



August 2010

LINCOLN COUNTY FSA NEWS

CRP General Signup Announced

The Secretary of Agriculture recently announced there will be a general signup for producers interested in enrolling land into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Dates for the signup have been set for **August 2, 2010** through **August 27, 2010**. Offers selected for contract will be enrolled with an effective date of October 1, 2010.

To be an eligible offer, the land must meet one of the following eligibility requirements. Field(s) offered must either be determined to be highly erodible (HEL) with an erodibility index of 8 or greater; must lay within an area designated under State or National Conservation Priority Area (CPA) designation; or must be expiring CRP acreage, as of September 30, 2010. Within Washington State, CPA designations have been made for certain wildlife areas, and for the state air quality area. **The air quality CPA boundaries established for this signup are based on hydrologic unit (HUC) areas where PM-10 soils are predominant; this has resulted in a slightly different eligibility boundary from those used in prior signups.** For those with questions about the location of their land in relation to the CPA, the Air Quality CPA map will be available for review at the FSA office.

Land must also meet cropping history requirements to be offered. Under this requirement, land must have been planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity in 4 out of 6 years during the period of 2002 - 2007. Summer fallow in rotation is considered to meet this requirement, as is enrollment in CRP. Alfalfa and conserving use grasses planted in rotations of 12 years or less, where the rotation can be demonstrated with an annually planted commodity on either end of the rotation within the 12-year period ending in 2007, will also meet cropping history requirement.

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) requirements pertain to all new contracts, and provide that only those persons with nonfarm AGI of less than \$1 million, or those with farm income making up a minimum of 66% of total AGI are eligible to receive contract benefits. AGI determinations are made on CRP contracts in the year of the contract approval, and are considered binding for the duration of the contract.

Offers will be ranked for acceptance through a nationwide process using an Environmental Benefit Index (EBI) scoring process. The EBI awards points for items including cover type, soil erodibility, water quality, and wildlife benefits associated with the offer. Points are also awarded for the cost of each offer. Once a national EBI cutoff score is established, those offers above the cutoff score are afforded contracts, up to the maximum limit of 25 percent of the county's cropland acres. A very competitive CRP signup is expected regarding acceptance.

Maximum rental values for each offer are based on the productivity of the three predominant types of soils in each offer. Soil rental values for the general signup have been revised to reflect average cash rental values for the most recent three year period. Generally speaking, this change has led to small changes in soil rental values across most soil types for the county. However, unlike prior years, a maintenance rate will not be added to the soil rental rates to determine the maximum payment rate. Bidding to enroll land at less than the maximum soil rental rate earns additional points under the EBI scoring system.

Mid-term management will be required on all new contracts, requiring a planned activity to enhance the permanent cover during years 6 and 7 of the contract. Activities can include harrowing, mowing, certain chemical applications, inter-seeding, fertilization, or other treatments.

For newly enrolled cropland, and for existing grassland in need of cover reestablishment, cost-share will be available for 50% of the cost of necessary actions.

SURE Signup Close and Maintaining Eligibility

Our FSA office has been informed and is anticipating that the 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) signup will be closing soon, so an appointment should be made with our office as soon as possible if you are interested in applying for this program. SURE provides payment assistance in an amount equal to 60% of the difference between the producer's farm guarantee and the producer's total farm revenue.

A very important requirement for maintaining eligibility each year for the SURE program is the link in which producers must timely obtain a Federal crop insurance policy on all *insurable* crops they raise on all farms. This same SURE requirement is true for all crops raised that are *non-insurable*, wherein disaster coverage must be timely purchased through the Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP). For the 2011 crop and SURE year, there are some important upcoming sales closing dates to realize for obtaining crop insurance and NAP coverage. **August 31, 2010** is the final date for fall-planted canola and onions, while **September 30, 2010** is the deadline for all wheat, barley and dry peas (winter coverage), hay (forage), and honey.

ACRE Payment Rates for Wheat and Barley Announced

The 2009 marketing year is completed and final prices and yields have been announced for use with the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program. The final Washington State yield for wheat was 54.9 bushels per acre compared to the 5-year state average of 61.0 bushels per acre; final Washington State barley yield was 64.0 bushels

Lincoln County FSA

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(509) 725-4515 (FAX)

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

FSA Farm Loan Office

Houston Bruck, Manager
8815 E. Mission Ave; Suite B
Spokane Valley, WA. 99212-2532
(509) 924-7350

County Committee

Stan Dormaier, Chairperson
Judy Scrupps, Vice Chairperson
Pete Carstensen, Regular Member

Committee Meetings: 8:00 A.M. on
Wed. of 3rd full week of the month.

