



October 2009

Whitman County FSA News

Whitman County FSA

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Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

David Swannack, Chair
Larry Schroetlin, Vice-Chair
Greg Hall, 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
Kelley Betts, PT

Farm Loan Manager

Steve King
(509) 924-7350

Important Dates

October 12, 2009 – Columbus
Day, Office Closed

October 14, 2009 – County
Committee meeting

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.



Pulse Crop Yield Update Information

In accordance with the 2008 Farm Bill, FSA worked this summer to establish base acres for Pulse Crops on tracts that had acreage history in 1998-2001. Whitman County had 814 farms with acreage history that required base calculations for Pulse Crops. We were required to attempt to obtain signatures on the base elections form, however, after August 14 FSA defaulted the base acres to add eligible Pulse Crop base whether or not a signature was obtained in accordance with the 2008 Act. In addition, we were required to obtain signatures on revised DCP/ACRE contracts with the new Pulse Crops bases and this had to be completed by September 30. We recognize this was a confusing process that had to be completed in a very short period of time and because of that we sympathize with your frustrations and thank you for your cooperation as we worked through this challenging task.

FSA has extended the deadline to December 31, 2009 for updating Counter-Cyclical yields for Pulse Crops. Please note that Direct Payment yields for Pulse Crops will remain at the county average as those yields cannot be updated. Under the 2008 Act there are no Direct Payments authorized for Pulse Crops, Counter-Cyclical payment yields will be the only payment yields authorized to update using your 1998-2001 production history. For producers who do not or cannot submit production evidence the following county average yields will be established for pulse crops, in addition these yields will also serve as the farm's DCP/ACRE Direct Payment yield:

Commodity	Yield (pounds per acre)
Dry Peas	1,384
Lentils	692
Small Chickpeas	998
Large Chickpeas	862

Producers will be required to list, but not submit, the documents to support their production at the time the Record of Production (FSA-658P) is filed. However, the documentation will be required at a later date to verify the producer's reported production. We would strongly recommend you bring in your production evidence at the time you do your yield updating since it will eventually be required. Many of you have submitted your production records to us and in the coming weeks we will begin yield calculation work. Production records to substantiate yield updates may include warehouse receipts, warehouse ledgers, warehouse load summary sheets, and settlement sheets. Scale tickets or weight slips can only be used if substantiated with other records such as sales documents. **In addition, records such as Federal Crop Insurance APH records can also be used for substantiating yield updates.** Please contact us for questions regarding yield updating for pulse crops.

October Payments

October is the month FSA will issue the final Direct Payments on 2009 DCP and ACRE contracts as well as issuing 2009 CRP annual rental payments. Beginning last year FSA began transitioning payment processing to a new system whereby transaction summary sheets were mailed from FSA's Kansas City Office instead of the local County Office. FSA has taken this process one step further this year in that FSA's Kansas City Office will initiate payment processing as well issuing the transaction statements. We have been told that Kansas City will start with annual CRP rental payments which will be issued in the first week of October. They have told us that they anticipate issuing DCP/ACRE final Direct payments in the second week of October. We appreciate your patience as we transition to this new payment system.

Attention CRP Participants: Wind Blown Weed Advisory

Fall is the time of year the wind picks up and sometimes "picks up" Russian thistles and Jim Hill Mustard and carries them to neighboring fields, roads, and even people's yards. The County Committee reminds CRP participants to be good stewards; check your stands for Russian thistles, Mustard and other weeds that are susceptible to being moved by the wind. Please mow or chop any infestations. Don't let your CRP be a source of irritation and complaints from your neighbors. Contact the County Office and we can provide you a list of contractors if you don't have access to a mower.

