

January 12, 2007

GARFIELD/ASOTIN COUNTY FSA NEWS

ASOTIN COUNTY STAFFING – PLEASE BE PATIENT (Garfield County producers please read also)

The hiring process has become ever more complicated with requirements changing constantly due to Homeland Security Policies. This process has caused delays on hiring a program technician in the Asotin County Office to replace Judy Yochum who retired recently. **Both the Asotin County Office and the Garfield County Office will be affected by these delays as Garfield County personnel will be traveling to Asotin County, leaving less staff to serve the needs in Garfield County. Until a replacement employee is hired for Asotin County, the Asotin County Office will not be staffed on Mondays and Fridays until further notice.** Producers needing assistance in Asotin County are encouraged to plan their business for Tuesday through Thursday. If immediate assistance is needed on Monday or Friday, please call the Garfield County Office at 509-843-1997.

The Improper Payment Review is also taking a huge amount of staff time. This review (which was outlined in our last newsletter) may cause delays in some program application signups and will delay payments in many cases. We will do our best with the staffing available to serve your needs. We apologize in advance for those times when we may fall short. We appreciate your patience.

DCP SIGNUP CONTINUES

Signup for the Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) continues through June 1, 2007. We are accepting signups on an appointment basis. This will be especially important in Asotin County since the office will not be staffed everyday. During signup, we will also be reviewing all files to complete the Improper Payment Review. This will take additional time to complete this process. Please plan your schedule accordingly as it is taking 2-3 times longer than normal to complete the signup and the Improper Payment Review.

ADVANCE PAYMENTS

We will be issuing DCP advance direct payments as time permits during DCP signup and Improper Payment Review. We hope to issue payments a couple of times per month. The direct advance percentage is only 22% of the total payment for 2007. The final payment of 78% will be issued in October 2007.

2007 CROP LOAN RATES ANNOUNCED

County loan rates have been announced for wheat, barley, oats and oilseeds. Loan rates for corn, sorghum and pulse crops (peas, lentils & small chickpeas) will be announced later. The following are loan rates for 2007 for both Garfield and Asotin Counties:

	2007 loan rate	Change from 2006
Soft White Wheat	\$2.84/Bu	-\$.11/Bu
Hard Red Spring Wheat*	\$3.07/Bu	-\$.08/Bu
Hard Red Winter Wheat**	\$3.28/Bu	+\$.06/Bu
Barley	\$2.13/Bu or \$88.75/Ton	+\$.04/Bu
Oats	\$1.30/Bu or \$81.25/Ton	+\$.02/Bu

*Also applies to Hard White Spring Wheat

**Also applies to Hard White Winter Wheat

Please contact the office for loan rates for oilseeds. Under the current farm bill, county loan rates are adjusted annually to reflect current market conditions around the country in relation to other areas.

FARM STORED LOAN REMINDERS

Do not forget to obtain approval from FSA prior to removing grain from a bin that is under Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loan. Check bins regularly for bugs, heating, mold, etc. Remember, it is the producer's responsibility to maintain the quality of the grain when under loan. CCC is not responsible for losses in quality.

Garfield County FSA

PO Box 18
Pomeroy, WA 99347-0018
(509) 843-1997
FAX (509) 843-1168

Asotin County FSA

720 6th St, Ste B
Clarkston, WA 99403-2012
(509) 758-7821
FAX (509) 758-7533

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Garfield County FSA Committee

Diane Koller, Chair
Max Scoggin, V-Chair
Chris Wolf, Member

Asotin County FSA Committee

Casey Hagenah, Chair
Brit Ausman, V-Chair
Keith Claassen, Member
Susie Appleford, Advisor

Office Staff

Nick Waldher, CED
Kathi Ledgerwood
Sherri Meacham
Emily Ruchert
Paul Ruark

Next FSA County Committee Meetings

Garfield County, Jan. 16
Asotin County, Jan. 17

2007 LOAN RATES

SWW Wheat \$2.84/Bu
HRS Wheat \$3.07/Bu
HRW Wheat \$3.28/Bu
Barley \$2.13/Bu or
\$88.75/Ton

Contact the county office for loan rates for other crops or for other counties.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Dates the Asotin County FSA Office will be closed: Mondays and Fridays until further notice. Please call the Garfield County Office in Pomeroy at 509-843-1997 if you require service during this time.

"Return Service Requested"

WOOL & MOHAIR LOAN & LDP DEADLINE

January 31, 2007 is the final date to apply for wool & mohair loans or loan deficiency payments (LDPs) for wool or mohair shorn in **2006**. The price for un-graded wool is below the loan rate of \$.38 per pound. The current LDP rate is \$.23 per pound. Producers who plan to sell their wool from **2007** through a wool pool, where title is passed upon delivery, are reminded to file form CCC-633EZ, page 1 prior to delivery of the wool. Do it now, prior to shearing this spring. Producers may then submit their production evidence after the sale to the wool pool is complete and prior to the January 31, 2008 deadline for 2007 wool.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS AVAILABLE

Farm Storage Facility Loans are available to build new grain bins or remodel existing bins to increase the storage capacity. Loans are for 7 years, current interest rate is 4.5% and a 15% down payment is required. Producers interested in obtaining a loan and constructing bins prior to the 2007 harvest should contact our office as soon as possible. Loan approval is required prior to any site preparation, construction or accepting delivery of materials.

ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME REQUIREMENTS

If your adjusted gross income exceeds \$2.5 million from the average of the 3 previous tax years, you may be ineligible for some FSA program benefits, unless 75% of the income is from farming, ranching or forestry operations. Producers must certify that they do not exceed these limits. Most producers completed the certification form during a previous year. The certification is continuous and does not have to be completed each year unless there is a change in income that will affect the certification. Please inform our office if circumstances change that would affect your adjusted gross income certification.

FOREIGN INVESTORS

All foreign investors of farmland must report purchases or other land transactions (trades, inheritances, etc.) to FSA within 90 days of the transaction date. Severe penalties may be assessed for failure to report timely.

SPOUSAL SIGNATURES

A husband and wife may sign on behalf of each other on most program documents unless denial has been provided to the County FSA Office. Husbands and wives may not sign for each other on some Farm Loan Program documents.

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 2006. Check these notices carefully. Contact our office if you do not agree with the amount listed.

ELECTRONIC SERVICES OFFERED

FSA offers a variety of online services. The services range from receiving newsletters by e-mail to actually completing applications online for some programs. These currently include the Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs). To be eligible to complete applications online, producers must obtain a "Level 2" USDA eAuthentication access account. If you are interested in becoming an online participant, please contact the county office.

HANDICAPPED ACCOMODATIONS

Special accommodations will be made for the physically handicapped, vision-, or hearing-impaired person upon request. If accommodation is required, please contact Nick Waldher at 509-843-1997.