



September 4, 2008

GARFIELD/ASOTIN COUNTY FSA NEWS

Garfield County FSA

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Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Garfield County FSA Committee

Diane Koller, Chair
Max Scoggin, V-Chair
Chris Wolf, Member

Asotin County FSA Committee

Keith Claassen, Chair
Casey Hagenah, V-Chair
Susie Appleford, Member

Office Staff

Nick Waldher, CED
Jon Wilson, Farm Loan
Manager (Pasco Office)
Kathi Ledgerwood
Sherri Meacham
Emily Ruchert
Lorelei McNamee
Sherri Maki

Next FSA County Committee Meetings

Garfield County, Sept 16
Asotin County, Sept 10

2008 Loan Rates

SWW Wheat	\$2.70/Bu
HRS Wheat	\$3.23/Bu
HRW Wheat	\$3.31/Bu
Barley	\$2.16/Bu or \$90.00/Ton

Contact the county office for loan rates for other crops for other counties.

National FSA Website

www.fsa.usda.gov

Washington State FSA Website

www.fsa.usda.gov/wa

NEW PERMANENT DISASTER ASSISTANCE

The 2008 Farm Bill created new disaster assistance programs. The new programs include the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) and the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) as well as several others. To be eligible for these programs, producers must have Federal Crop Insurance coverage and/or Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on all crops including rangeland and pasture to be eligible for the new programs. For 2008, if producers did not have crop insurance or NAP coverage, they may still be eligible by “Buying-In” to the program. The Buy-In fee is \$100 per crop with a maximum of \$300 per administrative county and a maximum of \$900 for multiple counties. **Deadline to Buy-In for 2008 is September 16, 2008.**

Important – If you have grazing livestock (including horses or other animals that are not commercially marketed), you must “Buy-In” for coverage on your rangeland and pasture to remain eligible for losses on your crops. For example, you have purchased Federal Crop Insurance on your wheat and barley for 2008. To be eligible for SURE payments that include your wheat, barley and rangeland, you must cover your rangeland under the NAP program by paying the “Buy-In” fee. **Deadline to Buy-In for 2008 is September 16, 2008.**

At this time, all program regulations for SURE and other disaster assistance programs are not fully available. We do know that SURE is a whole farm revenue based program (not an individual crop loss program). In many cases, we cannot tell producers if they will actually receive a payment under the SURE program at this time. We can tell producers that if they do not have crop insurance and/or NAP coverage on all of their crops and rangeland and do not Buy-In, they will not receive SURE payments on losses to 2008 crops and rangeland. **Deadline to Buy-In for 2008 is September 16, 2008.**

If you do not understand the “Buy-In” requirement for 2008 disaster losses, you had better ask our office soon as the deadline to Buy-In is September 16, 2008.

SURE FOR 2009

Now is also the time to be thinking about disaster assistance for 2009 crops and rangeland. To be eligible for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (Disaster Payments), you must obtain Federal Crop Insurance on all of your insurable crops. **The deadline to purchase crop insurance for wheat (both winter and spring) is September 30, 2008.** The deadline for anyone with the **winter barley** coverage endorsement (insured by written agreement only) is also **September 30, 2008.** The deadline for winter rapeseed/canola was September 2, 2008. (Hopefully no one has planted this without being insured). Federal Crop Insurance is purchased through your private insurance company agent, just as in the past. As far as we know, these deadlines will not be extended for 2009 crops and there will not be a “Buy-In” later as there was in 2008.

The normal deadline for purchasing NAP (Non-Insured Assistance Program) coverage on grass seed, most hay crops and rangeland is September 30, 2008. However, for 2009, the deadline has been extended to **December 1, 2008.** Coverage does not begin until 30 days after the NAP application is approved; therefore, we encourage all interested to apply and pay the fee as soon as possible. NAP fees have been increased for 2009 to \$250 per crop, not to exceed \$750 per county and \$1875 for multiple county situations. **Remember, to be eligible for 2009 SURE or for the 2009 Livestock Forage Program (LCP) you must have NAP coverage on your rangeland if you have livestock of any kind grazing these acreages.** If you rent your rangeland to someone else to graze livestock, the person with livestock is required to obtain NAP coverage to remain eligible for these programs.

LIVESTOCK FORAGE PROGRAM (LFP)

Did you suffer significant losses due to drought or fire on your rangeland in 2008? Are you covered by the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) on your rangeland for 2008? If you answered yes to the first question and no to the second question, you may want to Buy-In for coverage under the Livestock Forage Program (LFP). Program regulations are not complete at this time, but we know that if producers are to be eligible, **they must have NAP coverage or Buy-In by September 16, 2008.**

DCP SIGNUP DEADLINE

September 30, 2008 is the final deadline to apply for the 2008 Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP). **At least one producer on the farm must sign a contract by September 30.** Other signatures must be obtained by October 15, 2008. The final deadline of September 30, 2008 is a statutory deadline and will not be extended and FSA does not have the authority to use a register to extend the deadline. Late filed applications will not be approved.

CCC LOANS AVAILABLE

Do you need operating money fast and are not ready to sell crops? The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loan program may be the answer. We can usually disburse loans within a week of the request date. Use the money to pay current bills or to repay loans with higher interest rates. Current interest rate is 3.25%.

CRP CRITICAL USE HAYING & GRAZING

Off again, on again, off again. This seemed to be the roller-coaster ride that was the story regarding haying and grazing CRP under the Critical Use Haying and Grazing provision. The interpretation of the rules changed several times in a short period of time between July 24 and July 31, 2008. We were originally informed that producers who had contacted our office and were entered on a list or register by July 8 would be eligible. In the final interpretation, the Court Order from the United States District Court, Western District of Washington State District at Seattle, only producers who were approved by July 8, 2008 could hay or graze according to the original rules. Those who had applied (actually signed an application) and were not approved could continue with the haying or grazing, but under revised rules. And those who had not yet signed an application by July 8, 2008 could only remain eligible if the CRP contract holder could show a significant investment of \$4500 or more towards preparation to use the haying or grazing provision. Producers who were on a list or register were determined to be not eligible (unless they could show \$4500 investment) as registers were not addressed in the court order. We are fully aware of the problems that this ruling has caused for some producers. We apologize for any problems this ruling may have caused.

FARM BILL UPDATE

Our office personnel will be receiving training on more new farm programs and updated regulations that were authorized under the new Farm Bill. This training is tentatively scheduled for the week of October 20-24. The Asotin County Office will not be staffed during this time. Please leave messages with NRCS. The Garfield County Office will be open, but with limited service available. All permanent employees will be gone to the training during this time.