

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

September 7, 2007

## GARFIELD/ASOTIN COUNTY FSA NEWS

### 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  
Jon Wilson, Farm Loan Manager (Pasco Office)  
Kathi Ledgerwood  
Sherri Meacham  
Emily Ruchert  
Lorelei McNamee  
Paul Ruark

### Next FSA County Committee Meetings

Garfield County, Sept. 18  
Asotin County, Sept. 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](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

### Washington State FSA website:

[www.fsa.usda.gov/wa](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa)

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

October is payment month when we issue final DCP direct payments and CRP annual rental payments. We will issue the payments as soon as we possibly can, and hope to have them all completed by October 31.

### EMERGENCY GRAZING ON CRP – ASOTIN COUNTY

Due to continuing drought conditions, Asotin County has been approved for Emergency Grazing on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage. Producers may graze their livestock on CRP fields for up to 90 days and must agree to a 10% reduction in the CRP annual rental payment. Livestock may graze only 75% of the acreage on a contract, or limit the grazing to 75% of the stocking rate as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Livestock must also be excluded in areas where trees and/or shrubs have been planted. Producers must obtain an approved grazing conservation plan prior to grazing. Asotin County livestock producers may request emergency grazing in Asotin County or in any county that is within a 210 mile radius of Asotin County.

### EMERGENCY USE OF CRP – ASOTIN COUNTY

Emergency Use of CRP has been authorized for Asotin County producers. Emergency Use allows grazing on CRP acreage, but is limited to producers who lost rangeland due to fire. Livestock producers who lost rangeland due to fire may request emergency use of CRP and graze their livestock on the CRP acreage at no cost to the livestock producer or the CRP contract holder. Like Emergency Grazing, Emergency Use requests require an approved grazing conservation plan prior to grazing. Emergency Use approval is limited to Asotin County and adjacent counties.

### EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM – ASOTIN COUNTY

The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) has been approved for Asotin County due to continuing drought conditions. The program is designed to provide assistance to ranchers who are having difficulty providing adequate water for their livestock. Cost share assistance is available for hauling water to livestock, drilling or deepening wells, developing springs and for other necessary equipment such as water troughs, storage tanks and pipelines. To be eligible, there must have been adequate water available in the pasture prior to the drought. Cost sharing for permanent practices is 50% while cost sharing for temporary measures is 75%. **Signup** for ECP has been set for **September 4, 2007 – September 24, 2007**. Even though the program has been approved, **funding is not available at this time**. However, to be eligible for cost-sharing, producers must apply during the signup period. Payments will be paid only if and when funding becomes available. Any producer who applies for a practice that requires disturbance of the ground (wells, springs and any other earthmoving) will require that an environmental assessment be completed prior to any work on the project.

### 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, Max Scoggin was nominated for the election in the southern area of the county. In Asotin County, Susie Appleford was nominated for the election in the Anatone 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 3, 2007 to be counted. Please exercise your right to vote.

### NAP DEADLINE

The deadline to apply for the 2008 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, 2007. 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 2007 only need to submit payment by the deadline to remain eligible.

"Return Service Requested"

### **WHEAT CROP INSURANCE DEADLINE**

September 30, 2007 is the final date to purchase Federal Crop Insurance for winter and spring wheat for 2008. This is also the deadline to change coverage or to cancel coverage for producers who had coverage in 2007. Contact your crop insurance agent for details.

### **LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM**

As part of recent legislation passed by Congress and signed into law by President Bush, the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) will be implemented to provide assistance to livestock producers for feed losses resulting from natural disasters between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007. Signup will begin September 10, 2007. An ending date has not yet been established. LCP is limited to counties that received a "Disaster Declaration" for the program year. Both Garfield and Asotin Counties are eligible for 2005 and 2006. Neither county has been approved for 2007. Program details and payment rates have not been announced at this time.

### **CROP DISASTER PROGRAM**

Also as part of legislation, the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) will provide funds for production and quality losses for crops produced in 2005, 2006 and 2007 (limited to crops planted prior to February 28, 2007). Signup for CDP will begin October 15, 2007. An ending date has not been established. Production losses must exceed 35% of normal to be eligible and producers must choose only one of the three years for payment. Only producers with crop insurance coverage for insurable crops, or Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for non-insurable crops will be eligible for assistance.

### **MEASUREMENT SERVICE RATES INCREASED**

Measurement service rates for FSA to perform field work, including grain bin measurement, land measurement and similar services have increased. The basic fee is now \$30 per farm, plus \$16 per hour and \$8 for every 30 minutes after the first hour, with a minimum of 1 hour being charged.

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

Producers eligible for specified FSA program payments can choose to have them assigned directly to a 3<sup>rd</sup> party, normally a bank. This is done with a CCC-36 Assignment of Payment form. Both the producer and the 3<sup>rd</sup> party must agree to this arrangement, and it is important that both parties communicate concerning changes in the operation that may affect the payment amount each receives, as privacy laws prevent FSA from reporting any changes directly to the 3<sup>rd</sup> party without authorization from the producer.

### **NEW FARM BILL?**

Congress, farm groups, commodity groups and other interested parties continue to debate the next farm bill. The current farm bill expires with the 2007 crop year. At this time, our office does not have any information regarding provisions for the next farm bill that is scheduled to be effective for the 2008 crop year.

### **THANK YOU**

We have finally nearly completed the review that was required by the Improper Payment Review. Thank you to all who were asked to complete new forms, sign documents correctly, submit additional information or legal documentation. Your cooperation is appreciated.

### **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.