



NEWSLETTER



January 2013

Whitman County Farm Service Agency

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Office Hours

Mon. – Fri. 8:00 a.m – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

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

Office Staff

Tory Bye, CED
Fred Hendrickson, PT
Bonnie Riebold, PT
Doreen Riedner, PT
Nancy Doege, PT
Jonelle Olson, PT
Tiffany Hergert, PT

Next COC Meeting

9:00 AM January 29, 2013

Dates to Remember

- **February 18** – Office closed in observance of Presidents Day
- **February 19**- DCP/ACRE signup begins
- **March 31** – Final day to take out 2012 grain loans

More Information may be found at

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

County Committee Election Results

The Farm Service Agency is happy to announce the following individuals who have been elected to represent Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1 producers on the County Committee. Elected representatives serve a 3 year term and can serve up to 3 consecutive terms.

- David Swannack – David will be entering his 2nd term serving on the committee.
- Clark Miller – Clark will serve as the alternate member for LAA 1.

Congress Extends Farm Bill

The 2008 Farm Bill was extended through September 30, 2013. Most major programs were extended including DCP/ACRE, MILC, NAP, commodity loans and CRP. All producers will have the option to enroll their farms in either DCP or ACRE for 2013. Adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions will continue to apply. Some minor program changes have been made and rules to implement those are being developed now.

Signup for DCP/ACRE will begin February 19, 2013. Please contact the office for an appointment before you come in to sign up. DCP signup will run through August 2, 2013, while the ACRE signup will only go until June 3, 2013. There is still no word on general or continuous CRP signup for 2013. Watch future newsletters for details about these programs as they are announced.

2012 NAP Production Deadline is July 15, 2013

Producers that have crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) need to bring in their production by July 15, 2013. This is a requirement in order to keep your yield history on your NAP covered crops up to date.

Producers that participate in NAP also need to remember that notices of loss must be filed by the earlier of the following:

- 15 calendar days after a damaging weather event occurs or loss is apparent to the producer.
- 15 calendar days after harvest.

Without an approved notice of loss on file, the County Committee cannot approve any applications for payment, so be sure to file notices of loss timely!

2012 ACRE Production Needed

If you participated in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program for the 2012 crop year, you need to provide the county office with your crop production. This is an annual requirement for all participating farms. The deadline to certify your 2012 production is July 15, 2013.

2013 Acreage Reporting

As many of you have noticed, FSA has new acreage reporting dates. We now have two deadlines rather than just the normal June 30 as in years past. This change is being implemented beginning with the 2013 crop year. The change in deadlines will hopefully streamline the acreage reporting process in the future for producers between FSA and Crop Insurance. We are currently working off of a register to get all the fall seeded crops reported. If you have scheduled an appointment prior to the deadline below, your acreage report will be considered timely filed. If you have not scheduled an appointment, or have any questions, please contact the office. The new acreage reporting dates are as follows:

All fall planted wheat/small grains	12/15/2012	Spring planted crops	07/15/2013
Fall Planted canola	12/15/2012	Perennial forages	07/15/2013*
CRP	07/15/2013		

*If harvest or grazing will occur before the established reporting date, producers must report acreage 15 days prior to the onset of harvest or grazing. In addition, crops planted after the established reporting dates can report timely by amending the previous acreage report within 15 days after planting.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

Signup for the 2011 SURE program continues through June 7, 2013. Producers that farm in counties that received a disaster designation or were contiguous to a disaster county must have suffered a 10 percent loss on a crop of economic significance in order to qualify. Whitman County was designated as a contiguous county for 2011. Producers in non-disaster and non-contiguous counties must have suffered a 50 percent loss. If you have any questions about the SURE program, or would like a workbook completed for you, please contact the office to schedule an appointment.

Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced a claim process open to Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA between 1981 and 2000 due to denial of application for loan or loan servicing assistance. The claim period began September 24, 2012, and will continue through March 25, 2013. Information related to applying for consideration under the claim process may be obtained by calling 1-888-508-4429 or on the web at www.farmerclaims.gov.

New Microloan Program

Starting in January, FSA will offer more flexible access to credit through the new Microloan program. The program is an attractive loan alternative for smaller farming operations like specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA). Microloans can be used for all approved operating expenses as authorized by the FSA Operating Loan (OL) Program, including but not limited to seed costs, equipment purchases, livestock purchases, fertilizer costs, minor farm improvements, and marketing expenses.

Eligible applicants may obtain a micro loan for up to \$35,000. The repayment term may vary and will not exceed seven years. Annual operating loans are repaid within 12 months or when the agricultural commodities produced are sold. Currently the rate is 1.25 percent. Contact the county office for more information.

IRS 1099 Changes

Calendar year 2012 brought changes to the way FSA reports farm program payments to the producer and to the IRS. In past years, IRS Forms 1099-G would be issued to show all program payments received from the Farm Service Agency, regardless of the amount. For calendar year 2012, producers whose total reportable payments from FSA were less than \$600 will not receive IRS Form 1099-G. Also, producers who receive payments from more than one county will only receive one Form 1099-G if the total of all payments from all counties is \$600 or more. The same changes will apply to producers and vendors who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA.

Farming Operation Changes

Producers who have bought or sold land, formed a new entity, changed shares, or added or dropped rented land from their operation must report those changes to the FSA office as soon as possible so we can update our records accordingly and not delay 2013 payments.

2012 Census of Agriculture

The 2012 Census of Agriculture is currently being mailed to millions of farmers and ranchers across the United States. Conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the Census provides detailed data covering nearly every facet of U.S. agriculture. For complete information go to www.agcensus.usda.gov.

Women in Agriculture Conference

A statewide Women in Agriculture conference will take place in 20 locations throughout the state on Saturday, February 23, 2013. The conference, "Growing Your Successful Farm Business," will feature a national speaker by video conference in addition to local speakers at each site. For more information and to register, check the website www.womeninag.wsu.edu

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions is required. Farmers with HEL determined soils must comply with tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified in their conservation plan. Producers should notify FSA prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. If you intend to clear any trees to create new cropland, these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure any work will not jeopardize your eligibility for benefits.

Landowners and operators can complete form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is necessary.

For more information on Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation provisions, contact a FSA County Office or visit the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/.