Livestock Disaster Assistance Programs

Two new programs are now available under the 2008 Farm Bill that provides assistance for livestock forage losses. A third program is available that provides assistance for losses to livestock. The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) provides payments to eligible livestock producers that have suffered livestock grazing losses due to drought or fire. Drought eligibility is triggered by a county's status on the U.S. Drought Monitor as of this writing no Washington counties have met the trigger for 2008 or 2009. For fire, LFP provides payments to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses on rangeland managed by a federal agency if the eligible livestock producer is prohibited by the federal agency from grazing the normal permitted livestock on the managed rangeland due to a qualifying fire. To be eligible for LFP producers must have had NAP or a Federal Crop Insurance forage loss policy. The Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish program (ELAP) provides emergency assistance to eligible producers that have losses due to disease, adverse weather or other conditions, including blizzards and wildfires. To be eligible, producers must have purchased NAP for all noninsured crops and a minimum of CAT coverage for all insurable crops within the producer's farming operation. For both LFP and ELAP, livestock or forage losses must have occurred on or after January 1, 2008 and before October 1, 2011. The deadline for 2008 and 2009 applications for LFP and ELAP is December 10, 2009. Ranchers who lost livestock as a result of natural disasters in 2008 or 2009 may apply for financial relief under FSA's Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) beginning July 13, 2009. For losses that have already occurred, the signup deadline was September 13, 2009. Producers experiencing livestock losses due to natural disasters after July 13 must report their losses 30 days after death is apparent to receive program payments. Please contact our office for any questions on the livestock programs.

Marketing Assistance Loan Changes for Crop Year 2009

Marketing Assistance loans are available on farm-stored or warehouse-stored commodities at a 9-month term. Loans taken in October will mature July 31, 2010, however, the loans can be repaid at anytime during the 9-month term. The loans are nonrecourse, meaning the collateral can be forfeited to CCC at loan maturity to satisfy the loan. FSA has made changes to the CCC Marketing Assistance Loan program for the 2009 crop year. Beginning in 2009, FSA will no longer adjust the county loan rate with premiums and discounts for warehouse-stored commodities based on grading factors at the time of loan making. In addition, storage deductions to the loan rate will not be taken at the time of loan making even if the warehouse receipt indicates that storage has not been paid through loan maturity. FSA will still require that in-handling charges have been paid or arranged to have been paid. The purpose of these changes was to ensure that a producer obtain a consistent loan rate whether the commodity is farm-stored or warehouse-stored. However, if a warehouse-stored commodity is forfeited to CCC quality, grading factors, and unpaid storage will be deducted from loan rate when calculating the forfeiture value of the commodity surrendered to CCC. Producers must take this into consideration when placing off grade commodities such as low protein Hard Red Spring Wheat under loan with CCC. If loan collateral is an off grade commodity, a producer may end up having to pay CCC an amount reflecting the discounted loan rate to forfeit the collateral.

CCC has developed a new method for calculating the CCC-determined value for Marketing Assistance Loan repayments and LDP's. Loan repayments for grains will be calculated at the lesser of the following: (1) principal plus interest or (2) a rate derived from a 30-day moving average of all terminal markets for a particular commodity adjusted by the difference between the national average loan rate and the county loan rate or (3) an alternative method that is calculated from the preceding 5-days average of market rates for a particular commodity and terminal market. The 5-day method is adjusted by the county differential and a 5-calendar day average of terminal market adjustments for the applicable commodity. Please contact us for information on pulses and oilseeds as there are some differences from the methodology used for grains. Producers who have elected ACRE will have their loan rate reduced 30% on production originating from an ACRE farm. The applicable loan repayment option will **not** be similarly adjusted with a 30 percent reduction to calculate the applicable CCC-determined value. This calculation is applicable to LDP's as well as Marketing Assistance Loan repayments using the CCC-determined value. Production from ACRE and DCP farms cannot be combined under a single loan and must be processed as separate loans requiring payment of loan service fees for each loan. Please contact us with any questions on Marketing Assistance Loans or LDP's.

Whitman County 2009 Crop Loan Rates		
Loans disbursed in October 2009 will mature July 31, 2010. September CCC Interest Rate 1.5%		
SWW: \$3.17 per bu	BLY: \$2.10 per bu (\$88 per ton)	DPEAS: \$6.12 per cwt
HRS & HWS: \$3.81 per bu	Oats: \$1.30 per bu	LENTILS: \$14.62 per cwt
HRW & HWW: \$2.94 per bu	L. Chickpeas: \$11.28 per cwt.	S. Chickpeas \$7.43/cwt.

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