



NEWSLETTER



Whitman County FSA

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Colfax WA 99111-9585
(Phone) 509-397-4301; Ext. 2
(Fax) 509-397-6763

Colfax Service Center Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Phone messages may be
recorded outside of office hours.

Office Closures:

| Date | Holiday |
|--------|--------------|
| Nov 11 | Veterans Day |
| Nov 25 | Thanksgiving |
| Dec 24 | Christmas |
| Dec 31 | New Years |

County Committee

(Meets 2nd Tuesday Each Month)

Larry Schroetlin, Chair
Greg D Hall, V-Chair
David Swannack, Member
Gracie Miller, Advisor

Office Staff:

Farm Programs:

Kathy Wolfe, CED

kathy.wolfe@wa.usda.gov

Fred Hendrickson, PT
Nancy Doege, PT
Kara Lanthorn, PT
Jonelle Olson, PT
Bonnie Riebold, PT
Doreen Riedner, PT
Michelle Peterschick, SCEP
Kelley Betts, Full-time Temp
Megan Brown, Intermittent Temp

Farm Loan Program:

Houston Bruck, Manager

houston.bruck@wa.usda.gov

Chris Sletager, Loan Officer
JoAnne Krupke, PT
Spokane County FSA Office
Phone: (509) 924-7350 Ext. 2

Pamela Castoldi, Loan Officer
Walla Walla County FSA Office
Phone: (509) 522-6347 Ext. 111

| Dates to Remember | Deadline |
|--|----------|
| Ballots mailed to Voters | Nov 5 |
| Last Day to return COC Election Ballot | Dec 6 |

FSA WEB SITES:

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

Reasonable Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing loss. If accommodations are required, please contact Kathy Wolfe at (509)397-4301.



CRP Conservation Planning Information

Producers who received an acceptable offer and enrolled land into the Conservation Reserve Program during the recently completed general signup may have questions on what to expect next and how to plan. Contract approvals were based on an interim conservation plan and NRCS will be developing producer's final conservation plans in the upcoming months. Should participants not accept and sign the final plan, they may opt out of the CRP contract without liquidated damages. All final plans are projected to be completed by December 31st. The following information is to assist participants in the planning process.

For new cropland offers- Fall dormant planting of grass for lower rainfall areas of Whitman County is an option. Fall dormant planting involves seeding late enough in the fall so that germination doesn't occur until the early spring. Seeding may commence as soon as soil temperatures reach 50 degrees or less; typically in the first half of November. The object being, with winter annual weeds controlled, covers may germinate and establish in relatively weed free conditions prior to germination and establishment of summer annual weeds.

Higher rainfall areas will often seed grass in the spring after one or two tillage operations or glyphosate application. Seeding should be completed as early as possible. However, spring planting is more dependent upon conditions. The downfall of spring planting is that an early seed date may not be possible and the competitive advantage of early germination and establishment of the cover may be lost.

In either case, periodic scouting your fields prior to and after planting to determine stages of weeds and effectiveness of control measures is strongly recommended.

Producers must seed the approved seeding mixture with the appropriate EBI point value specified as part of their offer. Seed mixture charts will soon be available in the Service Center. Seedbed preparation activities performed during the time leading up to seeding are eligible for cost-share on approved contracts.

Evaluations of existing cover offered without enhancement- Offers where producers indicated that some/all of the existing cover would meet certification/EBI point offer criteria, we expect that an inspection will be completed by NRCS this fall, prior to your requirement to complete any enhancement activities. On those areas, our recommendation is to withhold any action until you receive further information on whether the existing cover meets certification criteria, or if additional activity is required.

Wildlife Watering Facility installation- Offers where points were awarded for installation of a wildlife watering facility, please do not begin installation until such time as your conservation plan is finalized.

Continuous CRP Re-enrollments

Producers may soon be contacted by a company named Validus who has been contracted by FSA to complete conservation plans for the Continuous CRP Contracts recently re-enrolled. Validus has previously assisted FSA with Conservation planning on CRP in Whitman County. We want you to be aware should this company make contact with you as they will more than likely want to meet with you in person to develop your conservation plan and obtain signatures. Validus is scheduled to arrive in Whitman County the first part of November.

CRP and DCP/ACRE Payments

The majority of CRP and DCP final direct payments have been issued. Please know that we are trying to issue your payments as quickly as possible. Transaction statements are mailed directly from our Financial Services Center in Kansas City and may reach you after your payment is deposited into your bank account. If the total of all your payments is not what you expect, please let us know.

