



JULY 2008

GRANT COUNTY FSA NEWS

Grant County FSA
2145 Basin ST SW STE A
Ephrata WA 98823
Phone: 509-754-2463 Ext 2
Fax: 509-754-4705

Office Hours
Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee
Richard Reffett, Chair
Mike Edwards, V-Chair
John Morris Jr., Member
Angela Piston, Advisor

Farm Program Staff
Greg Anderson, CED
Marilyn Littleton, PT
Katie Markham, PT
Roxanne Neilan, PT

Farm Loan Staff
Everett Purrington, FLM
Nancy Seger, FLO
Libby Anderson, FLO
Barbara Williams, FLT

FSA Web sites:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

Toll Free Farm Loan Info:
1-888-518-4983

PHONE EXTENSION #'S

GREG	1101
KATIE	1104
BARB	1107
ROXANNE	1103
MARILYN	1100
EVERETT	1102
LIBBY	1105
NANCY	1106

KEEPING UP ON THE LATEST FARM BILL INFORMATION

FSA is implementing the 2008 Farm Bill as quickly as rules can be written and software developed to process applications. Information may be available in between newsletter distributions. To get the latest information as it becomes available, you may access the FSA website for Washington at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>. An RSS Feed has been put on the press release pages of the state and national websites. The RSS Feed sends an automatic notification to your computer whenever a posting is made to the page with the RSS Feed. Contact the county office if you would like information on how to use an RSS Feed.

DCP SIGNUP UNDERWAY – MAKE AN APPOINTMENT NOW

Producers have until September 30, 2008 to apply for the 2008 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP). Because of the shortened application period, producers should call the office for an appointment. Online DCP signup is also available.

Producers may elect to receive a 22% advance direct payment, to be issued after contract approval. Final direct payments will be issued after October 1, 2008. A fact sheet that includes direct payment rates is available at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/DCP>.

A new provision prohibits DCP payments for farms with 10 or less total base acres. The rule is waived if the farm is wholly owned by a socially disadvantaged or limited resource farmer. Multiple owners on a farm may differ as to which of the criteria they meet, but each must meet one of the criteria to qualify for payments. Farm operators need not meet these criteria. For entity owners, all members must meet one of these conditions.

For DCP, a socially disadvantaged farmer is a member of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group, without regard to their individual qualities. Limited resource qualifications can be determined in an automated system at <http://www.lrfstool.sc.egov.usda.gov/tool.asp>. Contact the county office if you are uncertain if this waiver applies to you.

By signing a 2008 DCP contract, you certify that adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions are met, as provided by the contract appendix. Entities and joint operations that sign a DCP contract certify AGI compliance for both the entity and for all entity or joint operation members, to the fifth level. Agents who sign a contract, using FSA-211, Power-of-Attorney, do not need to have AGI/CCC-526 authority designated on the FSA-211.

Crop acreage reports must be filed before final direct payments can be issued. Timely filed 2008 reports are due August 15, 2008.

FARM LOAN PROGRAM

The loan limits to the FSA Farm Loan Programs: Operating Loans (OL) are increased to \$300,000, OL's can be used to finance annual operating expenses and can be used to purchase of farm equipment and livestock. Farm Ownership loan limits are increased to \$300,000 and can be used to purchase or improve farm ground. FSA also offers a Down Payment program offers loans up to \$225,000, and terms of 20 years with 1.5%-4% interest rates. For additional information concerning the FSA Loan Program, contact Everett Purrington Farm Loan Manager.

2008 FARM RECORDS CHANGES

Farm reconstitution requests received after May 22, 2008, for farms with 10 or less total base acres, may not be approved unless an ownership change occurred after that date. All owners and ownership shares on each farm to be combined under this exception must be identical. All other divisions or combinations for farms participating in DCP must be requested by August 1, 2008.

Keep your DIRECT DEPOSIT FORM updated when changes occur.

DISASTER PROGRAM CHANGES AND DEADLINES

The 2008 Farm Bill created new disaster assistance programs, made others permanent, and made changes to current programs. Most importantly, Congress tied all disaster assistance eligibility to producers obtaining a minimum CAT level of crop insurance or NAP coverage for uninsurable crops for all crops on all of a producer's farms. Producers will be able to apply for the new disaster programs to cover 2008 crops even though application for coverage dates have passed for crop insurance and NAP. A one-time waiver allows you to purchase buy-in CAT or NAP by September 16. This will only enable you to meet the requirement for the new disaster programs and will not provide you with crop insurance or NAP coverage if you did not meet the original application deadline.

New programs include: Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), Tree Assistance Program (TAP), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP). A fifth new disaster program, the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) is exempt from the crop insurance/NAP requirement. All programs cover losses due to natural disasters only.

SURE covers crop losses on the whole farm when the county receives a disaster designation or losses exceed 50% of the farm's total production. Payments are made on 60% of the difference between the SURE guarantee and total farm revenue. LFP provides a payment to ranchers who suffer losses due to drought or fire. TAP provides compensation to orchardists and nursery

PRICE SUPPORT-2008 COUNTY LOAN RATES

WHEAT \$/per bu.		CORN/GRAIN SORGHUM/SOYBEANS		CANOLA, CRAMBE, FLAXSEED, and RAPESEED per cwt.		BARLEY and OATS per bu	
DURUM	2.90	CORN per bu.	2.41	CANOLA	7.07	Barley	2.20
HRS	3.28	GRAIN SORGHUM per cwt.	3.81	CRAMBE	6.43	Oats	1.26
HRW	3.37	SOYBEANS per bu.	5.35	FLAXSEED	8.48		
SWW	2.70			RAPESEED	8.93		

MUSTARD, SAFFLOWER, SESAME, and SUNFLOWER SEEDS per cwt.		DRY PEAS	
MUSTARD	8.36	Per CWT.	6.58
SAFFLOWER	8.71		
SESAME	8.85		
SUNFLOWER	7.07		

(SAFE) STATE ACRES FOR WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT

FSA has teamed up with the WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife to address high priority wildlife habitat needs through a new program. The goal of the Columbia Basin SAFE project is to benefit wildlife associated with agriculture such as Ring-necked pheasant and California quail. The program targets shrub-steppe areas in parts of Grant and Adams County. To be eligible, land must be within the designated SAFE area which includes land in the South Moses Coulee and Crab Creek Drainage (portions of Irrigation Blocks 42, 43 and 44).

Eligible land must have been cropped at least four years between 1996 and 2001. Landowners who voluntarily agree to 10 to 15 year contract will receive habitat establishment and maintenance cost-share, incentive and annual rentals payments in return for providing specific wildlife habitat.

Sign-ups are accepted year round. It is a non competitive sign-up process unlike regular CRP. For more information about the Columbia Basin SAFE Program contact the county office.

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotapes, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."