

Having trouble getting financed? If so, call Jon Wilson, Farm Loan Manager, at 509-545-8543.

November 9, 2007

GARFIELD/ASOTIN COUNTY FSA NEWS

Garfield County FSA

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Pomeroy, WA 99347-0018
(509) 843-1997
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Asotin County FSA

720 6th St, Ste B
Clarkston, WA 99403-2012
(509) 758-7821
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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
Jon Wilson, Farm Loan Manager (Pasco Office)
Kathi Ledgerwood
Sherri Meacham
Emily Ruchert
Lorelei McNamee
Paul Ruark

Upcoming FSA County Committee Meetings

Garfield County, Nov. 13 & Dec. 11

Asotin County, Nov. 14 & Dec. 12

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



CROP DISASTER PROGRAM (CDP) SIGNUP UNDERWAY

Signup for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) is currently in progress. We are now accepting applications for losses from natural disasters and related conditions that occurred in 2005, 2006 and 2007 (limited to crops planted by February 28, 2007). Producers who incurred qualifying losses must choose only one year to receive benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple crops as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Only those producers who obtained Federal Crop Insurance or coverage to non-insurable crops under the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) are eligible for CDP benefits.

CDP covers losses to quantity and quality. We are accepting applications for quantity losses at this time. Signup for quality losses will be at a later date. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for payment. The 35% loss threshold is determined from the higher of the producer's individual APH (actual production history) or the county average yield, whichever is higher. The payment rate for eligible losses is 42% of the established price. Assistance, together with any crop insurance indemnity payment or NAP payment received for the same crop and including the value of the crop production, must not exceed 95% of the value of the crop if there had not been a disaster. The maximum payment limitation for CDP is \$80,000 per person. Please call for an appointment to apply for the CDP program. This will enable our staff to have records researched and ready for you. In most situations, you do not need to bring production evidence with you to apply for CDP. Crop records have already been received from the Risk Management Agency (RMA) for producers who collected indemnity payments from crop insurance.

LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM SIGNUP CONTINUES

Signup for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) is in progress. Garfield and Asotin Counties have been approved for the program. Livestock producers that suffered losses from natural disasters may be eligible for payment based on their feed loss and livestock numbers. The major disaster condition that qualifies producers in Garfield and Asotin Counties is drought from 2005. The beginning of the disaster period has been determined to be January 1, 2005. Producers must apply in the county where FSA records are kept. Eligible livestock must have been in the county on the beginning date of the disaster (in this case, January 1, 2005). When applying for the program, producers need to provide their livestock numbers as of January 1, 2005, their rangeland pasture acreage and costs for any additional feed that was purchased due to the disaster condition. Please call to make an appointment for submitting an application.

LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) may compensate livestock owners whose livestock died as a result of a natural disaster. This may include the "School Fire" from 2005. Contact the county office for more information.

EMERGENCY CRP GRAZING AND MANAGED CRP GRAZING UPDATES

Emergency grazing on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) was previously authorized in Asotin County due to drought conditions. Approval for emergency grazing allowed for grazing up to 90 days, at approved stocking levels, not to exceed March 31, 2008. Asotin County producers were also allowed to graze in adjoining counties up to a 210 mile radius. The payment reduction is 10% of the annual rental payment. In an unexpected move by the national office, authority for emergency CRP grazing was cut off as of September 30, 2007. A subsequent request extended the approved date through October 20, 2007. Producers who were previously approved are allowed to continue grazing through their previously approved date not to exceed December 31, 2007. Due to the drought, the cost of grazing CRP under the **managed grazing** rules has been changed from 25% to 10% of the annual rental payment in emergency approved counties and counties within the 210 mile radius. This allows producers in **Asotin County and Garfield County** to use the managed grazing at the reduced rate. The managed grazing season for the lower elevations in Asotin and Garfield Counties is November 1 – February 28. Confused? Call us for clarification or details.

IMPROPER PAYMENT REVIEW

In reviewing last year's newsletter, it was about this time that we announced that our agency would be going under a review to prevent any improper payments from being issued by our agency. As the year progressed, it was apparent that this review would take much longer than originally anticipated since all eligibility forms, contracts and signature authority would be involved in the review. We have now completed the review with the exception of a few entities that have not submitted required documentation. The review was a struggle for our office and for some producers it caused additional paperwork and time to complete. We want to thank all of our producers for their patience and understanding during this review.

COMMITTEE ELECTIONS – BALLOTS DUE

Monday, December 3 is the final date to submit election ballots for the FSA Committee election. Please submit ballots to our office or have them postmarked by the deadline to be eligible to be counted. Please remember that a proper signature is required on ballots. If signing for an entity, always enter the word "by" in front of your signature and enter your title for all trusts and estates. Power of attorneys is not authorized for voting purposes. Thanks to all who took time to vote.

NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR FRUIT

The final date to apply for the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) for most 2008 orchard crops is November 20, 2007. The cost is \$100 per crop not to exceed \$300 for all crops in the county. NAP covers losses in excess of 50% of the proven yield at 55% of the market price.

NEW FARM BILL?

The House of Representatives has passed its version of the new farm bill and the Senate is now considering its version. If and when the Senate approves its version, the process will then move to a joint Conference Committee to "work out the differences". After approval by both Houses, the bill must then be approved by the President. At this time, we do not know if there will be a Direct & Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or similar program for 2008, whether there will be advance payments, or any other details until a bill has been passed into law.

FARM LOANS AVAILABLE

Applications are currently being accepted for farm operating loans and for farm ownership loans. Operating loans include financing for purchase of machinery or livestock as well as annual operating expenses. Direct loans are administered from the FSA Office in Franklin County. Contact Jon Wilson, Farm Loan Manager at 509-545-8543 for details on direct loans. The guaranteed loan program is offered through qualifying local banks. FSA guarantees a portion of the loan, thus making credit available to those who the bank may not finance without such guarantee. FSA also offers Youth Loans up to \$5000 that can be used by 4-H or FFA members to finance a project. Using this program helps educate our youth on the proper use of credit as well as providing practical experience in obtaining loans and the responsibility for repayment.

IRS LIVESTOCK REPLACEMENT PERIOD EXTENDED

An extension for the replacement period for livestock sold on account of drought has been approved for specified counties, including Garfield and Asotin. Producers who have sold livestock due to drought conditions may want to contact their tax advisor regarding this issue.

HANDICAPPED ACCOMODATIONS

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

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