.gov/homelandsecurity](http://www.usda.gov/homelandsecurity)

## SEND YOUR NOMINATIONS FOR COUNTY COMMITTEE

Here's your chance to guide federal farm programs. **FSA will be accepting nominations for county committee membership through August 1, 2006.** The Chelan and Douglas County Committees have positions open. Committee members make decisions related to commodity price support, conservation and disaster assistance programs. They receive an hourly wage for their attendance and representation at County Committee meetings.

Persons eligible to run for office must:

1. participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA;
2. be eligible to vote in a county committee election; and
3. reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate. (NOTE: In special cases, this requirement may be waived. Check with the local county office.)

FSA encourages all interested producers, including women and growers of different ethnic backgrounds, to seek nominations. Contact the county office for a nomination form or obtain one online at

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections/Default.asp>.

The election period will be from November 3 – December 4, 2006.

## FARM FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK

Please remember, the Farm Family Support Network is a resource available to help producers in Washington State. **The network provides free consultation to farmers and families.** They have access to financial, legal, health and other advice. They have also developed a stress guide. Spanish-speaking consultants are available. Their website is <http://ffsn.wsu.edu>. You can also call for help at 1-800-469-2981.

### COMMODITY LOANS

All 2006 crop wheat, barley, corn, oats, oil seeds, and dry peas are eligible for price support benefits. Producers have the choice between taking a regular 9-month loan or receiving a Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP). Loan rates for 2006 are as follows (small/feed grain rates are in bushels & oilseeds are in hundred-weights):

	Durum Wheat	HRS Wheat	HRW Wheat	SW Wheat	Barley	Oats	Corn	Mustard Seed	Canola
Chelan	----	3.20	3.38	2.95	2.11	1.28	2.42	8.05	6.94
Douglas	3.53	3.20	3.28	2.90	2.11	1.28	2.36	8.19	7.09
Grant	3.53	3.20	3.28	2.95	2.13	1.28	2.36	8.19	7.09
Okanogan	----	3.15	3.28	2.90	2.11	1.28	2.36	8.19	7.09

Producers who use CCC loan programs must maintain beneficial interest (control and title) of the commodity from harvest through the date of repayment. Commodity loans mature at the end of the ninth month following the month of disbursement. The current interest rate for July is 6.125%. The interest rate changes monthly and applies when the loan is disbursed. The rate remains the same through December 31<sup>st</sup> and then adjusts to the January rate. Lien searches are required before disbursement of loans. Lien waivers are required for prior crop liens. The final date to request a 2006 crop loan is March of 2007. Grain acquired through purchase, trade, or as wages is not eligible for loan. Please contact this office if you have any questions.

### CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

FSA is in the process of making field inspections on CRP acreage for extensions and re-enrollment. When you receive a letter or forms from this office in the near future, please be sure to respond immediately. The deadline to process all expiring 2007 contracts for extension is September 30<sup>th</sup>. All necessary documentation must be signed, returned and approved by the County Committees. If you have weeds in excess of tolerable levels, you will be asked to provide information regarding weed control operations you have conducted in the past, and plan to continue. Only after your written reply is received, reviewed by the County Committee and approved will you be offered an extension or re-enrollment. We understand that Dalmatian Toadflax is an obnoxious-noxious weed; however you must be making an effort to control/contain it. Weed control is a contract requirement. Please call our offices if you have questions or concerns. Thank you for your prompt attention regarding the CRP re-enrollment/extension process.

### CONSERVATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) serving Chelan, Okanogan, and Douglas Counties announced the 2007 sign-up for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and will be **accepting applications for Fiscal Year 2007 funding through November 11, 2006**. Note this is two months earlier than in past years.

EQIP is a voluntary program that helps landowners restore and protect grassland, rangeland, cropland, forestland, orchard land, and other lands, and provides assistance for rehabilitating identified natural resource concerns on these lands. Producers can submit applications at local USDA service centers through close of business Friday, November 11. For application forms and program information contact your local Natural Resource Conservation Office at the appropriate county Agriculture Service Center. Telephone numbers are: Chelan County (509)664-0210 ext. 3, and Douglas County (509)745-8362 ext. 3.

Additional details on payments and cost-share for the program can be found on Washington NRCS's website at: <http://www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov> For more information about EQIP and other conservation programs, contact your local USDA Service Center, or online at <http://www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/fieldoffices.html>.

Se habla español en esta oficina de FSA. Si quiere informacion tocante a los programas de crédito, conservacion y otros programas que se administran en esta oficina, por favor visite o llame la oficina de FSA. El número de teléfono es (509) 664-0283 en el condado de Chelan, (509) 745-8561 en el condado de Douglas. La dirección se encuentra al frente.