



November 2008

Whitman County FSA News

Whitman County FSA

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Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Greg Hall, Chair
David Swannack, Vice-Chair
Larry Schroetlin, Member
Gracie Miller, Committee
Advisor

Office Staff

Mike Mandere, CED
Ann Holbrook, CPT
Fred Hendrickson, PT
Bonnie Riebold, PT
Kathy Carothers, PT
Doreen Riedner, PT
Nancy Doege, PT
Jonelle Olson, PT

Farm Loan Manager

Steve King
(509) 924-7350

Important Dates

November 11 – Office Closed,
Veterans' Day

November 13 – County
Committee Meeting

December 1 – 2009 NAP
Deadline for perennial forage
and fall planted crops

Get Your Payments Timely & Accurately

Changes in your Bank Account
or has your Bank merged or
changed names?

Don't Forget – Update your
Direct Deposit Form.

Handicapped

Accommodations: Special
accommodations will be
arranged for those persons
with a physical, vision, or
hearing impaired disability. If
special accommodations are
needed, please contact our
office.

2008 Farm Bill Producer Meetings

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 has created many changes to existing programs and eligibility requirements as well as creating some new programs. Many of these changes are much more expansive than we can fit in our newsletter publication. In the interest of providing you the best possible information to assist you in decision making related to the 2008 Act we have scheduled a series of meetings to present the information to you. The following is a tentative agenda of items to be covered. The meetings will run approximately 3-4 hours and are designed in a manner of priority. Items of importance to the majority of producers are provided first and then those that pertain to fewer producers at the latter part of the meeting. Producers are encouraged to attend the entire session but have the option to leave after sessions that they feel pertain to their farming operation.

- Payment Limitation and Direct Attribution
- DCP/ACRE
- Price Support/FSFL
- AGI
- POA's, FOIA, and Eligibility
- Conservation
- Title I Disaster Assistance
 - Risk Management Purchase Requirements
 - NAP, SURE, and Livestock Programs

The following are the dates, times, and locations of the meetings. Additional meetings may be added in the future to ensure all producers have an opportunity to attend and receive the information.

Colfax, CETC Building (old Elks hall): 8 am Tuesday, November 25 and 8 am Tuesday, December 16

Oakesdale, Masonic Lodge (118 N. Front Street): 9 am Tuesday, December 2

Colton, Gun Club: 9 am Thursday, December 4

St John, Community Building, Fairgrounds: 9 am Wednesday December 10

2009 DCP/ACRE Signup Status

The 2008 Act has authorized an annual signup during the life of the Act (2008-2012). Normally signup would start on October 1 and end June 1 each year. However, due to the changes under the 2008 Act FSA is still working to prepare Federal Regulation, program procedure, and software. We anticipate an announcement shortly regarding signup but as of this date the Secretary has not yet set a starting date. Once signup begins we will take appointments the same as we always have in the past. You will want to anticipate taking extra time to file new payment eligibility paperwork and to determine whether you will elect DCP or ACRE. We strongly encourage you to attend one of the public meeting sessions listed above prior to coming in for signup. The information presented at the meeting will be very helpful in assisting you to understand the changes and new programs.

2008 Crop Marketing Assistance Loan Requests

Marketing Assistance Loan requests can be made for either farm or warehouse stored commodities. Lien searches and UCC filings will need to be completed prior to disbursement of farm stored loans. Please give us at least a half day notice prior to coming in to sign loan forms. We need time to complete your lien search and get the results back. Producers are responsible for obtaining all lien waivers prior to loan disbursement.

Warehouse-stored loans are secured with a warehouse receipt. Farm-stored loans are secured with a UCC filing. Producers requesting Marketing Assistance Loans will need to file a CCC-10 (If not already on file). The CCC-10 authorizes CCC to file financing statements and serves notice that CCC intends to perfect its security interest.

Marketing Assistance Loans (cont.)

Marketing Assistance Loans mature on demand, but no later than the last day of the ninth calendar month after the month in which the loan is disbursed. For example, loans disbursed in November 2008 will mature August 31, 2009. Loan service fees (not applicable to LDP's) are the smaller of 1/2 of 1 percent of the gross loan amount or \$45 per loan plus \$3 for each bin or warehouse receipt over 1.

Interest rates have stabilized somewhat over the last few months. Loans disbursed in November 2008 will have an interest rate of 2.5%. When a Marketing Assistance Loan is taken the rate remains fixed until January 1. On January 1 any outstanding balances will be adjusted to the January rate and remain at that rate until loan maturity.

Producers may certify to the quantity on farm-stored loans or measurement service is available for a fee. There is a \$30 basic farm charge plus \$16 per hour for staff time, \$8 every 30 minutes after the first hour. Minimum 1 hour. The mileage charge is included in the basic farm rate; there is no charge for mileage. Certified farm-stored loans are subject to spot check. Producers storing farm-stored commodities comingled with landlords in the same bin must obtain signatures from all producers with an interest in the commodity stored in the bin being offered for loan collateral.

Warehouse-stored loans may be subject to a loan rate reduction if storage has not been paid through maturity. The loan rate is reduced to reflect any unpaid storage and is done to ensure that CCC will not be held liable for unpaid storage in the event of forfeiture. In addition producers and warehouse operators are required to sign a statement if in-charges have not been prepaid. CCC will no longer pay in-charges on forfeited collateral.

2008 County Committee Elections

Ballots for Committee Elections in Local Administrative Area 2 (Central Whitman County) were mailed November 3, 2008. This area is currently represented by County Committee Chairperson Greg Hall. **Ballots must be returned by December 1, 2008. Please remember to sign your ballot return envelope. Also please remember that you cannot sign a ballot using a Power-of-Attorney.** FSA takes identity theft very seriously and makes every reasonable attempt to protect FSA customers' personally identifiable information (PII). In an effort to prevent identity theft through Committee ballots, the ballot was redesigned to provide a more secure method to protect voters' PII. Voters are to seal the ballot envelope in two locations on the envelope. The first seals the envelope containing their voted FSA-669. The second seals the flap to the outer side of the ballot envelope to protect the signed label. The following have been nominated and have agreed to serve if elected to the County Committee:

Greg Hall Corde Siegel

Attention CRP Participants: Wind Blown Weed Advisory

Fall is the time of year the wind picks up and sometimes "picks up" Russian thistles and Jim Hill Mustard and carries them to neighboring fields, roads, and even people's yards. The County Committee reminds CRP participants to be good stewards; check your stands for Russian thistles, Mustard and other weeds that are susceptible to being moved by the wind. Please mow or chop any infestations. Don't let your CRP be a source of irritation and complaints from your neighbors. Contact the County Office and we can provide you a list of contractors if you don't have access to a mower.

Whitman County 2008 Crop Loan Rates		
Loans disbursed in November 2008 will mature August 31, 2009. November CCC Interest Rate 2.5%		
SWW: \$2.70 per bu	BLY: \$2.14 per bu (\$89 per ton)	DPEAS: \$6.58 per cwt
HRS & HWS: \$3.23 per bu	Oats: \$1.26 per bu	LENTILS: \$14.23 per cwt
HRW & HWW: \$3.27 per bu	Canola: \$7.30 per cwt.	S. Chickpeas \$7.43/cwt.

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