

Grant County FSA Newsletter-July/2013



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Grant County FSA Updates

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- *CRP weed maintenance
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From all of us here at the Grant County FSA Office, please have a safe and prosperous 2013 crop year!

Grant County FSA Office **Nominees needed for FSA Committee:**

2145 Basin St SW STE A
Ephrata, WA 98823

Phone: (509) 754-2463
Fax: (509) 754-4705

County Executive Director:
Greg Anderson-ext 1101

Program Technicians:
Marilyn Littleton-ext 1100
Katie Markham-ext 1104
Roxanne Neilan-ext 1103

Farm Loan Manager:
Libby Anderson-ext 1105

Farm Loan Officers:
Nancy Seger-ext 1106
Blanca Helton-ext 1102

Farm Loan Technician:
Kristine Sarles-ext 1107

The Farm Service Agency is looking for candidates for the upcoming grower-elected county committee election. FSA is accepting nominations through August 1, 2013. FSA county committees make decisions which impact program payments. They bring local knowledge of farming practices, prices and conditions to program implementation. Also, producers can appeal most agency determinations to the local county committee.

FSA encourages all interested agricultural producers, including women and minority growers, to seek nomination. Eligible candidates must participate or cooperate in any Farm Service Agency program and be of legal voting age. Even if you are not currently participating in FSA programs, you may be considered eligible under the cooperation criteria if you have farm records on file with FSA.

This year's election takes place in LAA 2, which includes the general area of Quincy, Royal City, and Mattawa. This area is currently represented by John Morris Jr, who will reach his third consecutive 3 year term at the end of this year. Elected county committee members receive an hourly wage for their attendance and representation at county committee meetings. Elections will take place in the fall and newly elected committee members begin their terms January 1, 2014.

Additional information and nomination forms may be requested from our office. Nomination forms may also be obtained online at

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>.

2013 Acreage reporting deadline nears:

Monday, July 15th, 2013 is the deadline to timely file acreage reports for crops grown this year. Acreage reports are an eligibility requirement to participate in farm programs such as DCP/ACRE, CRP, Price Support loans, and NAP. Please contact this office for an appointment to certify.

DCP/ACRE Signup ends August 2nd:

Producers have until August 2nd, 2013 to enroll into the 2013 DCP/ACRE program. This program provides benefits to those farms having established grain base acres and yields. Benefits are expected to be issued in October. **IMPORTANT REMINDER:** 2013 DCP payments are expected to be reduced by an unknown percentage due to a sequester order required by Congress. This office will publish this reduction amounts when known.

Please report crop damage or losses:

This spring has provided this area with different weather patterns that have caused crop damages and losses. If you have experienced crop damages or losses due to adverse weather conditions this year, please report these to this office. This office compiles loss data throughout the year, and is used in determining whether a disaster declaration for the County is needed. Disaster declarations can make the availability of certain disaster programs such as emergency loan assistance and SURE.

Please monitor CRP acreage for weeds:

The primary nesting season for Washington State is April 1 through July 1. During this time period, prior approval is needed from the FSA County Committee to perform weed control measures such as mowing, burning, or spraying on grass stands that have been certified as established. For stands not certified as established, weed control measures may be taken at any time without County Committee approval.

Failure to control weeds on CRP can result in payment reductions, and in severe cases even contract termination. Most CRP contracts call for mid-contract management activities such as mowing, and can provide cost share assistance to perform these weed control activities. Please contact this office if you have any questions about your CRP contract.

Farm Storage Loans available:

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFLP) allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handline facilities. Maximum loan amount is \$500,000 with participants required to provide a down payment of 15%, with Commodity Credit Corporation providing 85 percent of the net cost. Loan terms are from 7 to 12 years depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA County Office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL

must be approved before any site preparation or construction begins. Contact this office for more information.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).