



June 2008

## WHITMAN COUNTY FSA NEWS

### Whitman County FSA

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### Office Hours

Monday – Friday  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

### County Committee

Greg Hall, Chair  
David Swannack, Vice-Chair  
Larry Schroetlin, Member  
Gracie Miller, Committee  
Advisor

### Office Staff

Mike Mandere, CED  
Ann Holbrook, CPT  
Fred Hendrickson, PT  
Bonnie Riebold, PT  
Kathy Carothers, PT  
Doreen Riedner, PT  
Nancy Doege, PT  
Jonelle Olson, PT  
Tracy Curtis, PT

### Farm Loan Manager

Steve King  
(509) 924-7350

### Important Dates

June 2 – Signup for CRP  
Critical Use

June 10 – County Committee  
Meeting

June 16 – County Committee  
Nomination period begins

June 30 – Deadline for  
Reporting Acres for 2008  
Crops

### Get Your Payments Timely & Accurately

Changes in your Bank Account  
or has your Bank merged or  
changed names?

Don't Forget – Update your  
Direct Deposit Form.



### 2008 Acreage Reporting

#### June 30, 2008 Deadline

We request that you contact our office and schedule an appointment to report your acres once you have completed your spring seeding. Producers are required to file acreage reports for CRP participation, NAP policies, Marketing Assistance Loans and LDP's and DCP. While we do not have a 2008 program or 2008 loan rates we would anticipate those things coming with the new farm bill and therefore it would be prudent to file your acreage report when completed with spring planting. The deadline for reporting acres is June 30, 2008. **Failure to request an appointment with FSA prior to June 30 will require payment of a late-filing fee to file a 2008 acreage report.**

### The 2008 Farm Bill is Now Law

After months of debate and delays, the Administration has notified us that we now have a new farm bill. An enrollment error that did not include Title III, the Trade Title, was inadvertently deleted from the bill presented to the President for his action. The President did veto this legislation, but both the House of Representatives and the Senate overrode the President's veto and all parties now recognize this legislation as law. I am told additional legislation will be introduced to correct the Title III oversight.

Outside of this release, news that we have at this point is very limited. What we do know is that writing the program regulations, preparing software, and other implementation issues will take several weeks to months. In the law, Congress did call on USDA to issue 2008 Advance Direct payments as soon as practical. We will, of course, keep you informed and utilize the local media to publicize signup dates as soon as we have been informed. There were some pretty significant changes in the 2008 Farm Bill that will impact program participation and eligibility. More than likely, we will conduct public meetings to provide you with the information once USDA has digested the law and written regulations and procedure. Stay tuned as more information will be provided through this publication once details are known.

### Voluntary Modification of CRP Contract for Critical Feed Use

On May 27, 2008, USDA announced that certain acreage enrolled in CRP would be available for hay and forage after the ending of the primary nesting season. Beginning June 2, 2008, CRP participants may request to voluntarily modify CRP contracts for critical feed use, such as haying and grazing. Prices for most field crops have advanced to record or near record levels in recent months reflecting strong demand, tight supplies, and competition for acres. The increased demand for commodities and resulting higher prices has impacted the livestock industry. Participants requesting to modify the CRP contract for critical feed use will be required to pay an administrative fee of \$75 before County Committee approval. No payment reduction will be assessed for any producer requesting to modify the CRP contract for critical feed use. Filter strips, riparian buffers and contour buffer strips are not eligible for the Critical Feed Use signup. Contract acreage must also have the stand established 12-months prior to use for forage.

### Livestock Program Deadline Announced

Livestock producers have until July 18, 2008, to enroll in the 2005 - 2007 Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Signup began on September 10, 2007, for the two programs that provide aid to livestock producers who suffered eligible livestock or livestock feed losses between January 1, 2005, and December 31, 2007, because of a natural disaster. Please contact the office for an appointment if you have not yet signed up for LCP or LIP.

## **RURAL KIDS EARN AND LEARN ABOUT MONEY THROUGH YOUTH LOAN PROGRAM**

A youth-loan program is helping Washington kids finance 4-H, FFA, and other small agricultural projects, as they learn about managing money and running a business. Low interest rate loans up to \$5,000 are available to rural kids from 10 to 20 years old. Youth loans can be used to finance a variety of agriculture related projects. Youths need a 4-H or FFA project leader to be a sponsor; FSA will help them put together a budget. Marketing, budgeting, paying bills, and repaying a loan are important life lessons that this program helps teach. The loan from FSA, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is repaid when the project generates income and carries the same low interest rate as regular FSA borrowers. Parents usually don't have to co-sign, which makes the loan unique. They're available to kids in rural areas and towns of less than 10,000 people. Projects must generate enough money to repay the loans. Parents and others can contact FSA Farm Loan Manager Steve King at 509-924-7350 to learn how to apply or obtain the application form.

## **County Committee Election Nominations Upcoming**

The period for accepting nominations for persons interested in serving on the Whitman County Committee begins in June. Nominations may be filed from June 15 through August 1. This is an earlier time period than we have had in the past, and comes during a typically busy time for most, so advance notice is being given here prior to the opening date for accepting nominating petitions.

Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2 is due to hold elections this year; the LAA is currently represented by Greg Hall, who is completing his first term on the Committee. The alternate Committee Members in LAA 2 include, Corde Siegel and Terry Morgan. FSA is looking for good candidates willing to run and serve on the County Committee.

FSA County Committee persons serve typically one day per month. They are responsible for such things as reviewing and approving Crop Disaster applications, determining the needs for requesting special disaster programs in the county such as the Livestock Assistance Program and Emergency Haying and Grazing of CRP. The Committee is also responsible for approvals and determinations related to ongoing programs such as Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP), the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and commodity loans and LDP's. They are the first point of review when producers appeal adverse determinations. County Committee persons are compensated for time served, and mileage traveling to monthly meetings.

Nominating petitions may be obtained beginning June 16 through the County Office or on-line at the FSA webpage. A valid nominating petition requires only the signature of the person being nominated, indicating that they are willing to serve if elected, and a determination that the nominee meets the eligibility requirements to serve. All persons, including members of agricultural groups considered to be historically under-represented, to include female and minority producers, are encouraged to consider being nominated to serve on the committee, or filing a nominating petition for an eligible candidate.

LAA 2 is the central third of Whitman County. The eastern boundary runs from Wawawai in the south along the southern boundary of Township 14 to the western boundary of Range 44, north to the southern boundary of Township 16, east to the western boundary of Range 45. Then north to Clear Creek Road to SR 272 across to the Glenwood Road to Glenwood and then northeast along the North Fork of the Palouse River to Elberton. Then west on the Elberton Road to Dry Creek Road to Crabtree. Running on a line straight north to Fairbanks and then along the Fairbanks road north to the Spokane County Line. The western boundary runs from Central Ferry in the south, north along SR 127 to the Zaring Cutoff, then along a line straight north to the Union Flat Creek RD, then east to Hamilton RD and north to Thera. Then the boundary runs straight north to the southern boundary of Township 18 and runs east to the western boundary of Range 43 to just west of Balder. Then it runs west along the southern boundary of Township 20 to Rock Lake and then north to the Spokane County line. If you have questions about the LAA boundary and whether you are within it please let us know.