



NEWSLETTER



January, 2012

Whitman County

Farm Service Agency

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Office Hours

Mon.– Fri. 8:00 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

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

Office Staff

Tory Bye, CED
Fred Hendrickson, PT
Bonnie Riebold, PT
Doreen Riedner, PT
Nancy Doege, PT
Jonelle Olson, PT
Kelley Betts, PT

Next COC Meeting

9:00 AM March 13, 2012

Dates to Remember

- **Jan. 23** - DCP and ACRE enrollment begins for 2012
- **March 30** – Final day to request commodity loans
- **June 1** – End of 2012 DCP/ACRE and 2010 SURE sign-up
- **June 30** – Final date to report 2012 acreage to FSA
- **July 15** – Final date to report 2011 ACRE production to FSA

New Director Joins

Whitman County Staff

On December 19, 2011, Tory Bye joined the Whitman County FSA as the new Executive Director for the county office in Colfax. Tory has been with the Farm Service Agency since July of 2010. Prior to arriving in Whitman County he was the Executive Director for the Yakima County FSA.

Tory grew up on his family's farm near Pomeroy, WA. Upon graduating from Pomeroy Jr./Sr. High School in 2006 he attended Whitworth University where he studied Business Management, Accounting, and Economics. Tory is excited to be back in eastern Washington and is looking forward to getting to know the Whitman County producers.

SURE Sign-up for 2010 Crop Losses

The sign-up period for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) for crop losses in 2010 has begun and runs through June 1, 2012. Eligible producers should apply for benefits as soon as possible to ensure payment eligibility.

The SURE program provides benefits to eligible producers for farm losses due to natural disasters. Qualifying farmers or ranchers are eligible for the program since

Whitman County is contiguous to other counties that received a disaster designation for 2010. Producers who suffer at least a 10 percent crop production loss must have crop insurance or a non-insured crop disaster assistance program (NAP) policy for **all** 2010 crops in **all** counties. Some exceptions apply.

A fact sheet with more detailed information and a potential payment calculator are available on the FSA website. For more information or to sign-up, please contact our office.

County Committee Election Results

Greg Hall of Steptoe was recently re-elected to the FSA Committee of Whitman County for a three year term. Greg represents Local Administrative Area 2 which is the central part of the county running from Rosalia down to Almota.

AGI - 2009 and 2010

Producers who receive another letter concerning Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) for 2009 and 2010 will need to complete the CCC-931 form enclosed with the letter. The form should be completed with the same information (name, tax ID, etc.) that is used for an individual's or entity's tax records and returned to the Farm Service Agency national office, as indicated in the letter.

New AGI Forms Required for 2012 Participants

FSA and NRCS program participants, including all members of participating entities, must meet certain Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) requirements to qualify for benefits. Starting for the 2012 crop year, a new AGI form has been developed that reports whether an applicant or member meets the AGI requirements and authorizes the IRS to confirm that information for FSA.

The new form also reflects an additional AGI limitation applicable only to 2012 direct payments. In addition to the \$500,000 average nonfarm AGI and the \$750,000 average farm AGI limitation, a \$1 million average AGI limitation will be applicable for 2012 direct payments.

New this year, most power-of-attorney authorizations will not work for this form. The form will have to be signed by the participant or entity member themselves. IRS will not accept FSA power-of-attorney forms. These new AGI forms are available from the county office or on the FSA internet site.

2012 DCP/ACRE Sign-up

January 23, 2012 was the beginning of the sign-up period for producers participating in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program. The sign-up period runs until June 1, 2012.

If you elected to enter a farm in the ACRE program, that farm will remain in ACRE through this year. Even though the farm remains in the ACRE program from year to year, you must still file a contract with the FSA office. If you are a continuing ACRE participant and have not

already done so, you are encouraged to bring your 2011 production records to the office when you come to sign up for the 2012 program year. It is a requirement to annually report all crop production on ACRE farms.

Here are a couple more reminders:

- All producers with a crop share interest on base acres must have a share in direct and counter-cyclical payments.
- Changes on the farm before or after enrolling in DCP/ACRE must be immediately reported to the local FSA office. Examples: ownership changes, producer changes (individuals and entities), and changes in crop share arrangements.
- No changes are allowed after September 30, 2012.

FSA Newsletters Going Paperless

Due to budget constraints, FSA newsletters will only be available electronically. The newsletters will be posted on the state FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>. Producers should contact our office to provide an email address in order to sign-up and receive electronic notifications. You can also sign up for FSA bulletins, newsletters, and updates by going to: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe>.

This will allow you to select various counties or topics to receive news from. Farm operators please notify your land owners of this so they too will know to contact us with their information or sign up online to receive notifications. We will try to keep a few hard copies of the newsletter on the counter in the office but please help get the word out about the electronic newsletters.

Women in Ag Meeting

A conference is scheduled around the state of Washington for women in agriculture. This conference is sponsored by WSU Cooperative Extension Service, and is scheduled for February 11, 2012. It will be held simultaneously at sixteen locations including Spokane. The cost is \$25. For more information, visit the website; www.WomeninAg.wsu.edu

2011 Commodity Loans

Marketing Assistance Loans are available to producers who share in the risk and production of a crop. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time of application (control and title). Eligible 2011 crops are wheat, barley, oats, canola, corn and dry peas. Loan rates vary by county, crop, and variety. The final date to request a loan is March 30, 2012.

Reporting Payments to IRS

Near the end of January, producers who received FSA payments will receive a CCC-1099G Report of Payment to IRS from our Kansas City Office. It shows the total amount of payments made by FSA to you in 2011. Check these notices carefully. Contact our office if you do not agree with the amount listed, or if you have questions.

Signature Authority

Husbands and wives can sign most documents on behalf of one another. Written notification must be provided to our office if you wish to deny this authority to a spouse. Remember, signature authority provided by an FSA power-of-attorney or spousal authority does not apply to the new AGI forms that FSA supplies to the IRS. The form needs to be signed by the individual or entity member.