

September 14, 2006

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
Judy Yochum

Next FSA County Committee Meetings

Garfield & Asotin Counties –
joint session October 17,
2006 at 9:00 AM

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:
September 22, October 6 &
20.

STATE DIRECTOR GOES TO WASHINGTON DC

Former State Executive Director Jim Fitzgerald recently accepted a position as Chief of Staff with the Rural Development Agency in Washington D. C. In his new position Mr. Fitzgerald will oversee day to day operations of the agency. We all wish Jim the best of luck in his new job. District Director Robert Nordstrom from Yakima has been appointed as the Acting State Executive Director and will serve in that position until a replacement is appointed.

DISASTER DESIGNATIONS

Several counties in Eastern Washington have been designated as primary disaster areas due to adverse weather conditions including severe thunderstorms, excessive rain, hail, high winds and flash flooding. Garfield & Asotin Counties are adjacent to counties that received the designation. The designation allows farmers and ranchers in the designated counties and adjacent counties to qualify for low interest emergency loans. For production losses, producers must have lost at least 30% of normal production due to an eligible disaster condition. Producers must not be able to obtain financing from commercial sources at reasonable interest rates to be eligible for emergency loans. Applications for loans must be submitted within eight months from the date of disaster declaration. The final date to apply is May 6, 2007.

DCP PROGRAM DEADLINE

September 30, 2006 is the last chance to apply for the 2006 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP). Any producer who did not apply by the original deadline of June 1, 2006 may apply by filing a late fee of \$100 per farm. Any revised contracts due to change of owner, change of operator or change in shares must be submitted by the deadline also. The \$100 late fee does not apply in these cases if the original application was filed prior to June 1.

FSA COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS COMPLETE

Nominations for the upcoming FSA Committee elections have been completed. Only one nomination was received in each county. In Garfield County, Diane Koller was nominated for the election in the northeast area of the county. In Asotin County, Casey Hagenah was nominated for the election in the Cloverland area. Election ballots will be mailed 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.

NAP DEADLINE

The deadline to apply for the 2007 Non-Insured Assistance (NAP) program for perennial grass seed crops, perennial hay crops, mixed hay crops (even if spring planted) and grazing on seeded pastures and rangeland is September 30, 2006. The cost is \$100 per crop not to exceed \$300 per county. Producers must sign the application and pay the application fee by the deadline to be eligible. Producers with coverage from 2006 only need to submit payment by the deadline to remain eligible. Several producers are required to maintain NAP coverage as a condition for receiving disaster assistance payments from 2003 or 2004. Failure to purchase NAP coverage in these cases will result in a violation of the Crop Disaster Program, thus requiring refund of the entire Disaster payment. Don't miss this important deadline if it applies to you.

WHEAT CROP INSURANCE DEADLINE

September 30, 2006 is the final date to purchase Federal Crop Insurance for winter and spring wheat for 2007. This is also the deadline to change coverage or to cancel coverage for producers who had coverage in 2006. Contact your crop insurance agent for details.

CRP INSPECTION FOLLOWUP

Many producers who have Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts subject to the re-enrollment or extension (REX) process have actions that were required to be completed to remain in compliance. In many cases, this included mowing or spraying for weed control. Producers need to inform our office when they have completed the required actions. For producers with required mowing, an extension for additional time may be granted due to the extreme fire danger that has been caused by the continued hot, dry weather conditions. Please contact our office if additional time is needed for mowing. Follow-up field inspections will be made on a percentage of contracts to insure producer compliance with required actions.

CRP EXTENSIONS AND RE-ENROLLMENTS – FORMS NECESSARY

After the inspection of CRP acreage has been completed by FSA, and it has been determined if any actions are necessary to remain in compliance, producer signatures are required on the applicable REX forms. For 2-5 year extensions, form CRP-1F needs signatures of owners and operators. For 10 year re-enrollments, forms CRP-1, CRP-2, CRP-1K and a conservation plan (developed by NRCS) need signatures of owners and operators. The deadline for these forms to be approved is September 29, 2006 for 2007 expiring contracts and December 29, 2006 for 2008 – 2010 expiring contracts. Please submit required forms at least a week prior to the applicable deadline.

EQIP SIGNUP AND CHANGES

Several changes have been made to the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) for 2007. NRCS has established an earlier signup deadline than in past years. The signup will close on Friday, November 17, 2006. Several new practices have been added to the approved practice list, including split applications of fertilizer for nutrient management and conversion to Auto Steer GPS technology or Light Bar GPS technology. Funding pools have been established for livestock, rangeland (grazing), forestry and mulch till for areas under 12" rainfall. Please contact your local NRCS office for details and additional information.

OCTOBER IS PAYMENT MONTH

October is a busy month in the County Office with payments being issued for several programs. CRP annual rental payments will be issued in October as well as the final DCP direct payment. There is also the possibility of advance counter-cyclical for the 2006 DCP program. We strive to issue payments as soon as it is authorized by the national office. Because this is such a busy time, we appreciate the courtesy of calling ahead to schedule an appointment for signups, submitting cost share documents or requesting other information from our office.

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.