



# NEWSLETTER



**April, 2012**

**Whitman County  
Farm Service Agency**

805 S. Vista Point Drive, Ste. 1  
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**Office Hours**

Mon. – Fri. 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**County Committee**

David Swannack, Chairperson  
Greg Stout, Vice-Chairperson  
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 May 15, 2012

**Dates to Remember**

- **April 1- July 1** – Primary nesting season for conservation programs
- **June 1** – End of 2012 DCP/ACRE sign-up
- **June 1** – End of 2010 SURE sign-up
- **June 30** – Final date to report 2012 crop acreage to FSA
- **July 15** – Final date to report 2011 ACRE production to FSA

**2010 CROP DISASTER PROGRAM ENDING JUNE 1**

The deadline for producers to submit applications for the 2010 crop year Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) is **June 1, 2012**. Please schedule an appointment as soon as possible if you are interested in applying for program benefits. Producers, if you have landlords that might be interested please let them know the deadline is quickly approaching. The application and all required documentation must be on file and signed by close of business on June 1, 2012. To be eligible for SURE, a producer must have obtained a policy or plan of insurance for all crops through the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation and obtained Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, if available, from the FSA.

To receive SURE payments, an eligible producer must have a qualifying loss. A qualifying loss means at least a 10 percent production loss affecting one crop of economic significance due to a disaster on a farm in a designated disaster county or contiguous county. Producers outside a declared disaster county, but with production losses greater than or equal to 50 percent of the normal production on the farm (expected revenue for all crops on the farm), also qualify for SURE. Whitman County is contiguous to a designated disaster county, making producers eligible at the 10 percent loss level.

**MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING CRP ACREAGE**

The office wishes to remind producers with existing CRP acreage that controlling weeds and stand maintenance is a requirement of remaining in compliance with the CRP contract. Every year, FSA & NRCS personnel from this office conduct field visits to verify stand density and species requirements are being met, as well as to ensure that weed control measures are being conducted on CRP acreage. Please remember the following items;

1. The primary nesting season in Whitman County is April 1 through July 1. Prior approval is needed from the FSA County Committee to conduct weed control measures such as spraying or mowing on CRP that has been certified as established. The nesting season requirements do not apply to those CRP contracts that have not been certified as established.
2. Mid-management activities are required on most CRP contracts. Please review your conservation plans to see what year these operations must be completed in. Cost share is available for these operations. Failure of CRP stands due to neglect by the CRP participant can lead to sizeable payment reductions, and in extreme cases, contract termination.

***THE WHITMAN COUNTY FSA HOPES EVERYONE HAS A SAFE AND PRODUCTIVE SPRING.***

## **ACREAGE CERTIFICATION**

Please remember as you complete your planting for the 2012 crop year to certify your acreage at the FSA office. Most FSA programs require that you report your planted acres every year. The deadline to report your acres is June 30. You can make an appointment to certify at any time once all your crops are planted for the year. If you only have fall seeded crops, please certify your acres as soon as possible. Doing so will allow the office more flexibility to fit in all the producers with spring crops as we find ourselves in the middle of another late spring.

## **KEEPING FARM RECORDS UP TO DATE**

Accurate farm records are essential for this office to be able to administer farm programs effectively. With this in mind, operators and owners of farms participating in federal programs are reminded to please keep the office updated on any farm record changes that take place during the crop year. Record changes would include becoming a new operator or owner of farm ground, obtaining a new bank account, making changes to your entity structure, or notifying this office of deceased individuals.

## **MULTIPLE CCC-1099G's REISSUED TO WHITMAN COUNTY PRODUCERS**

During the past couple months, numerous producers contacted the FSA office with questions and concerns about the CCC-1099G forms they received showing the payments they earned through FSA's farm programs. Hopefully we were able to help those producers better understand the forms in order for them to have accurate data for filing their taxes.

Throughout the process some of the original 1099's were discovered to have amounts that did not match up with a producer's own records. These discrepancies were documented and forwarded to the Washington State FSA Office. After reviewing the payment information for these producers, a request was made by FSA to issue revised 1099G's to producer's if it was determined that the original form was incorrect. These revised forms should be mailed to the applicable producers shortly.

## **CRP TRANSITION INCENTIVE PROGRAM DISCONTINUED**

The Farm Service Agency is discontinuing the Conservation Reserve Program Transition Incentives Program (TIP). The program provides annual rental payments to eligible retiring farmers for up to two additional years after the date of the expiration of a CRP contract, provided the transition is not to a family member. The agency has reached the authorized \$25 million limit for the program. The purpose of the program was to encourage retired or retiring owners or operators with CRP acres to transition their land to beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

## **FILLING OUT THE CCC-931 ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME (AGI) FORM**

FSA and NRCS program participants, including all members of participating entities, must meet certain Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) requirements to qualify for benefits. To meet these requirements, the participant must file a CCC-931 AGI form with the FSA. When turned in to the local FSA office the form will then be forwarded to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for confirmation of the filed information.

Because these forms are sent to the IRS the county FSA office would like to remind participants to carefully read the instructions on the back page of the form and answer every question. FSA power-of-attorney cannot be used to sign the CCC-931. Please ensure that the name, address, and social security/tax identification number on the form are the same information that the participant uses when filing taxes.