



AUGUST 2010

STEVENS COUNTY FSA NEWS

Stevens County FSA

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Web Sites

National:

www.fsa.usda.gov

WA State:

www.fsa.usda.gov/wa

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CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP) SIGN UP

A sign up for the Conservation Reserve Program will be held August 2, 2010 through August 27, 2010. This program provides participants with annual rental payments in exchange for idling cropland for a contract period of ten to fifteen years. Accepted acreage will be seeded to a permanent vegetative cover beneficial to wildlife. Cost share assistance is available to help pay for establishing the cover.

Two basic requirements for this program:

To qualify for CRP in Stevens County, land offered must be predominantly **highly erodible** (with an Erodability Index of 8 or greater) or be CRP expiring in 2010.

The land must have a **cropping history** which means it was planted to an agricultural commodity during four of the six years 2002 to 2007. The agricultural commodity could be either hay or grain, but if the crop is hay evidence of a rotation must be present.

If the acreage offered meets the first two requirements, an **Environmental Benefits Index (EBI)** will be calculated to determine how it will rank compared to all other offers nationwide. The EBI assigns points to the offer based on how enrolling the land will benefit water and air quality, wildlife habitat, soil erosion reduction, and other factors. As points are assigned for each of the index factors, a total EBI score is accumulated. The national office will use the EBI to select the number of acres needed for the program. A cut off level will be established and all offers above a certain level will be accepted into the program. This sign up is expected to be very competitive. PLEASE CALL TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THIS PROGRAM.

NON-INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

As mentioned previously in this newsletter, many of the new crop and livestock disaster programs require the purchase of crop insurance or NAP coverage on every crop of economic significance. While crop insurance covers the major grain crops, NAP covers the crops for which insurance is not offered. The NAP sales closing dates for many crops are approaching quickly. The fee for a NAP policy is \$250 per crop, not to exceed \$750 per county. The coverage provides payments for losses in excess of 50% of your proven yield. Yields are established by reporting acreage and production each year.

The sales closing date for 2011 crops is September 30, 2010 for hay and pasture crops. For fruit trees and honey the sales closing date is November 20, 2010, and for spring planted small grain forages the date is March 15, 2011.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

The nomination period for the Stevens County FSA Committee election closed August 1, 2010. One nomination petition was received for Ryan Esvelt, of Rice. The 2010 election will be held in November.



2010 PAYMENTS

Payments for both the Conservation Reserve Program and Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program will be disbursed in October. Have you made changes to your checking account or changed banks in the last year? Please notify us of any banking changes you have made.

2010 LOAN RATES

County loan rates have been announced for 2010 Commodity Credit Corporation loans and Loan Deficiency Payments. The loan rates for Stevens and Lincoln Counties are listed below:

	Wheat	Barley	Oats
Stevens:	3.18	2.10	1.37
Lincoln:	3.28	2.15	1.37

CRP TRANSITION INCENTIVES PROGRAM

The CRP Transition Incentives Program is a new program that was recently announced that is designed to transition land from a retired or retiring owner or operator of expiring CRP land to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher. Retired or retiring owners or operators who qualify may be eligible to receive 2 additional years of annual rental payments after the expiration of their CRP contract provided the transition is not to a family member. The new farmer must purchase the land or obtain a lease of at least 5 years and may begin producing crops or transition to grazing at the expiration of the CRP contract. Producers should contact our office for program details.

MAINTAINING ELIGIBILITY FOR DISASTER ASSISTANCE

USDA's Spokane Risk Management Agency (RMA) Office reminds producers of the important link between Federal crop insurance and FSA's Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance programs including the new SURE program.

To maintain eligibility for most supplemental disaster programs producers must obtain a policy or plan of insurance of at least the catastrophic level (CAT) of insurance for the crop year 2011. **Note:** the more crop insurance coverage a producer has, the more the SURE guarantee will be. For those crops that are non-insurable, coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be timely obtained.

Producers with fall planted commodities need to be making important crop insurance decisions for the 2011 crop year. Upcoming deadlines September 30: Barley with winter coverage and Wheat.

A 2011 Multi-Peril Crop Availability Listing by county is posted on RMA website, http://www.rma.usda.gov/aboutrma/fields/wa_rso/. Producers are encouraged to contact their local agent for additional details. In addition to USDA Service Centers, a listing of crop/livestock agents is also available at, (<http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents/>).