



August 4, 2010

GARFIELD/ASOTIN COUNTY FSA NEWS

CRP GENERAL SIGNUP ANNOUNCED

The Secretary of Agriculture recently announced there will be a general signup for producers interested in enrolling land into the Conservation Reserve Program. Dates for the signup have been set for August 2, 2010 through August 27, 2010. Offers selected for contract will be enrolled with an effective date of 10-1-2010.

To be eligible for offer, land must meet one of the following eligibility requirements. Fields offered must either be determined to be highly erodible (HEL) with an erodibility index of 8 or greater; must lay within an area designated under State or National Conservation Priority Area (CPA) designation; or must be expiring CRP acreage, as of 9-30-2010. Neither Asotin nor Garfield County are within the designated State or National CPA.

Land must also meet cropping history requirements to offer. Under this requirement, land must have been planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity in 4 out of 6 years during the period of 2002-2007. Summer fallow in rotation is considered to meet this requirement, as is land that has been in CRP. Alfalfa and grasses planted in rotations of 12 years or less where the rotation can be demonstrated with an annually planted commodity on either end of the rotation, within the 12 year period ending in 2007 also meet the cropping history requirement.

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) requirements pertain to all new contracts, and provide that only those persons with nonfarm AGI of less than \$1 million, or those with farm income making up a minimum of 66% of total AGI are eligible to receive contract benefits. AGI determinations are made on CRP contracts in the year of the contract approval, and are considered binding for the duration of the contract.

Offers will be ranked for acceptance through a nationwide process using an Environmental Benefit Index (EBI) scoring process. The EBI awards points for items including cover type, soil erodibility, water quality, and wildlife benefits associated with the offer. Points are also awarded for the cost of each offer. Once a national EBI cutoff score is established, those offers above the cutoff are offered contracts, up to the County maximum limit of 25% cropland. In Asotin County, 2610.0 acres are available to be accepted to reach the 25% cropland limitation. In Garfield County, only 1333.7 acres are available. Therefore, the EBI cutoff within the County potentially may be higher than the national EBI cutoff level. We expect the signup to be very competitive and producers are encouraged to review the EBI scoring system to maximize their points prior to submitting their offer. Specific details of the EBI scoring system will be available by contacting the County Office during signup.

Maximum rental values for each offer are based on the productivity of the three predominant types of soils in each offer. Soil rental values for the general signup have been revised to reflect average cash rental values for the most recent three year period. Generally speaking, this change has led to small increases in soil rental values across most soil types. However, unlike prior years, a maintenance rate will not be added to the soil rental rates to determine the maximum payment rate. Bidding to enroll land at less than the maximum soil rental rate earns additional points under the EBI scoring system.

Midterm management will be required on all new contracts, requiring a planned activity to enhance permanent cover during the middle three years of the contract. Activities can include harrowing, mowing, certain chemical applications, inter-seeding, fertilization, burning or other treatments.

For newly enrolled cropland, and for existing grassland in need of cover reestablishment, cost share will be available for approximately 50% of the cost of necessary actions.

ACRE PAYMENT RATES FOR WHEAT AND BARLEY ANNOUNCED

The 2009 marketing year is completed and final prices and yields have been announced for use with the Average Crop Revenue (ACRE) program. The final Washington State yield for wheat was 54.9 bushels per acre compared to the 5 year state average of 61.0 bushels per acre; final Washington state barley yield was 64.0 bushels compared to a 61.0 bushel five year state average. 2009 market year price averages were established at \$4.87 per bushel for wheat and \$2.61 per acre for barley, compared with two year average prices of \$6.63 (wheat) and \$ 4.09 (barley). This means that the state revenue trigger was met for both barley and wheat in Washington State in 2009. The second criteria for determining ACRE payment eligibility is to determine if farm level trigger is met by inserting individual farm yields and five year historic yields into the calculation, replacing state yields. If farm level trigger is also met for the farm, ACRE payments are due. Based on the above averages, if farm trigger is also met, wheat ACRE payments will be calculated by taking \$91.00 per acre (for wheat) or \$56.14 per acre (for barley), times 83.3% of the farm planted acreage for each crop, not to exceed total farm base acres, times the factor determined by dividing historic farm yield by the state benchmark yield. ACRE payments are scheduled to be issued in October, and are subject to separate payment limitation of \$65,000 per person, plus any payment limitation amount reduced from the direct limitation due to ACRE enrollment.

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Office Hours

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Next FSA County Committee Meetings

Garfield County-September 7
Asotin County-September 8

National FSA Website
www.fsa.usda.gov

Washington State FSA
Website
www.fsa.usda.gov/wa

2008 SURE PROGRAM DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 30

The deadline to apply for the 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) has been established as September 30, 2010. Late filed applications will not be approved. SURE provides crop loss disaster assistance due to low yield and low commodity prices. To be eligible for SURE, producers must have Federal Crop Insurance on all insurable crops of economic significance and Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on all non-insurable crops of economic significance. Producers who suffered losses in 2008 should contact our office as soon as possible to file an application to ensure payment eligibility.

MAINTAIN ELIGIBILITY FOR SURE FOR 2011

To maintain eligibility for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) for 2011, producers are reminded to timely apply for Federal Crop Insurance for all insurable crops and the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) for all non-insurable crops of economic significance. A crop is economically significant if it contributes 5% or more of the value of all crops for a producer. Crop insurance sales closing date for wheat, winter barley and winter peas is September 30, 2010. For winter canola or rapeseed, the final date is August 31, 2010. Contact your crop insurance agent to apply or to make changes to existing crop insurance policies. As many producers found with the 2008 SURE program, the higher the crop insurance coverage, the higher the potential SURE benefits. This not only includes the level of coverage, but the type of coverage. Carrying Crop Revenue Coverage (CRC) was the main driving factor in determining whether a SURE payment was earned on wheat in 2008. Many NAP crops also have a final application date this fall. September 30, 2010 is the final date to cover perennial crops such as grass seed, grass hay, alfalfa hay and grass/alfalfa hay mixtures. It is also the final date to cover all other hay mixtures, even if they are spring planted.

Do not miss out on SURE program eligibility by failing to cover all of your crops of economic significance with crop insurance or NAP! Remember to obtain coverage for your crops in all counties nationwide.

NAP is also available on rangeland and has a final application date of September 30, 2010. NAP coverage on rangeland is not required for eligibility for SURE. However, NAP coverage is required on rangeland to maintain eligibility for several livestock disaster programs such as the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bee and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP).

COMMODITY LOANS AVAILABLE

Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loans are available on 2010 crop wheat, feedgrains, oilseeds, pulse crops, honey, wool & mohair. CCC loans provide producers interim financing while holding crops for sale later in the marketing season. The interest rate is currently 1.25%. Producers may obtain loans on grain that is farm stored or stored in a Federal or State licensed warehouse. Producers may request measurement of farm stored grain or certify to the quantity in the bins. Warehouse loans may be requested by submitting a negotiable warehouse receipt to the county FSA Office. Loan fees are \$45 per loan, and an additional \$3 per bin in excess of one, or warehouse receipt in excess of one for the loan. Loans mature at the end of the 9th month following disbursement of the loan. Lien searches are required to be conducted prior to issuance of loans, and lien waivers may be required of persons with security interest in the commodity. County loan rates were published in our last newsletter and are available at the county office. Remember, if you are participating in ACRE, your loan rate is reduced by 30%.

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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