Office Staff/Phone Extension

Jeff Lust, CED /	102
Debbie Sweet, PT /	101
Sally Simpson, PT/	108
Jan Bowdish, PT/	107
Paula Reed, PT /	106
Aaron Landreth, PT /	124
Stephanie Fisher, Temp. PT/	109

Web Sites

National USDA
<http://www.usda.gov>

National FSA
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

Washington State FSA
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>

Dates to Remember

Aug. 2: County Committee nominating election petitions due

Aug: 2: General CRP Signup starts

Linkage requirements for SURE & other disaster program eligibility:

Aug. 31: Sale closing dates fall-planted canola (Crop Insurance & onions (NAP).

Sept. 30: Sale closing dates for all wheat, barley, hay, dry peas (winter crop insurance coverage), & honey

Aug. 27: General CRP Signup ends

Sept. 6: Office Closed for Labor Day.

Please contact our office regarding any direct deposit bank account, and/or farm record changes.



compared to a 61.0 bushel five-year state average. Market year price averages for 2009 were established at \$4.87 per bushel for wheat and \$2.61 per bushel for barley, compared with the two-year average prices of \$6.61 (wheat) and \$ 4.09 (barley). This means that the state revenue trigger was met for both wheat and barley in Washington State in 2009.

The second criteria for determining ACRE payment eligibility is to determine if the farm level trigger is met by inserting individual farm yields and five-year historic yields into the calculation, replacing state yields. The deadline for submitting producer production and certification for 2009 actual farm yields and farm benchmark yields (2004 – 2008), has been extended to **September 1, 2010**. Finally, if the farm level trigger is also met for the farm, ACRE payments are due.

Based on the above averages, if the farm trigger is also met, wheat ACRE payments will be calculated by taking \$91.00 per acre (for wheat) or \$56.14 per acre (for barley), times 83.3% of the farm planted acreage for each crop, not to exceed total farm base acres, times the factor determined by dividing the historic farm yield by the state benchmark yield.

ACRE payments are issued in October, and are subject to separate payment limitations of \$65,000 per person, plus any payment limitation amount reduced from direct limitation due to ACRE enrollment.

2010 Loan Program Details

2010 County loan rates have been announced for crops stored in Lincoln County. Loan rates for those farms participating in the ACRE program are reduced by 30% from this base amount.

Soft White Wheat	\$3.28/Bu.	Hard Red Spring (DNS) Wheat	\$ 4.27/Bu.	Oats	\$1.37/Bu.
Hard Red Winter Wheat	\$ 3.10/Bu.	Hard White Spring	\$ 4.27/Bu.		
Hard White Winter Wheat	\$ 3.10/Bu.	Barley	\$ 2.15/Bu.		

Commodity loans on grain grading above sample grade are made as 9-month nonrecourse loans, and may be repaid at the lesser of principal plus interest, or the calculated market repayment price at any point during their term. Grain may also be forfeited at loan maturity in satisfaction of loan amount, subject to adjustments in value due to quality. Any reductions in quality from the original loan amount are the responsibility of the borrower. Loans become due on the last day of the 9th month, after the month of disbursement.

Interest rates for July are 1.375%. Loan fees are \$45 per loan, and an additional \$3 per bin in excess of one, or warehouse receipt in excess of one for the loan. Lien searches are required to be conducted prior to issuance of loans, and lien waivers may be required of persons with security interest in the commodity, to ensure that Commodity Credit security interests are perfected.

Measurement service is available for farm-stored commodities where you are unsure of the volume of grain stored. Farm-stored loans are available on up to 100% of the amount of commodity measured or certified, and for warehouse-stored loans it is 100% of the amount receipted. Measurement service rates are set by the Washington State FSA Committee at a level to recoup actual costs of the service, and for 2010 include a basic rate on all requests of \$30, with an additional \$16 per hour for time spent with completion of the request, based on a minimum time of one hour. All requests for measurement service must be paid in advance.

COC Election Notice

The deadline for submitting nominations for persons to serve on the County Committee is fast approaching. Nominating petitions may be submitted by any person with farming interests either as an owner, or operator, within the Local Administrative Area (LAA) up for election. This year, the election is for a member of LAA #2, which represents the general Davenport, Reardan, and Edwall area of the county. Nominating petitions must be submitted to the County office, or postmarked no later than **August 2, 2010** to be considered valid. For more information or a copy of a nominating petition, please contact our office.

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program 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, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave. 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.

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