



# NEWSLETTER



## APRIL - 2012

### Garfield County FSA

PO Box 18  
Pomeroy, WA 99347-0018  
Phone – (509) 843-1997  
Fax – (509) 843-1168

### Asotin County FSA

720 6<sup>th</sup> Street Ste. B  
Clarkston, WA 99403-2012  
Phone – (509) 758-7821  
Fax – (509) 758-7533

### Office Hours

Monday – Friday  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

### Garfield County FSA Committee

Diane Koller – Chair  
Max Scoggin – Vice Chair  
Chris Wolf – Member

### Asotin County FSA Committee

Bruce Petty – Chair  
Susie Appleford – Vice Chair  
Earl Fitzgerald – Member

### Farm Program Staff

Jeremy Nelson, CED  
Sherri Meacham, PT  
Emily Ruchert, PT  
Connie Forsmann, PT  
Lorelei McNamee, PT

### Next COC Meeting:

A joint committee meeting will be held  
May 1, 2012, in the Garfield County  
FSA office beginning at 9:00 am.



## CRP SIGNUP COMPLETE

**The 43<sup>rd</sup> Signup of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) ended April 13, 2012.**

A CRP general signup was conducted March 12, 2012 – April 13, 2012. The deadline was extended an extra week due to software issues and strong program interest.

CRP allows producers to enroll land in ten year contracts that help preserve environmentally sensitive land. In exchange for retiring the land from crop production, producers receive annual rental payments and cost share equaling 50 percent of the cost to establish the cover. Annual payments are tied to county average rental rates and the productivity of the soils in the offered acreage.

All eligible offers have been submitted to the National Office for ranking. We do not know when the list of accepted offers will be posted. Once we receive this information, letters will be sent to each producer who submitted an offer letting them know whether or not their offer has been accepted or not.

Until that time, please be patient as this process takes place.

## MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING CRP ACREAGE

This office wishes to remind producers with existing CRP acreage that controlling weeds and stand maintenance is a requirement of remaining in compliance with the CRP contract. Every year FSA & NRCS personnel from this office conduct field visits to verify stand density and species requirements are being met, as well as to ensure that weed control measures are being conducted on CRP acreage. Please remember the following items:

1. The primary nesting season in Garfield and Asotin County is April 1 through July 1. Prior approval is needed from the FSA County Committee to conduct weed control measures such as spraying, mowing, or burning on CRP that has been certified as established. The nesting season requirements do not apply to those CRP contracts that are in the establishment period.

2. Mid-management activities are required on most CRP contracts. Please review your conservation plans to see what year these operations must be completed in. Cost share is available for these operations. Failure of CRP stands due to neglect of the CRP participant can lead to sizeable payment reductions, and in extreme cases, contract termination.

## **PRODUCERS NEED TO ENROLL INTO 2012 DCP/ACRE**

Appointments are now being accepted for producers wishing to enroll into the 2012 Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP), or the Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE). **Contracts for both of these programs are required to be completed annually.** For the 2012 crop year, all producers sharing in the payment of the DCP/ACRE contract **must sign, date and return the contract to this office by June 1, 2012.**

Reminders:

- ✓ There are no Advance Payments available for 2012 DCP/ACRE.
- ✓ Bring in 2011 production if you have farms enrolled in the ACRE program

## **2010 CROP DISASTER PROGRAM ENDING JUNE 1**

**The deadline for producers to submit applications for 2010 crop year Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) is June 1, 2012.** The application and all required documentation must be on file and signed by close of business on that day. To be eligible for SURE, a producer must have obtained a policy or plan of insurance for all crops through the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation and obtained Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, if needed, from the Farm Service Agency.

To receive SURE payments, an eligible producer must have a qualifying loss. A qualifying loss means at least a 10 percent production loss affecting one crop of economic significance due to a disaster on a farm in a disaster county. Producers outside a declared disaster county, but with production losses greater than or equal to 50 percent of the normal production on the farm (expected revenue for all crops on the farm), also qualify for SURE.

The Garfield and Asotin County Committee's have been discussing the option of requesting an additional adjustment to the SURE program based on protein discounts to producers Hard Red Spring wheat. In looking at the protein percentages in our county and surrounding counties, the COC did not feel it was a large enough difference from previous years to request additional adjustments based on quality.

## **YOUTH LOANS AVAILABLE**

FSA makes operating loans to individual rural youth ages 10 through 20 to establish and operate income producing projects. These projects must be of modest size and be initiated, developed, carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H Clubs, FFA, or a similar organization or with a vocational teacher or county extension agent. The project must be an organized and supervised program of work. It must be planned and operated with the assistance of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience.

## **KEEP FARM RECORDS UP TO DATE**

Accurate farm records are essential for this office to be able to administer farm programs effectively. With this in mind, operators and owners of farms participating in federal programs are reminded to please keep this office updated on any farm record changes that take place during the crop year. Record changes would include becoming a new operator or owner of farm ground, obtaining a new bank account, making changes to your entity structure, or notifying this office of deceased individuals.

## **ACREAGE REPORTS**

2012 Acreage Reports must be filed by June 30, 2012. Producers with NAP coverage on forage/grazing crops need to file an acreage report with FSA at least 15 days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported. Please remember to bring your planting dates to your appointment. Contact our office to schedule a time that works best for you.