



December 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

## Farm Loan Manager

Steve King  
(509) 924-7350

## Important Dates

December 16 – Farm Bill  
Meeting, Colfax CETC 8 am

December 25 – Office Closed,  
Christmas

January 1 – Office Closed,  
New Years Day

## 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.

## Handicapped

**Accommodations:** Special  
accommodations will be  
arranged for those persons  
with a physical, vision, or  
hearing impaired disability. If  
special accommodations are  
needed, please contact our  
office.

## 2009 DCP Signup Announced

The county office is now taking Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment (DCP) program signup appointments from December 22, 2008 – June 1, 2009. The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 re-authorized the DCP program, providing an income safety net in the form of annual direct payments. The counter-cyclical payments add an additional safety net during depressed market conditions. Eligible crops include: wheat, barley, oats, corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, rice, canola, crambe, flax, mustard, rapeseed, safflower, sesame, and sunflowers. Pulse crops are now covered for Counter-Cyclical purposes only. Direct payments are not authorized under the 2008 Act for Pulses. The 2008 Act reduced payment acres from 85% of Base Acres to 83.3% of Base Acres for Direct payments in crop years 2009-2011. Paid acres return to 85% of Base Acres in crop year 2012. Paid acres for Counter-Cyclical payments under DCP remain at 85% of Base Acres for crop years 2009-2012. Contrary to previous years CCC-509's not signed by the June 1 deadline will not be considered submitted to CCC for any purpose and will not be accepted or approved; there will be no late filing option. Erosion and weeds are required to be controlled on DCP acreage. Wild rice and fruits and vegetables, with certain exceptions, are restricted from DCP acreage. The 2008 Act changed the status of Large and Small Chickpeas (garbanzo beans) from Vegetable Crops to Covered Commodities. There are no longer Fruit & Vegetable planting restrictions on garbanzo beans under the 2008 Act. Producers have the option of selecting the month in which to receive DCP Direct advance payments beginning with December. Advance payments are made at 22% of the Direct Payment Rate. Advance Direct payments are not authorized in crop year 2012. 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 are as follows:

2008-09		
Wheat \$3.92 bu.	Barley \$2.24 bu.	Oilseeds \$10.10 cwt.
Oats \$1.44	Corn \$2.63	Dry Peas \$8.32 cwt.
Lentils \$12.81 cwt.	Small Chickpeas \$10.36 cwt.	Large Chickpeas \$12.81 cwt.

Under the 2008 Act, Target Prices increase for crop years 2010-12. Advance payments can be requested on DCP Counter-Cyclical Payments. No advance Counter-Cyclical payments are available in crop years 2011 and 2012.

## ACRE Signup Status

FSA has been in the process of conducting public meetings on the provisions and changes included in the 2008 Act. One of the new program options covered has been the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program. Although 2009 DCP signup has been announced, ACRE signup is not expected to begin until spring, 2009. We will announce ACRE program details such as election and enrollment dates, ACRE Guarantee Prices, and State Benchmark Yields in the near future.

## ACRE Program Details

The ACRE program provides an alternative to DCP participation. Beginning with the 2009 crop year, producers may elect whether the farm will be in ACRE or in DCP. The election is made on a farm number basis, and a producer may select DCP **or** ACRE but not both. However, if a producer has multiple farms, the producer may choose to participate in ACRE on one farm and DCP on another farm. All producers (operator, owners, and any other tenants) on the farm must agree to elect ACRE. If even one producer on the farm refuses to elect ACRE, the farm will be limited to enrolling in DCP for the year. The ACRE election may be filed in any year from 2009-2012. Once filed, the election is irrevocable, and the farm will remain in ACRE through the end of the Farm Bill (2012). During the initial year of ACRE election only, any producer may withdraw the election prior to the established deadline.

**ACRE Program Details (cont.)**

Once ACRE has been **elected** for a farm, the farm can be **enrolled** in ACRE. As with DCP, ACRE enrollment is optional and is completed annually. The ACRE program provides Direct Payments at a level of 80% of the Direct Payments under DCP. In addition, ACRE participation requires a 30% reduction to the CCC loan rate on any applicable commodity production from the farm. This reduction is not applied to the CCC-Determined Value (Posted County Price) only to the loan rate.

Producers in ACRE will not receive Counter-Cyclical payments under the DCP formula involving target prices. Producers instead **may** receive an "ACRE payment". ACRE payments are revenue based and are calculated using both yields and prices. ACRE provides revenue protection on actual **planted** crops rather than on base acres. However, ACRE Direct payments will still be calculated on the farm's base acreage and current payment yields. ACRE participants will need to provide five years of production evidence for calculations and production records every year thereafter.

Unlike DCP Counter-Cyclical payments, ACRE payments are triggered when both Actual State Revenue is less than the State ACRE Guarantee and Actual Farm Revenue is less than the Farm ACRE Benchmark Revenue. Once these two triggers are met, ACRE payments are issued for farms enrolled in ACRE. The payment is calculated from the lesser of 83.3% of the acres planted (85% in Crop Year 2012) or the farm's total base acres times the Farm's Expected Yield divided by the State Benchmark Yield times the lesser of the difference between the State ACRE Guarantee and Actual State Revenue or 25% of the State ACRE Guarantee. More details on ACRE will be forthcoming once FSA has published the Federal Regulations for the program and announced a 2009 Election and Enrollment period.

**Pulse Crop Base Establishment**

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 has authorized Base Acreage establishment for Dry Peas, Lentils, Small Chickpeas and Large Chickpeas. Producers will have the option of adding Pulse Crop Base to 2008 tracts based on the tract's 1998-2001 acreage history. The farm must have available cropland in order to add Pulse Crop Base (Total Base Acres on the farm are less than Effective DCP Cropland). Payment yields will also be established for Pulse Crops by using the average planted yield 1998-2001 excluding any years the crop wasn't planted. Yields will be factored by taking the average planted yield times the 1981-85 national average yield divided by the 1998-2001 national average planted yield. If the payment yield is less than 75%, then 75% of the county yield will be used. Base and yield establishment rules to establish bases and yields for pulse crops are similar to the rules under the 2002 Act. Pulse crop base will only be used for Counter-Cyclical purposes under the 2008 Act.

**Pork Promotion Research and Consumer Information Order**

(USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) will be conducting a Request for Referendum of the Pork Checkoff Program from Dec. 8, 2008 through Jan. 2, 2009. Those Eligible include importers/producers of hogs, pigs, pork, and pork products. Participation is voluntary, and only individuals who desire a referendum on the Pork Checkoff Program should participate; interested persons shall contact the FSA office for more information.

<b>Whitman County 2008 Crop Loan Rates</b>		
<b>Loans disbursed in December 2008 will mature September 30, 2009. December CCC Interest Rate 2.25%</b>		
SWW: \$2.70 per bu	BLY: \$2.14 per bu (\$89 per ton)	DPEAS: \$6.58 per cwt
HRS & HWS: \$3.23 per bu	Oats: \$1.26 per bu	LENTILS: \$14.23 per cwt
HRW & HWW: \$3.27 per bu	Canola: \$7.30 per cwt.	S. Chickpeas \$7.43/cwt.

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