



NEWSLETTER



Whitman County FSA

805 Vista Point Dr. Ste. 1
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.

County Committee

(Meets 2nd Tuesday Each Month)

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

Office Staff:

Farm Programs:

Kathy Wolfe, CED

kathy.wolfe@wa.usda.gov

Fred Hendrickson, PT

Bonnie Riebold, PT

Doreen Broeckel-Riedner, PT

Nancy Doege, PT

Jonelle Olson, PT

Kelley Betts, PT

Nathan Boguslawski, PT

Michelle Peterschick, SCEP

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
NAP sales closing date spring crops	March 15
Final date Price Support Loan for wheat, barley & oats	March 31
Asparagus Revenue Market Loss	April 8
General CRP Signup	April 15
DCP/ACRE Signup	June 1
Report Acres	June 30
Report Failed Acres	Before disposition
SURE Signup Ends	July 29
ACRE Production Reporting Deadline and FSA-658	July 15
Request 2011 reconstitution	August 1

FSA WEB SITES:

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

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

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



COC Election Results

Whitman County FSA Committee held the election on December 13, 2010 and the newly elected member on the Whitman County Committee is Greg Stout. Greg is a rancher and farmer of wheat and peas from Uniontown. Greg received 195 votes and Joe Horlacher received 84 votes. Joe Horlacher, a farmer from Tekoa area, will be serving as the COC alternate for Greg Stout. For 2011, Greg Hall is Chairperson and Dave Swannack, Vice-Chairperson and Greg Stout, Regular Member. The COC has recommended to the State Committee that Gracie Miller continue as advisor. We would like to welcome both Greg Stout and Joe Horlacher to the County Committee and look forward to working with them on important FSA producer issues.

New Program Technicians

Two new permanent Program Technicians were hired in the Whitman County FSA Office. Most of you have already met Kelley as she has been a FSA intermittent employee while attending college and then worked fulltime as a temporary. Kelley graduated from the University of Idaho with a BS in Animal Science Business. We are very pleased to have Kelley on board permanently. She is working in the SURE, NAP, and Livestock Programs.

Also joining the FSA staff is Nathan Boguslawski. Nathan is a graduate of Lewis-Clark State College with a BS in Geology and a Masters in Engineering from the University of Colorado. Nathan also carries a certificate in Secondary Education from the University of Idaho. Nathan will be working with the payment limitation and payment eligibility program. I believe you will find a pleasant experience working with both Kelley and Nathan in the days ahead. They are both very capable and enjoyable to have on the staff.

SURE Signup Underway

The sign-up period for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) for crop losses in 2009 began January 10, 2011 and ends July 29, 2011. The SURE program provides benefits for farm losses accrued in 2008 through 2011 due to natural disasters. A farmer or rancher is eligible for the program when a disaster designation has been made for their county or when actual production is less than half of the normal established production. Producers who suffer eligible losses must have crop insurance or a Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program policy for all crops of economic significance to be eligible for SURE benefits. Socially disadvantaged, limited resource, or beginning farmers and ranchers are exempt from the insurance linkage requirement. Please call the office for an appointment as they are already scheduled through April.

CRP General Signup 41

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general signup starts March 14, 2011 and ends April 15, 2011.

CRP allows producers to enroll land in ten year contracts that help preserve environmentally sensitive land. In exchange for idling the land, producers receive annual rental payments and 50 percent of the cost to establish the cover. Rental rates are tied to county average rental rates and the productivity of the soils in the offered acreage. Land offered for CRP cannot be under a practice life span for seeding a permanent cover under other programs such as CSP or EQIP.

Eligibility and ranking scores are based on several factors. Eligible land must have been planted to an annual crop or conserving use in at least four years between 2002 and 2007. In addition, the land must have an erodibility index of 8 or greater, be in the state air quality or wildlife Conservation Priority Area or be CRP expiring in 2011.

Offers will be ranked using the Environment Benefits Index. Points will be awarded based on the environmental and habitat benefits of the proposed cover planted. More points are awarded for native covers. Existing CRP covers may need to be replanted to maximize the score. Extra points will be awarded for the most erosive land and bids that include pollinator habitat on 10% of the acreage. Wildlife watering facilities (guzzlers) will no longer be awarded points.

