



NEWSLETTER



January 2012

Stevens County

Farm Service Agency

232 Williams Lake Rd
Colville WA 99114
Phone- 509 685-0858
Fax- 509 684-1982

Office Hours

Mon. – Fri. 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Doug Falstad, Chair
Ryan Esvelt, Vice-Chair
Bruce Stumpf, Regular Member
Gayla McCanna, Advisor

Office Staff

Martin Cunningham, CED
marty.cunningham@wa.usda.gov

Lisa VanQuekelberg, PT
lisa.vanquekelberg@wa.usda.gov

Farm Loan Manager

Houston Bruck, Spokane WA

Dates to Remember

Direct and Counter-Cyclical
Program Sign up:

January 23, 2012 to June 1, 2012

Acreage Reporting:

May 1, 2012 to July 2, 2012

FSA Web sites:

WA State:
www.fsa.usda.gov/wa

National:
www.fsa.usda.gov

Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program

Sign up for the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) begins Monday January 23, 2012 and ends June 1, 2012.

Contracts must be prepared annually for this program that provides payments based on historical grain plantings. The program remains the same as last year, except that advance payments will not be offered, and payments will be earned on 85% of your grain base, instead of the 83.3% figure used in previous years.

Payments are calculated by multiplying the base acres by 85%, times the program yield, times the rate for the crop. Crop rates are listed below:

Wheat \$.52 per bu.
Barley \$.24 per bu.
Oats \$.024 per bu.

All payments will be made in October of 2012. This is the final year for DCP under the 2008 Farm Bill.

Producers that apply for this program must file acreage reports by July 2, 2012. You must sign your contract **and** report your acreage to earn payment.

Please call and arrange an appointment to apply for this program.

Budget Cuts at FSA

Due to budget cuts, staffing for FSA in the state of Washington will be reduced by over fourteen percent by the end of fiscal year 2012 (September 30, 2012).

Travel and training budgets have been greatly reduced along with funding for supplies and postage. In order to save further on travel and salary, the frequency of county committee meetings has been substantially reduced as well.

Newsletters

You may have noticed that we have not sent a newsletter in several months. Funding for newsletters was greatly reduced during fiscal year 2011. Because of the reduction in the postage budget for fiscal year 2012, the national FSA office has determined that all future newsletters will be sent by email or posted on the internet. All producers are asked to furnish email addresses to our office as soon as possible so that notification of new programs and sign up deadlines can continue. Those without email capability or internet access are asked to contact the office so that alternate arrangements can be made to provide program information.

Election Results

Ballots for the County Committee election were counted December 9, 2012. Bruce Stumpf of Chewelah was elected to a three year term on the committee. County Committee members meet several times a year to oversee FSA business, and provide input on agricultural conditions in the county. Thank you to all the farmers and ranchers that took the time to vote.

Signature Authority for Spouses

A husband and wife can sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse authority has been provided to the county office. There are limited exceptions to the spousal signature provisions for specific programs and for farm loans.

Wool and Mohair

Effective April 14, 2011, the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2012 does not provide for Marketing Assistance Loans or Loan Deficiency Payments for mohair for fiscal year 2012, which began October 1, 2011 and continues through September 30, 2012.

Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency payments are still available for wool when a favorable rate exists. Producers of 2011

crop wool have until January 31, 2012 to submit an application. An acreage report must be filed for participation in all Price Support programs such as Loan Deficiency Payments or Marketing Assistance Loans. The acreage reporting deadline is July 2, 2012.

1099 Tax Reporting

The Kansas City FSA office is issuing CCC-1099G forms with the 2011 payment data that will be reported to the IRS. If there are inaccuracies, or producers have any questions about the data, please contact this office. FSA will assist in confirmation of the data or obtaining a corrected CCC-1099G. Also keep in mind that this form does not include any refunds that may have been made to FSA in 2011. That data must be obtained directly from this office.

Farm Changes

The winter months are a good time to report farm changes to our office. Changes that need to be reported are lease changes, ownership changes, and business changes such as forming or dissolving corporations, LLC's, trusts, or partnerships.

New Adjusted Gross Income Forms

FSA and NRCS program participants, including all members of participating entities, must meet certain Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) requirements to qualify for benefits. Starting with the 2012 crop year, a new AGI form has been developed that both reports

whether an applicant or member meets the AGI requirements and authorizes IRS to confirm that information for FSA. The advantage to you is that you will no longer be responsible for mailing the form to IRS. Forms will be completed and signed by producers and sent to IRS by the county office.

The new form also reflects an additional AGI limitation applicable only to 2012 Direct Payments. In addition to the \$500,000 average nonfarm AGI and the \$750,000 average farm AGI limitation, a \$1 million average AGI limitation will be applicable for 2012 direct payments. This new limitation was added by the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2012 recently signed into law.

Direct Deposit Changes

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.

Farm Loan Programs

Producers that cannot obtain commercial credit may be eligible for farm ownership or operating loans through FSA. Direct loans which are made by FSA have a limit of \$300,000. Guaranteed loans, which are made by a bank and backed by FSA, have a maximum limit of \$1,214,000.

For further loan information, contact Farm Loan Manager Houston Bruck at 509-924-7350.