The 2009 ACRE payment process is expected to begin in November of 2010. Prior to issuance of ACRE payments, all 2009 production records, and any 2004-8 records for those producers proving above county plug yields must be entered into the ACRE software, by tract. This is a significant job, which we are working in conjunction with final direct payment issuance and CRP annual rental payment issuance. Therefore, this notice is provided to give some general idea when ACRE payments can be expected for your planning purposes. There is no ability to request deferral of these payments through our office. Once payment data is loaded, and payments are authorized, we are required to issue payments within 30 days.

State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)

Last June, Whitman County was appropriated 2000 acres for the State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Palouse Prairie Project. SAFE is a special initiative under CRP. The goal of this project is to improve and increase Palouse Prairie habitat for a variety of wildlife



species by re-establishing diverse stands of grasses, forbs and shrubs. Producers still have an opportunity to enroll in SAFE by January 14, 2011 before unused acres will be pooled and re-targeted to other SAFE projects in the State. The SAFE project area encompasses portions of Whitman County so interested producers need to check with the FSA Office.

Staffing Changes

Whitman County FSA is experiencing some personnel changes. Ann Holbrook, Chief Program Technician decided to retire after 33 years of service with FSA. Most of you have known Ann for a long time and know that her smiling face will be missed. Only knowing Ann for a few months I know that she cared very deeply about each farmer and rancher she assisted over the years. If you see Ann around thank her for her many years of dedicated service.

Kara Lanthorn, Program Technician accepted another position with FSA closer to her home in Heppner, Oregon. Kara has worked in Whitman County FSA for the past year. Kara, too, was a great asset to the Whitman County FSA Office and will be missed by all. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we move towards backfilling these positions. The office is currently waiting for authority to announce the positions.

DCP Appointments for 2011 Crop Year

As we move into the 2011 fiscal year, we'll be starting another year of annual enrollments for DCP/ACRE. One of the tasks we are trying to get complete is our mapping which determines acres and runs all other programs. Many of you have had your acres updated while others we are still working on. This has been an ongoing long process which we hope to hit hard before entering into contracts for the 2011 program year. Now is the opportune time for our office to make these updates to your farm records. The more that we can get accomplished before we start the signup process, the less likelihood we have of changing your contracts once you've already obtained signatures. With that, I am asking that when you call in to request a DCP appointment please schedule it for after the first of the year unless you want your DCP advance payment in this calendar year. If you want your DCP direct advance before the end of the year, please don't wait until the last 2 weeks to enroll as the office will need time to process your request. Typically, November and December are months where employees take leave so it would be to your advantage to plan ahead and make advance payment requests in November. We appreciate your understanding towards this endeavor.

Letters from FSA

Several producers are receiving letters from FSA reminding them to submit a form CCC-927 (Individual) or CCC-928 (Entity) to the IRS. Our office previously provided all producers with applicable form to complete and mail directly to the IRS. IRS checks FSA records with their records to verify that producer's certification to AGI (Adjusted Gross Income) are accurate. Failure to submit this form will delay payments and can result in FSA requiring refund of previously issued payments. We've had instances reported where the producer was sure they sent their form to IRS only to find their name is on the list. We have been instructed to tell you to re-file the applicable form to IRS. Forms are available at our office. These forms apply to 2009 and 2010 payments.

COC Election Notice

The nomination period for persons to serve on the County Committee representing LAA #3, eastern 1/3 of Whitman County divided from the north county line to south county line through range 44. The two valid nominations received were:

Joe Horlacher who farms in the northeastern part of Whitman County; just west of Tekoa and in Spokane County.

Gregory Stout who farms in the southeastern part of Whitman County; just west of the Johnson/Colton/Uniontown area

Thank you to both Joe and Greg for their willingness to serve on the committee if elected. Ballots will be sent in early November, and must be returned to the County office, or postmarked by Monday, December 6, 2010 to be valid. Ballots will be counted at the County Committee meeting on Monday, December 13, 2010, beginning at 9:00 a.m. during the regular session, which is open to anyone from the public interested in attending.

Farm Loans Available

Loan applications are being accepted for farm operating and ownership purposes from those having difficulty obtaining credit through private lenders. Operating loans include annual operating expenses, farm equipment and livestock purchases, and refinancing related debt. Ownership loans include the purchase or enlargement of a farm, or the construction and/or repair of buildings. Loan guarantees are available to lenders where FSA provides up to a 90% guarantee of loss on the principal of a farm loan. The loan purposes are similar to direct loans. FSA is also rolling out its new Conservation Loan Program. Eligibility for this program is not dependent on your ability to get commercial credit. Producers may potentially obtain credit to implement conservation practices approved by NRCS. For further information, please contact the farm loan staff in Spokane at (509) 924-7350 x2.

Change of Address or Ownership

Please notify your local FSA office of all deaths, land ownership and address changes as soon as possible so your farm records can be updated timely. A copy of the applicable recorded deed should be provided to complete the land ownership changes.