

April 2007

ADAMS FSA NEWS -n- VIEWS

Adams County FSA

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Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Randy Franz
Greg Galbreath
Leroy Watson Jr.
Elizabeth Lyle

COC Meetings

Thursday of the third full week
of each month; next meeting
date April 19, 2007

Office Staff

Chris Holt, CED
Rae Ann Telecky, PT
Jullie Cain, PT
Angela Melcher, PT
Karin Talkington, PT
Mike Schrag, (temp. field PT)

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Conservation Filter Strip Reenrollments

Our office recently received policy on reenrollment of existing CP-21 filter strips due to expire 9/30/2007. The policy will allow reenrollment of CP-21 and other continuous signup practices, under the following criteria.

- Contract boundaries will be required to remain the same; land may not be added or subtracted from previously established field boundaries.
- Permanent cover must meet original cover standard of 1.0 plant per square foot or greater; cover which does not meet the approved standard must be reseeded or enhanced according to a conservation plan developed by NRCS for the contract. Cost-share is available for reestablishment.
- Updated soil rental rates, and Arc-GIS acreage shall be established for each contract, and will be the basis for determining the total acreage and rental value of each contract. Contracts may be for a term of 10 to 15 years. Signup Incentive Payments (SIP) are not applicable to reenrolled acreage. Practice Incentive Payments (PIP) are applicable on cover which has failed for reasons beyond producer control and requires reestablishment.
- Midterm management will be included in each contract, typically in the 4th to 6th year of the contract period. Midterm management may include such activities as harrowing, mowing, or chemical applications in excess of what is normally associated with annual maintenance. Cost-share is available for midterm management activities, if included in your conservation plan.

Field inspections of cover are being completed now, and letters will be going out to producers with expiring CP-21 contracts in the next few weeks, notifying them of the opportunity to reenroll, and if cover reestablishment will be required to qualify for a new contract. For more information, contact our office.

2007 DCP Signup Extended

The final date for timely enrollment into the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program has been extended until August 3, 2007. The extension has been approved nationally to assist producers who were not able to timely schedule appointments due to FSA workload issues. Contracts may be enrolled from August 4th through September 30th 2007 under late filing provisions; however, late filings are subject to a late filing fee of \$100.

Acreage Reporting for 2007

Acreage reporting will begin Monday, April 23rd and continue through the final date for timely reporting of acreage, June 29th, 2007. Acreage reports are required for DCP contracts, CRP contracts, and participation in other programs including price support loans and LDPs, and the Noninsured Assistance Program. Acreage reports filed after the final date for timely filing, may be accepted, subject to a fee to conduct a field visit.

In past years, we have allowed walk-in acreage reports if staff was available; unfortunately, with the continued work associated with Improper Payment Act record cleanup in our county office, and the limited amount of staff that are available to complete acreage reporting, we will be completing this task by appointment only this year. We appreciate your assistance in calling for appointments, and will try to group any other work associated with the record cleanup that involves you for that time. We are accepting appointments now, if you wish to schedule one.

A few specific items that you should be prepared with at your acreage reporting date include names of any person(s) who are sharing in production of crop(s) on the farm and their respective share of crop(s), written leases if applicable, and planting dates for all crops. Remember, our data and the data you report to your crop insurance agent is required to match with respect to planted acreage, shares and planting dates.

NAP Loss Reporting Reminders

Producers with Noninsured Assistance Program coverage are reminded that notice of loss needs to be filed within 15 days of the date of weather related disaster events, or when damage to a crop becomes evident. In the event that you intend to destroy the crop, or will not continue care of the crop to harvest after an event, you need to contact the FSA office, and request a loss adjuster to verify the damage prior to destruction. Failure to meet these requirements can compromise your coverage, or make claims ineligible for assistance.

There are certain basic reporting requirements for NAP policies. Acreage must be reported by the final acreage reporting date in the County, June 29th. 2006 crop year production from crops covered by NAP policies must be reported by the final acreage reporting date for the subsequent year, which is also June 29th, 2007. Failure to report by these dates can lead to reductions in your Approved Production History (APH) for the crop in subsequent years.

FSA Loan Programs

FSA Loans can be used to pay for annual operating expenses, purchase equipment, and or farm ground. Loan limits are \$200,000 for operating expenses and/or farm equipment purchases and a separate limit of \$200,000 for real estate purchases. The current interest rates are 5.00% for operating/equipment loans and 5.125% for real estate loans.

FSA also offers a Youth Loan program to help kids in 4-H or FFA finance their project. This is great opportunity to pay for that fair animal/project while learning about banking and financing. The maximum loan amount for a Youth Loan is \$5,000 and the current interest rate is 5.00%.

The FSA loan programs are processed out of our Ephrata FSA Service Center by the FLP staff: Everett Purrington, Libby Anderson, and Nancy Seger. We can be reached at 509-754-2463, ext. 2.

COC Election Results

Congratulations to Greg Galbreath, who was reelected to serve on the Adams County Farm Service Committee, and to Elizabeth Lyle who was recently reappointed to serve as female advisor to the Committee. Congratulations to both for your willingness to continue to serve the growers of Adams County!

CRP REX Results

The Adams County FSA has completed all CRP-REX inspections, and is in the process of sending out final notification on all contracts reviewed. This notification may come in either the form of contracts requiring landowner and operator signatures for those approved for extension, or correspondence instructing of further actions required, for those that are eligible for extension with additional activity. In certain instances, where cover has not been established through the 7th year of the contract, you will be directed to provide information to the County Committee, in order for them to determine the eligibility of the contract for further participation in CRP, to include the CRP-REX period. Overall, approximately 97% of all contracts in Adams County met the requirement for extension, either as currently established, or with additional activities which included weed control, minor stand enhancement, or limited amounts of reseeding. We hope to have all correspondence out on contracts needing further actions prior to CRP-REX approval within the next few weeks, and all signature pages out for approved CRP-REX contracts shortly thereafter.

This is a good time to remind everyone of the weed problems we had last year, due to our wetter than normal spring. The weeds of '06 sowed the seeds of '07, and so you are encouraged to be diligent in watching your CRP and conducting necessary weed control activities this spring. The primary nesting season for birds is currently underway, and will continue through June 1st for noninvasive treatments such as spraying, and continues through July 1st for disturbance activities such as mowing. However, spot treatments of problem areas may be approved by the County Committee on a case by case basis, with prior approval. Our goal is to work with anyone who needs to address weed problems during the nesting period, so do not hesitate to ask. Also, any contract which is not currently certified, for example those under a "conditional certification" or reseeding plan, are allowed to work during the primary nesting season without prior approval by the Committee.

This is also a good time to remind those of you who previously received a "conditional certification" notification on CRP-REX contracts, where you were asked to complete one or more activities to meet the CRP-REX requirement. Once you have completed the required activity, please notify our office, so that your contract can be assessed for final review and approval.

And finally this is an appropriate time to remind producers who have wildlife food plots associated with their CRP contracts of the requirement to annually plant at least ½ of your food plot. Eligible plantings can be small grains, corn, millet, or other similar types of crops. Food plots should be planted by the final date for small grains, which is April 15th in our county.