



OCTOBER 2010

KATHI IS RETIRING

After 28 years of service, Kathi Ledgerwood has decided to retire effective the end of October. Come and celebrate with Kathi at an open house to be held at the Garfield County FSA Office on Thursday afternoon from 1:00-4:00 PM on October 28, 2010. Refreshments will be provided. We wish Kathi the best in the next phase of her life.

NEW PROGRAM TECHNICIAN HIRED

Connie Forsmann was recently hired to fill the vacancy created when Kathi Ledgerwood retires. Connie is originally from Milton-Freewater, Oregon where she grew up on a farm in the area. Most recently, Connie has worked as a temporary employee in the Walla Walla and Spokane County FSA offices for the past several years. Come in and get acquainted with Connie and welcome her to the FSA team.

PAYMENT UPDATE

Many of the problems that our offices experienced last year with issuing payments have been corrected and most CRP, DCP-Direct and ACRE-Direct payments have been issued for 2010. There are a few pending computer problems to resolve but over 95% of payments have been issued. Producers are reminded that payment statements will be received in the mail from our Kansas City Office and will likely reach your mailbox one to two weeks after the payment has been direct deposited into your account.

Our challenge this year in regards to payments will be the 2009 ACRE payments. Prior publicity indicated that these payments would be issued in October. There have been some delays in receiving computer software in order to finalize loading information that is needed for ACRE payments. At present, it appears we will not receive the needed software updates until the end of October. Bottom line – payments for 2009 ACRE will be issued as soon as we have the ability to do so, probably in November/December timeframe. We apologize for the delay in these important payments.

DCP/ACRE SIGNUP UNDERWAY FOR 2011

Applications are now being accepted for the Direct & Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) for 2011. To be eligible for program payments and benefits, producers **must file a contract each year**. Producers on farms that elected the ACRE program in 2009 or 2010 remain in ACRE through 2012; however, producers **must also file a contract each year**. Producers who were in DCP last year may remain in DCP or elect the ACRE program for 2011. 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 sign up for DCP or ACRE.

NAP APPLICATION DEADLINE—ORCHARD CROPS

The final date to apply for coverage under the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) for fruit crops is November 20, 2010. If you produce fruit and want to be covered by the NAP program, do not miss this deadline. Cost is \$250 per crop not to exceed \$750 per producer per county, not to exceed \$1,875 in all counties.

Garfield County FSA

PO Box 18
Pomeroy, WA 99347-0018
(509) 843-1997
FAX (509) 843-1168

Asotin County FSA

720 6th St. Ste. B
Clarkston, WA 99403-2012
(509) 758-7821
FAX (509) 758-7533

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
Sherri Meacham
Emily Ruchert
Connie Forsmann
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-November 16
Asotin County-November 10

National FSA Website

www.fsa.usda.gov

Washington State FSA Website

www.fsa.usda.gov/wa

CRP GENERAL SIGNUP RESULTS

Garfield and Asotin County were very limited on the number of acres accepted into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) during General Signup #39. Garfield accepted 5 offers on 524.0 acres and Asotin County accepted 9 offers on 3132.1 acres. Both counties were limited due to the 25% cropland maximum allowed in CRP. Offers were ranked using an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) that takes into consideration erodibility, water quality, wildlife habitat, enduring benefits, priority areas and cost. The EBI scoring is then tabulated at the national level to determine the highest ranking offers. Offers are **not** ranked at the local level by county office staff or by the FSA Committee.

CONSERVATION PLANNING – NEW CRP CONTRACTS

Producers with accepted offers for CRP during signup 39 signed an interim conservation plan prior to contract approval. A final conservation plan is now required and will be developed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The conservation plan will identify actions needed to establish the required cover on the CRP acreage. The plans will vary depending on whether the producer offered old CRP with cover that will not be enhanced, old CRP that must be replanted to a new cover or new cropland that must be planted to an approved cover. Each conservation plan will be unique depending on the individual situation. The plans will also address wildlife watering facilities (guzzlers) and pollinator habitat plots if applicable. **Conservation plans must be completed and approved by December 30, 2010.** Producers with accepted offers should contact the local NRCS office as soon as possible to begin the conservation planning process so that all required approvals may be obtained prior to the deadline. Producers who do not agree to the provisions in the final conservation plan may withdraw their contract without the assessment of liquidated damages.

COMMITTEE ELECTIONS – PLEASE VOTE

Election ballots will be sent during November to producers in the Anatone Area in Asotin County and the Southern Area in Garfield County. Susie Appleford is running unopposed in Asotin County and Max Scoggin is running unopposed in Garfield County. Monday, December 6, 2010 is the final date to return voted ballots. Ballots must be delivered to the county FSA office or postmarked by December 6 to be eligible and counted. Please remember that a proper signature is required on the ballots including a “by” and a title when signing for an entity. Power of attorney is not authorized for voting purposes. Thank you to all who take time to vote.

CUSTOMERS MAKING PAYMENT BY CHECK TO FSA

Over the next year, FSA/CCC is moving toward an electronic method for processing producers' checks. This will allow FSA/CCC to process collections faster. When producers present checks, either in person or through the mail, the checks will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The funds will be debited from the producer's account, usually within 24 hours of receipt. Checks given in person will then be voided and returned to the producer. Mailed checks will be voided and held for up to 14 days, then shredded if not picked up by the producer. Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the Service Center or visit the following U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site for detailed information:

<https://www.pccotc.gov/pccotc/pcc/usingpcc/Legal%20Notices/legalnotices.htm>

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.