

October 17, 2006

## GARFIELD/ASOTIN COUNTY FSA NEWS

### DIRECT & COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM (DCP) SIGNUP FOR 2007

Signup for the 2007 Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) began on October 2, 2006 and continues through June 1, 2007. To be eligible for "Direct" payments and "Counter-Cyclical" (CC) payments, producers must sign a contract each year. The "Direct" payment rate for wheat is \$.52/Bu and \$.24/Bu for barley. Advance direct payments are available at 22% (yes, 22%, down from 50% last year) of these rates and are available beginning in December of 2006. Producers will also need to decide whether they want to take an advance CC payment for 2007, if there is an advance available. These payments may be available in October 2007 and February 2008 if the projected market prices are below the target price minus the direct payment rate. Producers need to schedule an appointment with our office for signup.

### ADVANCE DIRECT PAYMENT AMOUNT REDUCED

As noted above, the percentage of the direct payment to be made in advance has been reduced for the 2007 program to 22% of the total. The Agricultural Reconciliation Act of 2005, that was passed into law on February 8, 2006, reduced the advance payment to 40% for 2006 for producers who had not yet requested the advance and reduced the advance payment for 2007 to 22%.

### 2006 COUNTER CYCLICAL ADVANCE PAYMENTS

Based on market projections, there will not be advance counter-cyclical payments for 2006 crop wheat, barley or oats. Advance counter-cyclical payments are made when the effective prices for eligible commodities are less than the respective target prices. When authorized, the first advance is paid in October 2006 and the second advance in February 2007. The only crops that will receive the first advance are peanuts and upland cotton.

### NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR FRUIT

The final date to apply for the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) for most 2007 orchard crops is November 20, 2006. 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.

### COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS FSA COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS COMPLETE

Nominations for the upcoming FSA Committee elections have been completed. In Garfield County, Diane Koller was nominated to represent the Northeast Area. In Asotin County, Casey Hagenah was nominated for the election in the Cloverland Area. Election ballots will be sent to all eligible farm voters in the applicable local administrative area by our Kansas City Office in early November. Producers need to return the ballots to the local FSA Office by December 4, 2006 to be counted. Please exercise your right to vote.

### ASOTIN COUNTY STAFFING

Due to staffing shortages within the Farm Service Agency and in Asotin County in particular, there will be days when the office does not have a staff person available to assist producers. It has been suggested that these dates be publicized in the newsletter so producers will know in advance the dates when no one is available in the office. Now, look directly to the left column of the newsletter. This is where you will find, every month, the days we know that the office will not be staffed. There may be other days when the office is closed that we cannot plan ahead for. Please call ahead and schedule an appointment if you want to insure there is a staff person available to assist you with your needs.

#### Garfield County FSA

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

#### Asotin County FSA

720 6<sup>th</sup> 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  
Judy Yochum  
Paul Ruark

#### Next FSA County Committee Meetings

Garfield County, Nov. 14  
Asotin County, Nov. 8

#### 2006 LOAN RATES

SWW Wheat	\$2.95/Bu
HRS Wheat	\$3.15/Bu
HRW Wheat	\$3.22/Bu
Barley	\$2.09/Bu or \$87.09/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:  
October 19, 20  
November 3, 10, 17, 23, 24

### **EQIP NEWS FROM NRCS**

The deadline for the 2007 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) is fast approaching on November 17, 2006. NRCS will hold informational meetings regarding program changes on the evenings of November 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Clarkston USDA Service Center. If you would like to learn more about next years EQIP program or have questions concerning conservation projects on your farm, please attend one of these meetings.

### **EMERGENCY USE OF CRP DUE TO WILDFIRES**

Garfield County has been given approval from the national office to authorize grazing on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage with no payment reduction. This authorization to graze CRP is limited to livestock producers who were directly affected by wildfires including the Columbia Complex fire and other fires in the area. Generally, this would allow Columbia County livestock producers who lost grazing land in the fire to graze CRP land in Columbia, Walla Walla, Garfield or Whitman Counties. It may also include Garfield County livestock producers if they lost grazing land due to any wildfires in Garfield County. Before any grazing begins, a revised conservation plan, developed by NRCS, must be approved. The plan will include maximum stocking rates, limit the grazing to 60 days and stipulate that all cattle must be removed prior to March 31, 2007. Call for details.

### **CRP MANAGED HAYING & GRAZING PROVISIONS REVISED**

The National Wildlife Federation filed a complaint in U. S. District Court on October 21, 2004 challenging certain provisions of the managed haying and grazing on CRP acreage. The lawsuit alleged that the managed haying and grazing practices violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Food Security Act of 1985, and the Administrative Procedure Act. Specifically, the lawsuit challenged the frequency allowed for managed haying and grazing on CRP acreage and the dates set as the primary nesting season that limits haying and grazing activities. The lawsuit specified several States including the State of Washington. The federal government has settled with the complainant with changes affecting managed haying and grazing policies. The changes will limit managed haying and grazing to once in 10 years rather than once in 4 years for most producers. Producers who have conservation plans that already include managed haying and grazing (this is generally those who have used the managed haying and grazing option in the past) will be able to remain under the “old” rules and utilize managed haying or grazing on those specific contracts once in every four years. The settlement with the National Wildlife Federation also changed the primary nesting season back to April 1 – August 1. The new nesting season dates only apply to managed haying and grazing and do not apply to other activities on CRP. They remain unchanged at April 1- June 1 for non-intrusive operations such as spraying and April 1 – July 1 for intrusive operations such as mowing.

### **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.