



June 9, 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

Houston Bruck – Farm Loan  
Manager – Spokane  
Phone 509-924-7350 ext 108

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

## Next FSA County Committee Meetings

Garfield County-June 15  
Asotin County-June 9

National FSA Website  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

Washington State FSA  
Website  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/wa](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa)



## FARM LOAN MANAGER HIRED

Houston Bruck was recently hired as the Farm Loan Manager in charge of farm loan programs in our area. Houston works out of the Spokane Office and has prior experience as a FSA Farm Loan Officer in Umatilla County Oregon. See contact information in box to the left.

## ACREAGE REPORTS DUE JUNE 30

If you have not already reported your crop acreage or scheduled an appointment, we encourage you to do so as soon as possible. Acreage reporting is required for participation in nearly all of the programs administered by FSA. Do not get caught in a late filed situation as a late filed fee is required for reporting after the deadline.

## ACRE YIELD DEADLINE

Producers who are participating in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program for 2009 must submit production from 2004-2009 by July 15, 2010. 2004-2008 production is needed to establish the farm's benchmark yield. Producers who do not submit production will be assigned the plug yield for the applicable year. 2009 production must be submitted to determine if the farm trigger is met for 2009. ACRE payments for 2009 are scheduled to be paid in October 2010. With the low national average market price for the 2009 marketing year (June 2009-May 2010) and the low wheat yields in Washington State, it appears the ACRE payment may be near the maximum for 2009.

## NAP PRODUCTION REPORTING DEADLINE

June 30, 2010 is the final date to report production for the 2009 crop that was covered by the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP). Production is needed for 2009 to calculate the Actual Production History (APH) yield that will be used for 2010 losses. Producers who do not report timely will have a yield assigned or credited with zero production. This will result in reduced coverage for 2010 and future years.

## REPORT CROP LOSSES

Producers are reminded to report crop losses due to natural disaster conditions. If you will not take a crop to harvest, contact our office before you destroy the crop or take it to an alternate use such as haying or grazing. An appraisal may be required in some situations for producers to remain eligible for NAP payments and subsequently SURE benefits that may be available later.

## SURE PROGRAM UPDATES

Signup for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) continues for losses to 2008 crops. The final version (we hope this is the last) for calculating payments for this program has been received. In most cases, the workbook calculates an additional payment from the previous version due to changes implemented from a technical corrections bill. Several problems have been identified with the SURE program. One that is causing several producers a delay in applying for the program is when FSA records do not match Federal Crop Insurance records. Errors include discrepancies in ID numbers, acreage, shares, etc. Producers need to be diligent to insure that they provide FSA and Crop Insurance the same information. Certain situations may lead to ineligibility for payments from FSA.

## 2010 COUNTY LOAN RATES ANNOUNCED

County loan rates have been announced for 2010 Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loans and loan deficiency payments (LDPs). Summary as compared to 2009 is shown below:

Commodity	2009 loan rate	2010 loan rate
Soft White Wheat	\$3.17	\$3.33
Hard Red Spring Wheat	\$3.81	\$4.27
Hard Red Winter Wheat	\$2.98	\$3.14
Barley	\$2.12 (\$88.34/T)	\$2.16 (\$90.01/T)

Loan rates for other covered commodities are available at the FSA Office. Also, remember that the loan rate is reduced by 30% for those farms participating in ACRE.

## RECONSTITUTION DEADLINE

August 1, 2010 is the final date to request a farm combination or farm division for 2010. Producers must refund any advance direct payments before a reconstitution may be approved that will be effective for this year.

### **COUNTY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS ACCEPTED NOW**

Nominations for the County FSA Committee are now being accepted. Nomination is done by petition that must be delivered to the County FSA Office by August 2, 2010. Only one valid nomination is required. If no petitions are received, the County FSA Committee must complete a slate of three candidates. The election will be held by mail ballot. All ballots must be returned or postmarked by December 6, 2010. All farm owners, operators, and their spouses in the applicable Local Administrative Area are eligible to vote in the election. Any farm producer who is not listed on FSA's records should contact their local FSA office so the records may be updated. FSA encourages the nomination of under-represented group candidates including minorities and women. Nomination forms were sent to all producers with our prior newsletter and are also available upon request from the County FSA Offices. In Garfield County, the Southern Area will hold the election this year. Max Scoggin is currently representing the Southern Area of the county and is eligible for re-election. In Asotin County, the Anatone Area is up for election. Susie Appleford currently represents the Anatone Area and is eligible for re-election. Producers are encouraged to get involved by nominating candidates of their choice to represent them on the FSA Committee.

### **WEED CONTROL ON CRP**

Weed control on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage is always a topic of discussion this time of year. First, thanks to all that are controlling their weeds and taking care of their CRP. This includes the vast majority of producers with CRP in Garfield and Asotin Counties. Many producers have completed weed control measures including spraying and/or mowing. For those who have not done any control measures, bright yellow mustards have now shown their ugly heads. If you have CRP in this condition, please take care of the problem. Other weed problems may also be showing at this time. Producers are encouraged to check their CRP fields and control weeds as necessary with a special emphasis on noxious weeds. Do not let your noxious weeds go to seed! Remember, if you need to control weeds during the nesting season (April 1- July 1), you need permission from FSA prior to performing the weed control measures. This is a simple process, just give us a call or stop by the office and we will complete the necessary paperwork. FSA also offers mid-contract management cost-sharing for maintaining CRP. Ask us if you are interested in cost-share assistance for maintaining your CRP. Cost-sharing is not available in the final two years of a contract.

### **CONTINUOUS CRP SIGNUPS BEING ACCEPTED NOW**

We are now accepting Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) signups for "Continuous Signup" practices on cropland as well as marginal pastureland in Garfield and Asotin Counties. Continuous signup practices include filter strips, contour buffer strips, contour buffer strips on terraces, grass waterways and several others. Producers with CRP contracts that are due to expire on September 30, 2010 are encouraged to check into continuous signup practices that may work on their land. This allows part of the acreage to remain in CRP while the balance is brought back into production.

Will there be a general CRP signup this year? Rumor has it that there will be a general signup for CRP this summer, but our office has not received any information on when or any other program provisions that may apply.

### **CRP TRANSITION INCENTIVES PROGRAM**

The CRP Transition Incentives Program is a new program that was recently announced that is designed to transition land from a retired or retiring owner or operator of expiring CRP land to a beginning or social disadvantaged farmer or rancher. Retired or retiring owners or operators who qualify may be eligible to receive 2 additional years of annual rental payments after the expiration of their CRP contract provided the transition is not to a family member. The new farmer must purchase the land or obtain a lease of at least 5 years and may begin producing crops or transition to grazing at the expiration of the CRP contract. Producers should contact our office for program details.

### **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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