



Farm Service Agency

May 2008

ADAMS FSA NEWS -n- VIEWS

Adams County FSA

506 Weber Ave. Suite A
Ritzville WA 99169
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Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Randy Franz
Greg Galbreath
Leroy Watson Jr.
Elizabeth Lyle

COC Meetings

Thursday of the third full week
of each month; next meeting
date May 22, 2008

Office Staff

Chris Holt, CED
Rae Ann Telecky, PT
Jullie Cain, PT
Angela Melcher, PT
Karin Talkington, PT
Emily Kulm, Temp PT

Farm Loan Staff

Everett Purrington, FLM
Libby Anderson FLO
Nancy Segar FLO

Contact at (509) 754-2463

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Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) – State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)

A new special initiative of CRP called SAFE has been approved for certain parts of Washington. There are a total of four projects approved for the state, two of which are available for Adams County. Both of these programs are voluntary and are designed to improve wildlife habitat for specific types of birds designated by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). The land available must have been cropped four of the six years between 1996 and 2001, which includes land that was in summer fallow or enrolled in CRP. The contracts have terms of 10 to 15 years and landowners are entitled to the following payment: signing incentive, practice incentive, maintenance payment and annual rental payments. These combined with current CRP payments, if applicable, will be limited to \$50,000 per person per year.

The first program is called the Eastern Washington Shrub-steppe SAFE. This program is for the enhancement of wildlife land that is within ½ mile of an existing remnant shrub-steppe habitat. These lands are located around the Crab Creek drainage area in North West Adams County. The blocks of land must be at least 5 acres in size with no maximum amount.

The other eligible program is the Columbia Basin Irrigation Project SAFE. Again this project is to enhance wildlife habitat. The land eligible is located in the Warden area and includes irrigation blocks 42, 43, and 44. The primary unit of the land will be the irrigation circle corners and other odd shaped, difficult to farm areas. There are no minimum or maximum acres to be eligible.

During the contract period the landowner will be required to plant specific wildlife seed mixes for food and cover established by the WDFW, and implement a weed control plan. Lists of the types of grasses and seed mixes available to plant are available through the local FSA office, Conservation District and WDFW. Similar to CRP-1 contracts, SAFE contracts will be available for cost share. This is non competitive program, and does not currently have a final signup date. For those landowners interested in signing up or for more information please contact the Adams County FSA office.

Youth Loan Program Funds Available to 4-H and FFA Members

Farm Service Agency has a great opportunity to help youth in local agriculture clubs such as FFA and 4-H. FSA offers a Youth Loan Program to assist these youth with their club projects. With summer fairs around the corner and the purchase of fair animals taking place combined with the increase in production costs, now is a great time to contact FSA to learn more about the program.

Projects are modest in size and loans can be made for any agricultural related income generating project. Repayment of the loan comes from the local fair check proceeds and terms can be up to 7 years. The current loan interest rate is 3.25%.

FSA believes that these youth may be future farmers and this program offers a great opportunity to gain experience in financing. FSA currently is assisting 12 young men and women from Grant and Adams County clubs.

FSA has an educational program and is available upon request to visit local 4-H or FFA clubs, schools or homes and can assist with the application process.

Applications are short and the process has a quick funding turn around time. Contact the Grant County FSA Office, 509-754-2463, Ext. 2 and ask for Libby Anderson or Nancy Seger, Farm Loan Officers.

Acreage Reports

The annual acreage reporting period continues through June 30th for the current crop year. For certain programs facilitated through FSA like NAP and CRP, acreage reports are required to be filed. If they are not filed timely then you may become ineligible for program participation. Acreage reports are an important tool for you as a producer, providing a historical record of your farm and crops and can be beneficial to your participation in future FSA programs.

We still do not have a current DCP program and are waiting for the new farm bill to be finalized. We do anticipate that we will have a DCP program or something similar that will require acreage reporting, and to serve you better we would like to accomplish both the signup and acreage reporting process at the same time. We will make an announcement when we know about the new farm bill. For those who voluntarily wish to acreage report, we are accepting acreage reports now. To make an appointment to report, please call Angela.

Noninsured Assistance Program - Notice of Loss/Annual Reporting Requirements

Remember anyone that is currently covered under NAP you need to file a Notice of Loss anytime a disaster event occurs for the crop year, for example frost, flood, or drought. These Notices have to be filed within 15 days of the event or at the time when the damage becomes apparent, and a new one needs to be filed for every event. The Notice of Loss forms are available by contacting the FSA Office.

Also remember, to maintain your NAP Actual Production History, it is required that you annually report acreage planted to NAP crops, by the final reporting date, and to report harvested production, not later than the final reporting date for the year after the year of harvest. For 2007 production, the final date to report production is June 30, 2008.

Payment Limitation

FSA program participants are reminded that producer eligibility requirements and program benefits are subject to payment limitation regulations. These regulations include accurately and timely filing of required forms and having County Committee make determinations of "actively engaged in farming" and "persons". Most program benefits are also subject to average adjusted gross income limits and the specific program payment limits per person. If your operation is conducted as a corporation or an LLC, a current list of the member's names, addresses, and ID numbers are required. If you are receiving payments from more than one farming operation, you will need to designate which operations you wish to receive benefits through, up to three. Remember that all forms such as CCC-501's, CCC-502's and CCC-526's are subject to spot check through an end-of-year review. If you have any changes in your farming operation those need to be identified by the status date to take effect for the current crop year. If these are not identified by the status date, they will not take affect until the next crop year.

Proper signature authority is required for any entity that is participating in programs. Signature authority can be determined from a power of attorney on an FSA 211 or on one of the following: partnership agreements or joint venture agreements, copies of corporate resolutions or minutes, letters of testamentary for estates, or copies of trust agreements for irrevocable and revocable trusts and estates. Unfortunately we are unable to accept other forms of power of attorney. Husbands and wives can sign most FSA documents on behalf of each other, unless written notification denying this authority has been provided to our office.

We currently do not have a new farm bill that specifies program payment limits, the average adjusted gross income limits, or the current status date. As soon as a new farm bill is passed and these have been set we will inform you. Thank you for your patience on these matters.

Important Deadline Announced

Signup for the Livestock Compensation Program will end July 18, 2008. All applications and supporting documentation must be submitted by this date.

Quality – Crop Disaster Program

We have been informed that the long awaited Quality Disaster Assistance Program is on its way. The county office will be receiving training on this portion of the program the first week of June, and we anticipate taking applications beginning in mid-June. We will announce the beginning date and program specifics as soon as we know more.

Report Storm Damage

Farmers who suffer damage due to weather events throughout the year are encouraged to contact the office. We are constantly trying to decide what disaster assistance program to implement. Without reports of damage we may be limited to the types of assistance we can offer. Any information is valuable to us please call the office to report any damage as soon as possible after the event has occurred.

DBA Update

If you have been running your operation as a "Doing Business As" with a tax identification number, FSA will no longer be able to use the DBA name and ID number for program participation. All of your participation will have to be done under your name with your SSN. The Washington State Committee has determined that participation in USDA programs may only be granted to legally recognized participants, to include individuals, entities, joint operations and partnerships. In the event producer business documents such as production evidence and marketing receipts are in the name of a DBA, we will accept them, if a determination can be made documenting that the legally recognized participant and the DBA are the same party.

Bank Account Changes

If you receive FSA payments by direct deposit, please remember to inform us if your account or bank information changes. Failure to do so will delay your payments.