

January 29, 2008

GARFIELD/ASOTIN COUNTY FSA NEWS

Garfield County FSA

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Asotin County FSA

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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

Keith Claassen, Chair
Casey Hagenah, V-Chair
Susie Appleford, Member

Office Staff

Nick Waldher, CED
Jon Wilson, Farm Loan
Manager (Pasco Office)
Kathi Ledgerwood
Sherri Meacham
Emily Ruchert
Lorelei McNamee
Paul Ruark

Next FSA County Committee Meetings

Garfield County, Feb. 12
Asotin County, Feb. 13

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.

National FSA website:

www.fsa.usda.gov

Washington State FSA website:

www.fsa.usda.gov/wa

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Youth loans available for up to \$5000 for 4-H & FFA projects. Great learning experience for your children. Contact Jon Wilson at 509-545-8543 for details.

2007 ELECTION RESULTS

Thanks to all who took time to vote in the County FSA Committee elections that were completed in December. Max Scoggin was elected to a three year term on the Garfield County Committee and Susie Appleford was elected to a three year term on the Asotin County Committee. Thanks to Max and Susie for their willingness to serve the farmers in our area.

Brit Ausman completed 9 years of service on the Asotin County FSA Committee. Many thanks are due Brit for his years of dedicated service. Brit's experience and expertise will be missed.

FARM BILL NEWS

Both the House of Representatives and the Senate have passed their version of the new Farm Bill. The joint Conference Committee from both houses is now in the process of rectifying the differences. When this process is completed, the bill will then need to be approved by both houses and signed by the President. At FSA, we do not know how long this process will take or when a new farm bill will be implemented.

USDA DESIGNATES GARFIELD & ASOTIN COUNTIES AS PRIMARY NATURAL DISASTER AREAS

USDA designated 10 Washington Counties, including Garfield and Asotin, as primary natural disaster areas because of losses caused by drought that occurred from January 1, 2007 and continuing. The designation makes available low interest emergency loans from FSA. Farmers with qualifying losses to their 2007 crops may qualify if they are unable to obtain financing from commercial sources. Producers should contact Jon Wilson, Farm Loan Manager, in our Pasco Office at 509-545-8543 for details.

CROP DISASTER PROGRAM UPDATE

Due to recent legislation, 2007 spring planted crops are now eligible for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP). Previously, CDP covered crops from 2005, 2006 or crops planted prior to February 28, 2007. Producers who have already applied for CDP who had losses to spring planted crops from 2007 should contact our office to update their applications. Only producers who carried Federal Crop Insurance on their insurable crops and Non-Insured Assistance (NAP) coverage on their non-insurable crops are eligible for CDP. A deadline to apply for CDP has not yet been established. Producers are encouraged to call to set up an appointment to apply for CDP.

LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM UPDATE

Also due to recent legislation, grazing losses from drought conditions after February 28, 2007 are now eligible for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP). Eligibility in Asotin and Garfield Counties had previously been limited to losses from 2005. Since the legislation includes losses after February 28, 2007 and Asotin and Garfield County have disaster designations for 2007, producers may qualify for additional benefits by applying for 2007. Since producers are limited to receiving benefits from only one year from 2005, 2006 or 2007, there may not be any benefit for producers who have already applied for 2005. Producers who had more livestock on January 1, 2007 than they had on January 1, 2005, may qualify for an additional payment on the increased livestock numbers. Producers who suffered a greater grazing loss in 2007 than they did in 2005 may qualify for additional payment if their 2005 payment was limited by their 2005 pasture loss calculation. This does not apply to most producers as the 2005 pasture loss calculation was greater than the per head payment calculation. Confused? Call us.

FARM STORED LOAN REMINDERS

Do not forget to obtain approval from FSA prior to removing grain from a bin that is under a Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loan. Check bins regularly for bugs, heating and 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.

"Return Service Requested"

CRP SEEDING

Many producers in Garfield and Asotin County have some re-seeding or inter-seeding to complete this spring as a result of inspections done by FSA the past two years. Producers are reminded that timely weed control and timely seeding are necessary to establish an acceptable stand. Producers need to follow their conservation plan and prepare an acceptable weed free seedbed prior to planting. Producers with questions should contact our office or NRCS for technical assistance. Producers are also reminded to ensure that they seed the "correct" mix of grasses and/or legumes. Remember, CRP contract holders are responsible to obtain an acceptable stand, with the correct species on their CRP acreage.

FINANCING CONSERVATION PROJECTS

NRCS & FSA have worked together to make conservation programs more available to beginning, small, and limited resource farmers. As producers move from initial contract development into the implementation stage under NRCS' Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), many face the inability to acquire the initial capital investment of their cost-share portion needed for contract implementation. To assist producers, FSA has loan programs available to assist with up-front costs. FSA makes direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit otherwise. These programs are not new and have been used successfully in conjunction with conservation programs.

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 seven years, current interest rate is 3.625% and a 15% down payment is required. Producers interested in obtaining a loan and constructing bins prior to the 2008 harvest should contact our office as soon as possible. Loan approval is required prior to any site preparation, construction or accepting delivery of materials.

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 2007. Check these notices carefully. Contact our office if you do not agree with the amount listed.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR SMALL BUSINESS

Small, non-farm businesses in 17 Washington counties may now apply for low-interest disaster loans from the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA). These disaster loans offset economic losses because of reduced revenues caused by drought and wildfires. Loans of up to \$1.5 million at an interest rate of 4% for a maximum of 30 years are restricted to small businesses without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact from the disasters. For information and application forms, call 1-800-659-2955 or visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance.

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.

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