



NEWSLETTER



June, 2012

**Whitman County
Farm Service Agency**

805 S. Vista Point Drive, Ste. 1
Colfax, WA 99111-9885
Phone- (509) 397-4301 Ext. 2
Fax- (509) 397-6763

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

Next COC Meeting

9:00 AM July 10, 2012

Dates to Remember

- **April 1- July 1** – Primary nesting season for conservation programs
- **June 30** – Final date to report 2012 crop acreage to FSA
- **July 15** – Final date to report 2011 ACRE production
- **August 1** – Final day to submit nomination information for Whitman County FSA Committee.
- **August 1** - End of DCP/ACRE late filing period
- **August 31** – NAP coverage deadline for Canola & rapeseed

CRP SIGNUP 43 RESULTS ANNOUNCED

The results of General CRP Signup 43, which ran this spring, have been announced. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that 3.9 million acres were accepted during the signup. Nationwide, nearly 48,000 offers on more than 4.5 million acres were submitted.

ACREAGE CERTIFICATION

Please remember to schedule an appointment with the FSA office to report and certify your acreage for the 2012 crop year. Most FSA programs require that you report your planted acres every year. The deadline to report your acres is **June 30**.

UPDATES TO CRP CONTRACTS

Please be aware that if you gain an interest (inherit, purchase, etc.) in farmland which has an active CRP contract on it, you have a limited time to sign a revised contract showing the changes in shareholders. In fact, any changes to a CRP contract are required to be signed and submitted to the FSA within 60 days of those changes becoming apparent to the FSA. Changes may include but are not limited to; changes of owners and operators, revised acreage numbers, and revised share distribution. Additionally, new shareholders of a CRP contract may need to complete other documentation to establish their eligibility for payment. If a change occurs in your farming operation that you think may affect your participation in any FSA program, please contact the county office to determine what steps will be needed to maintain eligibility.

PREVENTED PLANTING

Producers who have been unable to plant due to adverse weather need to timely report this acreage to their insurance agent if the crop is covered by FCIC. If the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) covers the crop, producers must file a request for prevented planting credit by filing form CCC-576 along with an acreage report in the county office within 15 days after the final planting date for the crop. Producers with insured crops are also encouraged to file prevented planting claims with the FSA. Providing a timely claim will help reduce inconsistencies in the case of a disaster program being run for the 2012 crop year. Late filed requests may be assessed a late fee to cover the costs associated with a field visit to verify the disaster conditions. Please contact the county office to report your prevented planted acres or be placed on a register to file a timely claim.

FARM CHANGES AND RECONSTITUTIONS

Any changes in your farm's physical makeup, such as adding or removing land, can impact your acreage base. Farm reconstitutions must be requested by **August 1** to be effective for the 2012 program year. Your farm must currently comply with program requirements as it is structured, including required signatures and acreage reporting.

2011 NAP PRODUCTION DEADLINE IS JUNE 30, 2012

The production reporting deadline for NAP participants is June 30, 2012. This is for supplying yields and signing your Actual Production History (APH) reports for 2011. If you have not provided production for the previous few years, you could also do so at this time.

WHITMAN COUNTY FSA HIRING ONE FULL-TIME PROGRAM TECHNICIAN

Whitman County Program Technician Kelley Betts recently accepted an opportunity to join the staff at the Latah County FSA Office in Moscow, Idaho. Kelley lives near Moscow and was looking forward to cutting some time off her daily commute. Her work at the Colfax office was greatly appreciated and she will be missed.

The Whitman County FSA has received permission to advertise and fill the vacancy created by Kelley's departure. A program technician performs general office functions related to FSA programs and is generally assigned specific programs to administer in the county office. The position is located in Colfax, Washington with a salary range of \$27,990 to \$50,431 depending on education, experience, etc. Qualifications include U.S. citizenship; high school graduate or equivalent, one year general office work experience or equal background in operation of farm or ranch, or two years qualifying education above high school level.

To view the full announcement or apply please visit: <http://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/316850200>. If you have any questions or would like more information please contact Whitman County FSA Executive Director Tory Bye at (509) 397-4301x102, or by email at tory.bye@wa.usda.gov. FSA is an equal opportunity employer.

FSA SEEKS CANDIDATES FOR FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting nominations for the Whitman County Committee between June 15 and August 1, 2012. Farmers and ranchers are elected by their peers to help the agency administer farm programs and provide an important information link between producers and the agency. The three person committee is the place producers can appeal most agency determinations. The committee also makes decisions which can impact program payments. It usually meets every other month.

The committee draws its members from local administrative areas (LAAs). Counties are broken up into administrative areas for the purposes of representation and voting. This year's election is for LAA #1. The LAA is roughly the western third of Whitman County. It runs north from Central Ferry and includes the towns of LaCrosse, Endicott, and St. John, among others. Candidates must live in the local administrative area they will represent and must be eligible to vote in the county election. Members serve on staggered three-year terms so that one of the seats is up for re-election each year. Committee members are compensated for official duty hours. To be eligible for involvement, producers must participate or cooperate in at least one FSA program and be of legal voting age. Nomination forms must be submitted to the local FSA office.

We encourage all producers to consider being a candidate. Producers benefit from a diverse committee representing agriculture in our area. The FSA office can help you determine which administrative area you are located in if you are unsure. Information about the elections and nomination forms may be obtained from the FSA office or the FSA website -<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>.