



July 2008

WHITMAN COUNTY FSA NEWS

Whitman County FSA

805 Vista Point Drive
Suite 1
Colfax, WA 99111
(509) 397-4301
Fax (509) 397-6763

Email:
mike.mandere@wa.usda.gov

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

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

July 4– Office Closed

July 18 – Livestock Programs
(LCP & LIP) Deadline

July 22 – County Committee
Meeting

August 1 – Deadline for
County Committee
Nominations

August 15 – 2008 Acreage
Reporting Deadline

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 DCP Signup Began June 25

Watch your Mailbox, Signatures due by September 30

After months of delay, the enactment of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 has authorized signup for the 2008 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP). The DCP program was authorized under the 2008 Act for crop years 2008-2012. In addition, beginning in 2009 producers will be required to make a selection between participation in DCP or ACRE (Average Crop Revenue Election). ACRE has been authorized for crop years 2009-2012. More information will be forthcoming on ACRE in future newsletters and public meetings. The 2008 Act prohibits Direct, Counter-Cyclical and ACRE payments on farms with 10 acres or less of base. Limited Resource and Socially Disadvantaged farmers and ranchers are exempt from the 10 acres or less provision.

Advances for DCP are authorized under the Act at 22% of the Direct Payment Rate for 2008. The final 78% will be paid as a final payment in October 2008. Payment rates for Direct Payments are established under the 2008 Act and are issued regardless of market prices. Direct payment rates are as follows:

Wheat \$0.52 per bu.	Barley \$0.24 per bu.
Oilseeds \$0.80 per cwt.	Oats \$0.024 per bu.
Corn \$0.28 per bu.	

Producers are also eligible for Counter-Cyclical Payments, but these payments are only issued if effective prices are less than the target price set in the 2008 Farm Bill. The effective price is equal to the higher of the National Average Loan Rate or National Average Market Price received by farmers, plus the direct payment rate. Target prices for 2008 are as follows:

Wheat \$3.92	Barley \$2.24
Oats \$1.44	Corn \$2.63

Note: There are no Counter-Cyclical Payments on Minor Oilseeds.

If it is estimated that a counter-cyclical payment for a covered commodity will be issued, producers on a farm, for crop years 2008 through 2010, will be able to request partial advances for those counter-cyclical payments. The advance counter-cyclical payment may be requested at any time, but not later than 60 calendar days before the end of the marketing year for that covered commodity. The advance counter-cyclical payment will not exceed 40 percent of the projected counter-cyclical payment for the covered commodity for the crop year. The advance counter-cyclical payment will be made after completion of 180 calendar days of the marketing year for the covered commodity. The final counter-cyclical payment will be made beginning October 1, or as soon as practicable thereafter, after the end of the applicable marketing year for the covered commodity.

Handling the Logistics of 2008 DCP Signup

Signup and enrollment in 2008 DCP is required to be completed by September 30, 2008. Statute does not permit FSA to accept signups after that date. All signatures, except for a zero share, are required to be submitted to FSA no later than September 30. Whitman County has approximately 1,700 farms that could potentially be enrolled. We obviously do not have the ability to process appointments for all farms in that tight of a time frame. Producers are encouraged to enroll in DCP online using a USDA eAuthorization account. Producers can obtain a USDA eAuth Level 2 account by going to <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/eauthCreateAccount.html>. Producers that already have a USDA eauth Level 2 account can enroll in DCP by going to the FSA web page at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> and following the links for eDCP.

In addition, we will be printing 2008 DCP contracts for all farms using the share and advance payment selections from 2007 and mailing those to the farm's operator. **The operator will be responsible for reviewing these selections, collecting signatures, and returning them to FSA by the September 30, 2008 deadline.** The

2008 DCP Signup (cont.)

operator will also be responsible for notifying us of any changes such as the shares, if the landlord changed, or any other changes that would impact participation in 2008 DCP. We realize summer and harvest in particular, are very busy times for our farmers. **However, we request that you watch your mailbox and immediately review your 2008 DCP contracts and either 1) notify us of any changes or 2) sign and return them to us as soon as possible but prior to 9/30/2008.** A cover letter will accompany the forms sent to you for 2008 DCP signup. Please follow the instruction in the letter. We would also request that if you have had significant changes to your operation for 2008 such as entity or partnership establishment or reorganization, obtaining new leases, purchasing or selling land to please contact us for an appointment so we can update your eligibility paperwork to reflect those changes. The September 30 deadline is not very far off and we really appreciate your cooperation as we work together to complete your 2008 signup.

2008 Acreage Reporting Deadline Changed to August 15, 2008

Due to delays in announcing the provisions for the 2008 Farm Bill and extreme weather conditions in many parts of the country FSA has determined to extend the deadline for reporting 2008 crop acreages to August 15, 2008. If you have not yet set an appointment for reporting your 2008 crop acreages please give us a call. 2008 crop acreage reports filed after August 15, 2008 will require the payment of a late-file fee.

2008 Disaster Programs – Important Deadline

Producers experiencing crop losses in 2008 may be eligible for assistance under new crop disaster and livestock programs available under the 2008 Farm Bill. To be eligible producer must have purchased a minimum of CAT coverage crop insurance or NAP coverage on the crop(s) with the loss. For 2008, producers will be able to pay an administrative fee equivalent to the cost of CAT or NAP policy coverage. However, this must be paid **no later than August 20, 2008**. Please contact us for more details if you anticipate a loss on 2008 crops.

2008 County Loan Rates Announced

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Act), Pub. L. 110-234, was enacted into law May 22, 2008. The 2008 Act authorizes 2008 crop MAL's (Marketing Assistance Loans) and LDP's (Loan Deficiency Payments) on barley, canola, corn, crambe, dry peas, flaxseed, grain sorghum, honey, lentils, mohair, mustard seed, oats, rapeseed, rice, safflower, sesame seed, small chickpeas, soybeans, sunflower seed, wheat, and graded and non-graded wool. FSA is now authorized to accept 2008 crop loans on harvested commodities. The following are the 2008 County Loan Rates for Whitman County:

Commodity	2008 Rate	Change from 2007
Soft White Wheat	\$2.70 per bu.	-\$0.09
Hard Red Spring Wheat	\$3.23 per bu.	+\$0.16 (Also applies to Hard White Spring)
Hard Red Winter Wheat	\$3.27 per bu.	+\$0.03 (Also applies to Hard White Winter)
Durum Wheat	\$2.90 per bu.	-\$0.37
Barley	\$2.14 per bu. (\$89/ton)	-\$0.03
Oats	\$1.26 per bu.	-\$0.04
Mustard	\$8.61 per cwt.	+\$0.02
Safflower	\$8.64 per cwt.	+\$0.12
Canola	\$7.30 per cwt.	-no change
Flaxseed	\$8.78 per cwt.	+0.02
Rapeseed	\$9.23 per cwt.	no change
Dry Peas	\$6.58 per cwt.	-0.05
Lentils	\$14.23 per cwt.	+0.92
Small Chickpeas	\$7.43 per cwt.	no change