



NEWSLETTER



Adams County FSA

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December 2010

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Leroy Watson Jr.
Matt Miller
Greg Galbreath
Elizabeth Lyle

COC Meetings

Thursday of the third full week
of each month.

Office Staff

Chris Holt, CED
Angela Melcher, PT
Jullie Cain, PT
Karin Talkington, PT
Elizabeth Sitton, PT

Farm Loan Staff

Libby Anderson FLM
Nancy Segar FLO

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County Committee Election Results

Thank you to all who returned ballots in the recently completed election to determine the County Committee representative for Local Administrative Area #3, representing the southern 1/3 of Adams County. As a result of the election, LeRoy Watson Jr. has been re-elected to serve on the committee for the upcoming three year term. Congratulations LeRoy!

Special thanks are also given to Elizabeth Lyle; Becky has served three consecutive terms as female advisor to the Committee, and will be rotating off this position at the end of the 2010 year due to term limitations. As an alternate committeeperson, Becky also served many times during over the years in the role of regular committeeperson when required due to committee absences. Committee service is an important component of the system we have for delivery of farm programs, and we all owe Becky a debt of gratitude for her willingness to serve in these capacities over the past nine years.

As a final note, our office will be seeking out interested persons to serve in the female advisor position to the Committee for the 2011 year. In addition to providing valuable service to your fellow farm community members, committee service is an excellent way to learn more about the function of USDA programs, and how these programs may affect your individual farming operation. Anyone interested in learning more about the role of the female advisor in the committee process is encouraged to contact Becky, who has indicated a willingness to discuss advisor service with anyone who is interested, and to provide answers to any questions you may have. You may also contact our office with questions, or to request your name be placed on the list of interested persons for consideration to serve as female advisor for 2011. Advisors to the Committee are appointed by the Washington State Committee, based on recommendations from the local County Committee. The deadline for our recommendation is in early February 2011; to learn more about this opportunity, contact Becky, or our office!

DCP/ACRE Program Signups Underway

Producers are now able to enroll farms into the Direct Counter-Cyclical (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue (ACRE) programs for 2011. Signup will continue through June 1st, 2011, and is being conducted through appointment.

Producers who have previously not designated, may choose to enroll into either DCP or ACRE for the current (2011) year; farms previously electing ACRE are limited to participation in the ACRE program only. ACRE enrollment requires the agreement of all owners on the farm, and requires a reduction in direct payments for the farm of 20%, as well as a 30% reduction in loan rates for commodities produced on the farm. The reduced loan rate is also used to determine eligibility for loan deficiency payments, or market loan repayments. Finally, counter-cyclical payment eligibility is surrendered for ACRE farms. In return, participants are potentially eligible to earn ACRE payments on planted crops, when certain conditions are met related to reductions in calculated state revenues for the year versus expected state revenue (referred to as the State trigger), and reductions in calculated farm revenue for the year, versus expected farm revenue for the crop produced (referred to as the Farm trigger). The state trigger was met in 2009 for wheat, barley, corn, dry peas, and non-irrigated canola; the state trigger was not met in 2009 for lentils, and irrigated canola, meaning that ACRE farms producing these crops did not earn an ACRE payment, regardless of individual farm yields.

Producers with ACRE farms are also reminded of the requirement to annually report production of ACRE crops on each farm. **Please note an important change to the reporting process for 2010; we are required to be able to divide production according to wheat type (eg. soft white winter, soft white spring, hard red winter, hard red spring), by irrigation practice, and finally, by tract on which the crop was produced.** To assist us in accurately completing this process, we are asking that you bring your 2010 production records in at the time of your DCP/ACRE appointment; in this way, we can make sure that the data you are providing can be properly attributed to the appropriate tracts, types, and practices. Types of acceptable data records include RMA (crop insurance) yield production records, warehouse summary and division sheets, FSA measurement service, loan and LDP records. Special provisions also exist for production used for seed, feed, or harvested as other than grain.

