



June 5, 2009

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

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Next FSA County Committee Meetings

Garfield County – June 16
Asotin County – June 10

National FSA Website

www.fsa.usda.gov

Washington State FSA Website

www.fsa.usda.gov/wa



“ACRE” INFORMATION MEETINGS SET

Information meetings focusing on the new Average Crop Revenue Program (ACRE) have been scheduled. The meeting for Asotin County will be held on June 10, 2009 at the USDA Service Center at 1:00 PM. The Garfield County meeting will be held on June 18, 2009 at the Garfield County Fairgrounds Community Building at 9:00 AM. ACRE program information and examples of program payment eligibility and payment calculations will be provided. An FSA agency sponsored ACRE Calculator has been provided for producers to use in estimating payments. The calculator can be found at (www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp). All producers who are considering changing from DCP to ACRE are encouraged to attend.

DCP – ACRE SIGNUP ENDS AUGUST 14

Even though the DCP and ACRE Program signups end on August 14, producers who are interested in participation in ACRE are encouraged to start well before that date for the election and signup process. There are two steps that must be completed to participate in ACRE. First, all producers on the farm must “elect” the ACRE program in writing on form CCC-509 ACRE. After these signatures are obtained, then producer may “sign up” for ACRE. An ACRE contract requires signatures of all producers on the farm.

10 ACRE RULE REVISED

Farms with 10 acres of crop acreage base or less may not receive payments under the DCP or ACRE programs unless the owners meet certain exceptions. Previously, owners on farms with 10 acres of base or less could not receive payments unless all of the owners met the requirements of socially disadvantaged or limited resource producers. The new rule now allows farms to receive payments if only 50% of the ownership is represented by one of the above groups. What does that mean? Land that is owned by a husband and wife (or other group of individuals that are at least 50% female) now qualifies since the land is owned 50% by a female (member of a socially disadvantaged group).

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.

PULSE CROP BASES

Producers with a history of raising peas, lentils or chickpeas have the opportunity to add these crops to their crop acreage base for their farm based on the planted (or prevented planted) history from 1998 – 2001. Producers on farms with a history of these crops have been sent a notice showing the history based on FSA records. To add pulse crop bases to the farm, all owners must sign a CCC-524 by August 14, 2009. This form is available at the county FSA office and may be requested in person or by phone. Producers with pulse crop history have three options; 1) Do not add pulse crop bases, 2) add pulse crop bases up to the effective cropland available, or 3) add pulse crop bases with a corresponding reduction in other bases on the farm. Producers who do not make an election by August 14 will default to option 2.

2009 COUNTY LOAN RATES ANNOUNCED

County loan rates have been announced for some commodities for 2009 Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loans and loan deficiency payments (LDPs). Summary as compared to 2008 is shown below:

Commodity	2008 loan rate	2009 loan rate
Soft White Wheat	\$2.70	\$3.17
Hard Red Spring Wheat	\$3.23	\$3.81
Hard Red Winter Wheat	\$3.31	\$2.98
Barley	\$2.16 (\$90.00/T)	\$2.12 (\$88.34/T)

Loan rates for other covered commodities are available at the county FSA Office. Some crops have not yet been announced at this time. Also, remember that the loan rate is reduced by 30% for those farms participating in ACRE.

CERTAIN CRP CONTRACTS EXTENDED

USDA recently announced that certain Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts would be extended for 3 or 5 years. Producers with contracts that expire on September 30, 2009 have been notified whether they have received one of the extension offers. The 2008 Farm Bill requires a reduction in the total CRP nationwide to 32.0 million acres. If all of the contracts in the country that were scheduled to expire came out of CRP, the national level would have been reduced to approximately 30.5 million acres. Rather than a general signup to fill the 1.5 million acres available, USDA determined that contract extensions would be offered to the highest ranking contracts based on the original environmental benefits index that was used when the contracts were enrolled initially. Using this method will ensure that the most environmentally sensitive land will remain in CRP. Producers who were selected for extension must sign a CRP-1F Addendum by June 30, 2009 for the extension to take affect.

RE-SEEDING CRP? WEED CONTROL REQUIRED

As a result of the contract extensions and re-enrollments that were offered in 2007, several producers were required to inter-seed or re-seed some of the acreage on their contracts to be eligible for the extension or re-enrollment. In the conservation plan, in addition to the seeding requirement, two operations for weed control after planting were required. For many, the second round of weed control was scheduled for the spring of 2009. Have you met your responsibilities under your contract? Was an adequate stand of perennial grasses (and legumes when required) obtained? Have the weeds been controlled as to not jeopardize the stand? Have weeds such as Jim Hill Mustard and Russian thistle been controlled so that they do not leave your property? Have all noxious weeds been controlled? Not only for re-seeded CRP, but for all CRP, remember that weed control is required to remain in compliance with your contract. With the above normal precipitation this spring, there may be more weeds that need to be controlled. Have rye? Don't let it go to seed. If you need to complete spot control measures such as mowing during the nesting season, you need to contact our office for permission to complete weed control activities from April 1 – August 1.

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 3, 2009. 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 7, 2009. 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 Northeast Area will hold the election this year. Diane Koller is currently representing the Northeast Area of the county and is eligible for re-election. In Asotin County, the Cloverland Area is up for election. Casey Hagenah currently represents the Cloverland 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.

LIVESTOCK LOSSES – KEEP RECORDS AND DOCUMENTATION

Producers who have suffered weather related losses to eligible livestock, livestock feed or honey bees need to keep documentation of losses in preparation for new disaster assistance program. Documentation is necessary to show eligibility for the new Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP). These two disaster programs were enacted by the 2008 Farm Bill. LIP covers death of livestock due to adverse weather, while ELAP may include loss of feed, forage, and extra expenses incurred, such as transportation costs. The LIP and ELAP application periods have not yet been opened, so documents are not being accepted at this time. However, now is the time for producers to make sure they have verifiable loss documentation so that it is available when these programs are implemented.

DISASTER DESIGNATION

Due to severe winter storms and near record snowfall that occurred in December and January, Garfield County received a Presidential disaster declaration. Producers in Garfield County and Asotin County (as a contiguous county) are eligible for emergency loans for losses suffered as a result of the disaster conditions. Emergency loan applications may be submitted through November 2, 2009.

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.