There are 9,918.2 acres on 152 contracts expiring from CRP in Whitman County this fall. Fifty-nine contracts representing 5,757.9 acres are general CRP contracts and the remaining 93 contracts representing 4,160.3 acres are under continuous CRP.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) may provide financial assistance to Whitman County producers who offer to enroll cropland in the pollinator practice under CRP signup 41. WDFW will provide 50% of the actual cost of pollinator seed (matching 50% covered by FSA) on a first come, first serve basis until available funds are exhausted.

Public Hunting Access **is not required**. As an additional option, however, CRP participants who receive pollinator assistance from WDFW are eligible to receive \$1/acre/year for CRP and adjacent lands they voluntarily choose to enroll in WDFW's "Feel Free to Hunt" or "Register to Hunt" public access programs. **NOTE: THIS IS NOT A REQUIREMENT.**

Producers interested in the seed cost-share from WDFW, should indicate their interest when making their CRP offer at the FSA office. For more information about the cost-share for pollinators contact WDFW's Kurt Merg at 509-648-3680.

2011 DCP/ACRE Signup Continues

Whitman County continues taking DCP/ACRE signup for the 2011 program year. Producers are asked to call in and make an appointment. There are a couple of things that you need to know before coming in to signup this year. First, we have been instructed to add spouses to farm records as owners since Washington is a community property state. We ask that you provide the spouse's name prior to your appointment so that the records can be updated and ready for you before you come in and sign up. If the spouse does not want a share in the payment then all we need is a name. Providing their social security number is optional. We have been told that out-of-state landowners should also provide the spouse names because the land is considered community property based on its physical location. If an owner wants to be considered as separate property they must provide proof which will be sent to the State Office and possibly to the FSA Regional Attorney for a determination. A warranty deed showing only one spouse is not acceptable proof by itself. We have been instructed that it is the landowner's responsibility to prove a separate status with documents that support their claim. Secondly, this year we are asking operators to take the signup forms from the office with them after they sign up to obtain owners signatures. It is suggested that operators do one of two things to ensure that owners are returning the contract signatures; either have them mail the forms back to you and bring them in the office yourself before June 1, or come in the office before June 1 and verify that the signatures have been received. Please do not ask the question, "Have my landowners returned all their signatures?" Producers need to physically look at their farm folders and verify the signatures are on file.

ACRE producers report production deadline

Producers enrolled in ACRE are required to provide their production for all covered commodities on ACRE farms whether they have a share interest in the crop or not, including any covered commodity harvested as forage. The deadline for reporting production and submitting a signed FSA-658 is July 15. The form is available at the office or may be found at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFileServices/eForms/FSA658.PDF>.

It is the producer's responsibility to file a signed FSA-658 by July 15 along with their production evidence. Producers who need assistance please contact the office for an appointment. The County Committee has stressed that producers need to be involved in calculating production yields. More importantly, do not miss this important deadline as failure to provide both production and a signed FSA-658 makes all producers (owners, operators, and interested producers on the farm) ineligible for any payments.

1099's

It is very important this year that producers closely review their 1099's to ensure it accurately reflects 2010 payments. If there are inaccuracies or producers have any questions about the data, please contact this office.

Farm Reconstitution Deadline

Resulting farms of reconstitutions requested by **June 1, 2011**, may enroll in DCP or ACRE by the later of **June 1, 2010**, or 30 calendar days following completion of reconstitution.

August 1, 2011, is the final date to accept a reconstitution request on form FSA-155 for FY 2011 farm combinations and/or farm divisions for a farm.

FSA adheres to a landowner designation of dividing bases in the manner agreed to by the parent farm owner and purchaser or transferee otherwise bases are divided by default method.

NAP Deadline

The application closing date to purchase coverage for the 2011 crop year for spring planted crops under the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is March 15, 2011. To apply for NAP coverage, the fees have changed effective for 2009 and subsequent crop years. The application fee is \$250 per crop, up to a \$750 cap per county. The maximum for multiple crops in more than one county is \$1,875 per crop year. Check on NAP coverage for crops that you are unable to insure through an agent by contacting the office.

FSA State Director to Meet with Producers

Producers wanting to know more about FSA programs or comment on FSA programs and services will have an opportunity for dialogue with the agency's State Executive Director Judy Olson. Ms. Olson will participate in a producer meeting and listening session on Tuesday, March 22, 2011. The meeting starts at 10 a.m. and will be in Davenport, WA at the Memorial Hall, 511 W. Park Street. The meeting is one of four that Ms. Olson will attend in the state. Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in the meeting should contact the Lincoln County FSA office at (509) 725-4501 or jeff.lust@wa.usda.gov. FSA is committed to making programs accessible to all customers.