

Do not forget to control weeds on your CRP! Consequences can be costly if weeds are not controlled.

May 2, 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, May 15
Asotin County, May 9

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

Now that we have a full time employee in Asotin County, the office will be open on most days. However, in the event we do not staff the office on a particular day, please call the Garfield County Office in Pomeroy at 509-843-1997 if you require service at that time.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF ELECTIONS

Nominations for the County FSA Committee are now being accepted. Nomination is done by petition that must be delivered to the County FSA Office by August 1, 2007. Only one valid nomination is required. If no petitions are received, the County FSA Committee must complete a slate of three candidates. The election will be held by mail ballot. All ballots must be returned or postmarked by December 3, 2007. All farm owners, operators, and their spouses in the applicable Local Administrative Area are eligible to vote in the election. Any farm producer who is not listed on FSA's records should contact their local FSA office so the records may be updated. FSA encourages the nomination of under-represented group candidates including minorities and women. Nomination forms are being sent to all eligible producers in a separate mailing and are also available upon request from the County FSA Offices. In Garfield County, the Southern Area will hold the election this year. Max Scoggin is currently representing the Southern Area of the county and is eligible for re-election. In Asotin County, the Anatone Area is up for election. Brit Ausman currently represents the Anatone Area and is **not** eligible for re-election. Producers are encouraged to get involved by nominating candidates of their choice to represent them on the FSA Committee.

DCP SIGNUP EXTENDED

The deadline to signup for the Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) has been extended to August 3, 2007. Problems with FSA's computer system and the Improper Payment Review caused agency officials to extend the deadline to ensure adequate opportunity for all producers to signup and participate. Producers failing to signup by August 3 may still participate by enrolling before September 30th, but will pay a \$100 late-file fee.

ACREAGE REPORTING DEADLINE - JUNE 30

Our offices are now accepting acreage reports for the 2007 crop year. Please call the office to schedule an appointment after you have completed all spring planting for the year. Remember, you must provide seeding dates for all crops planted, so come prepared. Producers who are participating in the Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP), the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP), and Price Support Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs) are required to report acreages. Late filed fees will be assessed for late filed acreage reports.

PAYMENT LIMITATION – NOTICE TO PRODUCERS FOR 2007

Payment eligibility and limitation provisions apply to producers who apply for FSA program benefits. For producers to be eligible, they must be "actively engaged in farming" and meet the definition of a "person". Eligibility is also subject to the cash rent tenant rule, the foreign person provisions and permitted entity rules when applicable. Payment eligibility is also subject to the adjusted gross income provisions. Program benefits will not be provided until all required forms are submitted and the necessary determinations have been made. Entities must provide the names, addresses and ID numbers of its members and members are responsible for designating "permitted entities". Spouses may be considered separate "persons" if this determination is requested and all applicable requirements are met. All cases are subject to review through the end of year review process. All records for the farming operation may be requested in the end of year review process. A determination of not actively engaged in farming results in the producer being ineligible for any benefits which requires this determination. Payment limitation amounts per person per year are as follows:

Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program	
Direct Payments	\$40000
Counter-Cyclical Payments	\$65000
Conservation Reserve Program	\$50000
Includes annual rental payments, signing incentive payments and practice incentive payments, including CREP.	
CCC Marketing Loan Gains and Loan Deficiency Payments	\$75000
Non-Insured Assistance Program	\$100000

“Return Service Requested”

WEED CONTROL ON CRP

Last year our office inspected Conservation Reserve Program acreage on 375 CRP contracts in Garfield and Asotin Counties. This inspection was required for extensions and re-enrollment of contracts. Many producers had or currently have required actions to take to be eligible for the extension or re-enrollment. Please follow your conservation plan for weed control, seedbed preparation and seeding in a timely manner. Many producers were required to mow their CRP for control of weeds, mainly mustards. Our office only required one mowing operation to remain in compliance with the CRP contract in most cases where there was still an acceptable stand of grasses and/or legumes. However, follow-up actions this year to control mustards should be done in most cases. Remember, producers are responsible to control weeds that can move off the field to surrounding land. Our offices have received requests from a few producers for either spot weed control during the nesting season or for a mid-contract management plan for weed control. This represents only a small percentage of the CRP. FSA's concern – **What are the rest doing?** If your CRP is in good condition and does not need weed control, that is fine. If not, there are not any excuses for not controlling mustards and other weeds on CRP. If uncontrolled weeds are found on CRP, the County FSA Committee has the authority to assess failure to fully comply payment reductions or cancel contracts in severe cases.

THE NESTING SEASON & CRP WEED CONTROL

The primary nesting season for Washington State is April 1 – June 1 for most CRP contracts. During this time, CRP maintenance activities are limited. In addition, more intrusive activities such as mowing, harrowing, disking or chiseling are restricted through July 1 and burning through August 15. For CRP contracts approved after September 26, 2006 and for contracts that have mid-contract management practices first added after September 26, 2006, the nesting season is April 1 – August 1. All of the above listed activities are limited during this time, and burning restricted through August 15.

CONFLICTS?

If you are reading the newsletter closely (which I am sure you all are), you may be saying to yourself that the last two paragraphs are in direct conflict. How can I control weeds on CRP without violating the nesting season rules? The answer is simple. Producers may request weed control activities during the nesting season. FSA generally will approve all reasonable requests. Producers may either request 1) Spot Treatment during the Nesting Season (No cost-sharing), or 2) Mid-contract management (with cost-sharing). In either case, permission must be obtained from the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW). WDFW has been very good to work with and they will almost always concur with any reasonable situation. In fact, sometimes the spot treatment may be most of a contract if it is needed. Bottom line – the nesting season is not a legitimate excuse for not controlling weeds in CRP. Questions? Give us a call, better to find out the answer now than pay the consequences later.

NAP PRODUCTION REPORTING DEADLINE IS JUNE 30.

Producers with Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on their non-insurable crops must report their production from their 2006 crops by June 30, 2007. Failure to report will result in an assigned yield entered in the database. This will more than likely reduce the actual production history (APH) and result in lower coverage.

FARM LOANS AVAILABLE

Direct operating loans up to \$200,000 are still available from FSA for producers who are unable to obtain financing through commercial sources. In addition there are guaranteed loans available with a limit of \$899,000 to qualified applicants. There are 15 lenders working with the Franklin County Office to make guaranteed loans. Contact the farm loan staff in Pasco at (509) 545-8543 for any loan questions or inquiries that you may have.

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.