

March 8, 2007

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

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

Office Staff

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

Next FSA County Committee Meetings

Garfield County, March 13
Asotin County, March 14

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

Dates the Asotin County FSA Office will be closed: March 23, 26, 30, & April 2 & 6. Please call the Garfield County Office in Pomeroy at 509-843-1997 if you require service during this time.

NEW EMPLOYEE HIRED

Lorelei McNamee was recently hired as the new Program Technician in the Asotin County FSA Office. After a very tedious and lengthy process for hiring new employees, we now have a full time presence in the office. Lorelei comes to FSA with some great experience, working for Primeland Cooperatives in Lewiston and previously for FSA/ASCS in Idaho. Having worked in the agriculture industry in the area, Lorelei knows many of the producers who do business with our office. Her experience and knowledge will be very beneficial to both FSA and producers. Stop by the office and welcome Lorelei to her new position.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all producers who have been understanding during the "Improper Payment Review" that our offices have been going through the past several months. Producers have been asked to delay signups, provide more information and take extra time reviewing and updating forms. We appreciate all who have been cooperative and understanding.

In reviewing our files, we have found that adequate documentation is not on file for many entities such as corporations, limited liability companies, trusts, estates, etc. We have been asking for many of your legal documents to verify signature authority, members of entities and shares of members. Our office understands that many of these legal documents have sensitive and private information. Producers can be assured that we would not be asking for these documents if they were not required for program participation. Producers can also be assured that the information is held in strict confidence and is not shared with anyone outside the office.

DCP SIGNUP CONTINUES

Signup for the Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) continues through June 1, 2007. We are accepting signups on an appointment basis. If you have not yet scheduled an appointment, please contact our office as soon as possible.

FRUIT & VEGETABLE RESTRICTIONS ON DCP CONTRACT ACREAGE

Under the current Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP), producers are allowed to plant any crop of their choice without acreage restrictions except fruits, vegetables or wild rice. Farms that do not have a history of planting these crops may not plant the crops on DCP contract acreage. Some common crops that are considered in the fruit and vegetable category are green peas (freezer or canning) and garbanzo beans. Fruits, vegetables or wild rice may be planted on non-base acreage. Lentils and dry peas are exempt from the fruit and vegetable category and may be planted without restriction. Producers who plant any fruit, vegetable or wild rice should contact our office if they are unsure if there are restrictions in their particular situation.

REPORT CROP LOSSES

Prior to destroying any crop acreage that has been damaged due to adverse weather conditions, please report the loss to the FSA Office. This includes crops covered by Federal Crop Insurance and crops covered by the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP). Crops not covered by crop insurance or NAP should also be reported for history purposes and for possible disaster programs down the road.

SEEDING DATES

As you plant your spring crops, keep track of your seeding dates. You are required to report your seeding dates when you report your acreage to our office later this spring.

PULSE CROP LOAN RATES

2007 loan rates for pulse crops have been announced as follows: dry peas - \$6.63/cwt., Lentils - \$13.31/cwt., and small chickpeas \$7.43/cwt.

COMMODITY LOAN & LDP DEADLINE

March 31, 2007 is the final date to request commodity loans on 2006 crops of wheat, barley and oats. Producers who still own grain from last year's harvest may obtain a loan on these crops if the grain has not yet been sold.

NO CRP SIGNUP FOR 2007 OR 2008

Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns has announced that USDA will not be holding a General Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) signup in 2007 or 2008.

"Return Service Requested"

CRP RE-ENROLLMENTS & EXTENSIONS – FOLLOW YOUR PLAN

Many producers have follow-up actions required as a result of the inspection by our office last year to qualify for a re-enrolled 10 year contract or a 2-5 year contract extension. The required actions are outlined in a conservation plan that has been agreed to by the producer. Actions may include weed control and in some cases, reseeding. Timely completion of required operations is necessary to remain in compliance with the CRP contract. Cost-sharing is not available for any actions required as a result of the inspection. Some producers completed all of the required actions last summer or fall to qualify for their extension or re-enrollment. Be advised that producers are expected to continue with necessary steps to control weeds during 2007 and for the entire term of their contract. If the acreage needed weed control in 2006, it is a good possibility that a weed control operation will be necessary in 2007, even though it is not listed in the conservation plan. Spot checks will be performed by our office to insure producers are in compliance.

MID-CONTRACT MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AVAILABLE

Cost-sharing for mid-contract management practices is available to assist producers in keeping their CRP in good condition. These practices include spraying, mowing, harrowing, fertilizing, burning, inter-seeding, light disking or chiseling. There are restrictions however. You may not receive cost-sharing for mid-contract management practices on actions that are required by the revised conservation plan for re-enrollment or extension. Cost-sharing is also not available during the last 2 years of a contract. Mid-contract management practices must be requested and signed by all producers on the CRP contract, be approved by NRCS, the local Conservation District and the County FSA Committee, all prior to doing the work. Contact our office as soon as possible if you plan to receive cost-sharing for mid-contract management practices this year.

WILDLIFE FOOD PLOTS

If you have a CRP contract that requires a wildlife food plot, don't forget to plant it. Wildlife food plots require that at least ½ of the plot be planted each year to a grain crop. The only exception is the option to plant a perennial food plot. A perennial food plot is only acceptable if a stand of perennial plants that were seeded is obtained. Plots consisting mainly of weeds are not acceptable. Food plots must be planted on the CRP acreage. Leaving a standing crop in an adjacent field or nearby does not meet the requirements. Wildlife food plots must be planted in a timely manner. This is generally by the normal ending planting date for grain crops in the county.

CROP INSURANCE DEADLINE NEAR

The deadline to purchase Multi-Peril Crop Insurance for spring seeded crops (except spring wheat) is March 15, 2007. Contact your crop insurance agent for details.

NAP DEADLINE APPROACHING

March 15, 2007 is the final date to apply for the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) on most spring planted crops. The \$100/crop administrative fee must be paid by March 15 to provide coverage. NAP provides loss protection to crops that are not eligible for Federal Crop Insurance. To qualify for benefits, crop losses must exceed 50% of normal and be related to an eligible adverse weather condition. Payment rates are based on 55% of the average market price as determined by FSA. Crops covered include grain hay (except mixtures) and minor oilseeds (except canola, rapeseed and mustard seed which are now insurable by Federal Crop Insurance). The deadline to apply for perennial crops such as grass seed, grass hay and pasture for 2007 was September 30, 2006. The deadline for mixed hay crops (even if spring seeded) was also September 30, 2006.

CASH COLLECTIONS

The Asotin County FSA Office will no longer accept cash collections for remittances received by the county office. New regulations prohibit accepting cash in offices that are staffed by only one full time employee.

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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