



January 6, 2010

GARFIELD/ASOTIN COUNTY FSA NEWS

Garfield County FSA

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Asotin County FSA

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Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Garfield County FSA Committee

Diane Koller
Max Scoggin
Chris Wolf

Asotin County FSA Committee

Susie Appleford
Earl Fitzgerald
Bruce Petty

Office Staff

Nick Waldher, CED
Kathi Ledgerwood
Sherri Meacham
Emily Ruchert
Lorelei McNamee

Farm Loan Staff

Pam Castoldi – Walla Walla
Phone 509-522-6347 Ext 111

Next FSA County Committee Meetings

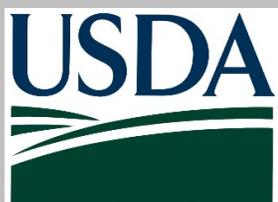
Garfield County-January 19
Asotin County-January 13

National FSA Website

www.fsa.usda.gov

Washington State FSA Website

www.fsa.usda.gov/wa



COMMITTEE ELECTIONS RESULTS

Bruce Petty was elected to a three year term on the Asotin County Committee. Casey Hagenah was elected as the first alternate. They represent the Cloverland Area. Also serving on the Asotin County Committee are Susie Appleford and Earl Fitzgerald. In Garfield County, Diane Koller was elected to a three year term on the Committee and Randy Koller was elected as the first alternate. They represent the Northeast Area of the county. Also serving on the Garfield County Committee are Max Scoggin and Chris Wolf. Thanks to all who took time to vote and many thanks to those who have chosen to serve on the committee. Special thanks to Casey Hagenah for his past 6 years on the Asotin County Committee.

DCP/ACRE SIGNUP - 2010

Applications are now being accepted for the Direct & Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) for 2010. To be eligible for program payments and benefits, producers must file a contract each year. Producers on farms that elected the ACRE program last year remain in ACRE through 2012; however, **they are required to file a contract each year**. Producers who remained in DCP last year may remain in DCP or elect the ACRE program for 2010. Once ACRE is elected, the farm remains in ACRE through 2012.

DCP direct payment rates remain unchanged from last year: \$.52/bu wheat, \$.24/bu barley. ACRE direct payments are reduced by 20%. Advance direct payments are available under either program at 22% of the total direct payment rate for the year. Payments are earned on 83.3% of the farm's established base acreage times the farm's established yield times the producer's share. Producers are free to plant any crop on their base acreage with the exception of fruits & vegetables and wild rice. Please call in advance for an appointment to signup for DCP or ACRE.

SURE SIGNUP FOR 2008 CROP LOSSES

Applications may now be submitted for the 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) Program. SURE is a crop disaster payment program that was implemented by the 2008 Farm Bill and is designed to replace ad hoc disaster payment programs of the past. SURE is a revenue based program that covers both crop yield and price. To be eligible for SURE, a county must be declared a Secretarial Disaster Designated County (or a contiguous county) or individual producers may qualify if the actual production on the farm is less than 50% of normal. Both Garfield and Asotin Counties are eligible because of a Secretarial Disaster Designation for 2008. Producers must also have Federal Crop Insurance or NAP coverage for all economically significant crops or previously obtained a waiver through the "buy-in" provisions. The program takes into consideration crop losses on all crops of economic significance grown by a producer nationwide. SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60% of the difference between the SURE farm guarantee and the total farm revenue. The farm guarantee is based on the amount of crop insurance and Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on the farm. Confused? I don't blame you. It will all become clear when you come in to apply! What do you need to bring? In most cases nothing; all of the information is available from data that our office has received from Federal Crop Insurance or from NAP files already at our office. Please call for an appointment to apply.

CRP & WIND TURBINES

As Garfield County becomes closer to having wind turbines built in the county, producers need to be aware of the regulations in regards to wind turbines that are to be installed on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage. Prior to any construction, producers need to request in writing that wind turbines be allowed on CRP. Once approved, construction may begin. The area of the footprint of the wind turbines may not exceed 5.0 acres per CRP contract. Access roads are allowed and are not included in the 5.0 acre maximum. The acreage taken up by the wind turbines and the access roads may remain in CRP for the duration of the CRP contract. Stay in compliance with your CRP contract. Request permission in advance.

