



October 2005

CHELAN & DOUGLAS COUNTY FSA NEWS

Chelan County FSA

301 Yakima Street, Room 303
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Phone (509) 664-0283
Fax (509) 664-0289

Douglas County FSA

PO Box 489
Waterville, WA 98858-0489
(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
Jesus Limon, Advisor

Office Staffs

Michel Ruud, CED
Mike Cada, FLM
Bill Henry
Anita Perez
Dawn Peaslee
Lori Tabler
Sherry Ramin
Janice Badten
Paul Daling
Diane DeFord

Next COC Meeting

Chelan = November 8th
8:00 a.m.

Douglas = November 14th
9:00 a.m.

PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR FRUIT GROWERS

FSA will be hosting public meetings in order to provide information to fruit growers about Emergency Loans for growers who suffered crop losses due to weather related conditions, and Federal Crop Insurance products that are available to help growers manage future risk. FSA and Risk Management Agency will conduct the meetings. They will be held **Wednesday, November 1st** at the following locations:

- ◆ Wenatchee; Confluence Technology Center, 285 Technology Center Way, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.
- ◆ Chelan; PUD Auditorium, 1034 E. Woodin Avenue, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

The sales closing date for Multi-Peril Crop Insurance for 2007 crop apples, cherries, apricots, peaches, nectarines, grapes and pears is November 20, 2006. Revenue protection policies are also available. Please come join us for more information!

DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM

Sign-up for the 2007 DCP began on October 2, 2006 and continues through June 1, 2007. To be eligible for payments, producers must sign a contract each year. The “direct” payment rates are:

- \$0.52/bu for Wheat
- \$0.24/bu for Barley
- \$0.024/bu for Oats
- \$0.28/bu for Corn
- \$0.008/cwt for Oilseeds

Advance payments are available at 22% of these rates. This is a change from prior years. Payments can be selected beginning in December. Final direct payments will be issued next October. Producers must decide whether they want to take advance counter-cyclical payments. These payments become available if projected market prices are below the target price minus the direct payment rate, minus the higher the national loan or the national average price. Please contact this office for an appointment to sign-up.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Election ballots will be sent to all eligible voters in the applicable local administrative area by our Kansas City Management Office in early November. Producers need to return the ballots to the local FSA Office by December 4, 2006.

In Chelan County: **Kelly Riedinger** and **Raul Sanchez** are candidates for election in the Wenatchee area (LAA No. 3).

In Douglas County: **Terri Brandt**, **Jesus Limon** and **Randy Mittelstaedt** are candidates for election in the north eastern portion of the county (LAA No. 1).

The grower-elected committee is your voice in USDA programs. Committee members work with area residents to maintain the local focus of many USDA programs, inform people of what's available, and help growers understand the programs. Please vote!

EMERGENCY CRP GRAZING DUE TO WILDFIRES

In response to area fires in Washington, FSA is making available the emergency use of Conservation Reserve Program acreage in Douglas County. Livestock displaced by the fire will be allowed to graze on grass in CRP fields, which are normally off-limits to grazing this time of year.

Livestock owners affected by fire may use their CRP land for grazing without an assessed payment reduction to their annual rental rate. Also, CRP participants may allow grazing privileges for other eligible livestock producer without CRP land. Grazing will be allowed on CRP land for 60 days after the emergency use is approved.

At least 25 percent of the CRP contract acreage must be left ungrazed for wildlife or the acreage may be grazed at 75 percent of the normal stocking rate. Other restrictions and limitations also apply. Producers must obtain an approved grazing conservation plan **prior to grazing** the acreage and should submit applications to our office. Please call us for more information.

FSA'S AGRICULTURAL LENDING PROGRAM

Each year Congress allocates dollars to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to operate an Agricultural Lending program. We presently have priority funding set aside to assist beginning farmers with their farming operations. Also, a portion of the funds is specifically allocated for minority and women. While FSA farm loans are available to all qualified applicants, by setting aside funds specifically for minorities and women, it ensures that they will receive a portion of available funds.

FSA has direct lending authority in which FSA makes a real estate or operating loan directly to farmers and ranchers. FSA also puts a federal guarantee on loans made by banks and other agricultural lending institutions.

Funding availability relies on Congressional authorizations. Contact the Chelan County Farm Service Agency office (509-664-0285) if you have questions about availability of loan funds or other questions about FSA's loan programs.

PRE-HARVEST GRAIN MARKETING WORKSHOP

To help farmers put together a winning grain marketing game plan, WSU Extension is sponsoring a marketing workshop on Monday, November 13 at the Coulee City Elementary School beginning at 4:30 p.m. This workshop is filled with practical, easy-to-execute advice to help farmers secure a good price for their crop.

This workshop will give farmers a chance to practice their marketing skills in a no-risk environment. Participants will review an actual marketing plan and explore how target dates and target prices can help producers more consistently secure a good average price for their crop. Through the game in this workshop, farmers get a feel for how a marketing plan can work and react to real-life market fluctuations.

The workshop is jointly sponsored by WSU Extension in cooperation with the Douglas County Crop Improvement Association. The workshop is free and includes dinner. Pre-registration for the workshop is requested. Please call WSU Extension at 745-8531 by November 8.

WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF WHEAT GROWERS (WAWG) – PNW UNDERCUTTER PROJECT

The Wheat Growers are the recipient of Natural Resources Conservation Service Innovative Grant for a 3-year project in combination with 14 counties of Washington and Oregon to demonstrate and advance the "Undercutter Method" for winter wheat and summer fallow. The grant will address the natural resources concerns of soil erosion reduction, overall soil quality and productivity, as well as agricultural particulate emissions. Project duration will be from the summers of 2006 through 2009, and will include a cost-share to the farmers as administered by WAWG. Applications and criteria are now available at the WAWG website www.wawg.org, or by calling 1-800-598-6890 (Ext. 11).

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) serving Chelan, Okanogan, and Douglas Counties announces the 2007 sign-up for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and will be accepting applications for Fiscal Year 2007 funding through November 17, 2006. Producers can submit applications at local USDA service centers through close of business Friday, November 17. A contract to implement the conservation plan can be as short as 13 months or as long as 3 years.

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.