

MAY 2007

STEVENS COUNTY FSA NEWS

Stevens County FSA

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Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Executive Director

Martin A. Cunningham

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County Committee

John H. Steele - Chairperson
Bruce Stumpf - Vice Chair.
Doug Falstad – Reg. Member
Gayla McCanna - Advisor

Web Sites

National:
www.fsa.usda.gov

WA State:
www.fsa.usda.gov/wa

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NO CRP SIGN UP IN 2007 OR 2008

USDA recently announced that a CRP general sign up will not be held in either 2007 or 2008.

JACKIE RETIRING

Program Technician Jackie Aebly has retired after over twenty years of service with FSA/ASCS. Her last day was April 30, 2007. During her time with our agency, Jackie has worked with conservation, administration, wool, dairy, payment limitations, and automation. Everyone in the Service Center will certainly miss her program knowledge and pleasant manner. Thank you Jackie for all your years of service to Stevens County's farmers and ranchers.

NEW PROGRAM TECHNICIAN

Lisa VanQuekelberg has been hired to fill the position vacated by Jackie's retirement. Lisa has worked next door at the Stevens County Conservation District for close to ten years. We look forward to working with Lisa and would like to welcome her to FSA.

DIRECT AND COUNTERCYCLICAL SIGN UP EXTENDED

The final date to sign up for the Direct and Countercyclical program has been extended until August 3, 2007. Contracts filed after August 3, 2007 can only be approved with a \$100 per farm late fee. Our sign up is currently around 60% complete which indicates that several of our normal participants have not signed up. If you are not signed up, and intend to participate, please call for an appointment as soon as possible. Advance payments of 22% are available after contract approval.

2007 is the last year of the Direct and Countercyclical program under the 2002 farm bill. Congress will draft a new bill covering programs for the next five to seven years this fall. For some insight into what the new bill may contain see the next article on farm bill proposals.

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 hardcopy 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>.



COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

Nominations for the 2007 County Committee Election close August 1, 2007. This year's election will be in the area along the river including the Spokane Indian Reservation. This area is currently represented by chairperson John Steele of the Hunters/Fruitland area. To nominate an election candidate request form FSA-669A from our office.

NONINSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM REPORTING REMINDERS

Producers with Noninsured Assistance Program coverage are reminded that notice of loss needs to be filed within fifteen days of the date of weather related disaster events, or when damage to a crop becomes evident. If you intend to destroy the crop, or will not continue to care for the crop through harvest, FSA must be contacted so that a loss adjuster can verify the damage prior to crop destruction. Failure to meet these requirements can compromise your coverage, or make claims ineligible for assistance.

There are certain basic reporting requirements for NAP policies. Acreage must be reported by the final acreage reporting date which for 2007 is **June 30th**. If you wish to build a proven yield, production from the previous year (2006) must be reported by the same final acreage reporting deadline. Failure to report by these dates can lead to a reduction in benefits.

ACREAGE REPORTING

We will begin taking 2007 crop year acreage reports in May. We ask that you call to schedule an **appointment** to report your acreage as soon as you finish seeding your 2007 crops. Please come to your appointment prepared to indicate which crop is in each field as well as when the crops were seeded.

Producers in the following programs are required to submit an acreage report:

CRP – Conservation Reserve Program
DCP – Direct and Countercyclical Program
NAP – Non-insured Assistance Program
PRICE SUPPORT- Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments

If you are enrolled or plan to be enrolled in any of the programs listed above and fail to report your acreage, you will be ineligible for program payments. You can late file your report, but you will have to pay a late file fee and be subject to an automatic spot check.

Direct and Countercyclical Program participants should not confuse contract sign up with acreage reporting. There are two steps to participating in the Direct and Countercyclical Program. If you have signed a contract earlier in the year, you will still need to file an acreage report.

In many cases, routine acreage reports can be filed by telephone and mailed out for signature.

The final date to report your acreage is JUNE 30th Please mark this date on your calendar. It is your responsibility to file your report before the deadline.