REPORTING PAYMENTS TO IRS

Near the end of January, producers who received FSA payments will receive a CCC-1099G Report of Payment to IRS from our Kansas City Office. It shows the total amount of payments made by FSA to you in 2009. Check these notices carefully. Contact our office if you do not agree with the amount listed.

PAYMENT LIMITATION & ELIGIBILITY – ANNUAL NOTICE TO PRODUCERS

Producers participating in certain FSA programs are subject to limitations on the total annual payments that can be received. Under the 2008 Farm Bill, payments are limited by direct attribution. The maximum amount persons or entities can receive per year are: Direct payments - \$40,000; Counter-Cyclical (CC)/ACRE payments - \$65,000; SURE, LFP, LIP, and ELAP - \$100,000 combined; TAP - \$100,000; NAP - \$100,000; CRP and CREP rental/incentive payments - \$50,000; GRP - \$50,000; LDP and market loan gains - unlimited. With ACRE participation, the direct payment limitation will reflect a 20% direct payment reduction. The DCP CC/ACRE payment limitation will then be increased by the direct payment reduction amount.

The following provisions apply to certain programs: actively engaged in farming, cash rent tenant, foreign person, and average adjusted gross income (AGI). No program benefits will be provided until all required forms are filed and determinations are complete. Producers determined **not** actively engaged in farming are ineligible for any payment which requires such a determination. Determinations may be initiated by COC or requested by a producer.

All payment eligibility forms are subject to spot check through the end-of-year review process. Producers selected for spot check must provide adequate documentation to support that: inputs used to determine contributions to the farming operation were significant; contributions were at risk and were commensurate with claimed shares of the farming operation; applicable "common attribution" determinations were correct; land ownership was accurately reported when the landowner rule was used; the producer was in compliance with applicable AGI limits; and any other factors pertinent to the original determinations are substantiated.

Statute requires that entities earning program benefits that are subject to limitation provide members' names, addresses, and tax identification numbers to COC. After 2009, a farm operating plan is **not** required to be filed annually, if the farming operation continues to be conducted as reflected on the operating plan and supporting documents are on file in the County Office. If any changes occur that could affect the determinations, producers must timely notify the County Office by filing revised forms and applicable supporting documentation.

AGI noncompliance, either by exceeding applicable limitations or failure to submit a certification statement, will result in ineligibility for **all** program benefits subject to AGI provisions. Program benefits to legal entities shall be reduced by an amount that is commensurate with the direct and indirect interest held by ineligible members.

FSA IS HIRING

The Farm Service Agency will be hiring two County Office Trainees (COTs) and one Farm Loan Trainee (FLOT) in Washington State. These are full-time paid training positions eligible for benefits. The COT position follows a one-year program designed to provide managerial and program training for candidates for County Executive Director positions. Two years are required for the FLOT training program that is designed for Farm Loan Officer positions. Location of training sites has not been determined. Upon successful completion of the training programs, COTs and FLOTs are eligible to apply for permanent positions where vacancies are available.

The COT requires a four-year degree or combination of equivalent education and work experience. For the FLOT position, financial or business skills are desired. An agricultural background is also preferred for both positions.

The Farm Service Agency anticipates announcing these training positions on the agency's state website this winter. Employment opportunities with the USDA Farm Service Agency and located within Washington State are listed on the FSA website <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>. Vacancies are posted on the home page and from the "Search for Job Openings Link" on the same page. Anyone interested is encouraged to frequently monitor these websites. Inquiries about these positions may be made to the FSA State Office (509) 323-3000. FSA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

HANDICAPPED ACCOMODATIONS

Special accommodations will be made for the physically handicapped, vision, or hearing-impaired person upon request. If accommodation is required, please contact Nick Waldher at 509-843-1997.

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