2009 SURE Signup? 2010 CRP Signup?? Is there a Santa Claus???

Many producers have inquired on the timing of signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) program, the possibility of another general CRP signup during this fiscal year, and other similarly important seasonal questions. SURE is authorized annually through this farm bill, and as such there will be a 2009 signup; the signup will be available to all farms in Adams County based on 2009 disaster declarations received for our County. CRP is authorized at an amount not to exceed 32 million acres nationwide through the current farm bill, and there will be significant amounts of acreage expiring at the end of FY 2011, in both Adams County, with approximately 40,000 acres set to expire, and nationally. At this point, neither program has announced signup periods. As soon as we know the answer to these questions, announcements will be made through the newsletter and local media.

Common Acreage Reporting System (CARS)

Changes continue to occur to our automated farm record systems, and the most recent change, which will be implemented beginning with 2011 crop reporting is the migration of our acreage reporting functions to the web. For you, the customer, changes will be transparent; you will still need to visit the office to provide information on crops planted including type and intended use, planting dates, and the producers sharing in the production of the crop.

The deadline for timely filing of 2011 acreage reports remains at June 30, 2011. However, conversion to this new system now provides us with the opportunity to accept your acreage reports at any point in the year after planting is complete. **Based on this change, and to assist you in limiting your trips to the office, we encourage producers to report their acreage plantings to date when they complete DCP/ACRE signup.** On farms without spring plantings, no further reporting would be required during the spring reporting period. Producers who plan to plant spring crops, or those who need/decide later to plant spring crops, including replanting due to winterkill, may revise acreage reports at the time of planting to include this additional data.

Farm Service Agency and Risk Management Agency (USDA-RMA) cooperate in the sharing of crop reporting data for administration of each Agency's programs. This makes it imperative that your acreage reporting through FSA and local crop insurance agent (as well as the division/interest of crops marketed) be consistent, to maintain your eligibility for USDA programs including SURE, ACRE, DCP, and NAP, as well as maintaining coverage purchased through MCPI policies. Attention to detail at the time of reporting is the key to maintaining your eligibility to receive the benefits and coverage on the farm. With the connectivity of programs under the current farm bill, and restrictions to what data can be corrected "after the fact" it is more important than ever to get it right the first time. Please take the time to ask any questions you have on these issues while reporting; we are happy to take the time to help with the answers.

Last Call for Columbia Basin Irrigation Project SAFE

Washington State has been approved for a number of projects under the State Acres for Wildlife (SAFE) program during the past three years; one such project is the Columbia Basin Irrigation Project SAFE, covering portions of Adams, Grant and Franklin Counties in irrigation Blocks 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 42, 43 and 44. SAFE is a special targeted initiative under the Conservation Reserve Program designed to enroll lands into projects specifically designed to benefit wildlife populations. Enrollment in each SAFE project area is limited to not more than the acreage authorized for the specific project. A total of 500 acres have been allotted for enrollment under the Columbia Basin Irrigation Project SAFE project.

The goal of the Basin Project SAFE has been to enroll irrigation circle corners and other similarly difficult to farm cropland areas, and to establish beneficial permanent covers including a minimum of 3 native grasses, three forbs and one shrub or tree species. Contracts may be 10-15 years, with producers receiving annual rental payments based on soil productivity values, a signup incentive of \$100 per acre made at the time of contract approval, and cost share/practice incentive payments which compensate 90 percent of the cost of installation of required cover and other needed conservation measures.

Due to the popularity of SAFE projects targeted at sage grouse habitat in Douglas and Lincoln Counties, and the relative lack of activity to date in certain other SAFE projects, including the Columbia Basin Irrigation SAFE, the Washington State FSA Committee is considering a shift in acreage from lesser utilized SAFE areas, to allow additional enrollment in the Sage Grouse SAFE areas. Acreage not allocated or pending SAFE offers as of January 31st, 2011 will be considered for reallocation to other SAFE projects with additional demand. Therefore, Basin project producers who are interested in considering a SAFE application are encouraged to discuss the program with your local FSA Office as soon as possible.

THE ADAMS COUNTY SERVICE CENTER STAFF WISH YOU A SAFE HOLIDAY AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

