

FEBRUARY-2008

## GRANT COUNTY FSA NEWS

### FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

John Morris Jr. was re-elected to serve a 3 year term on the Grant County FSA Committee. John currently serves as Chairman of the committee. Rex Lefler will serve as John's alternate when John is not able to attend meetings.

The County Committee along with this office wishes to thank all of the people who took time to vote for the candidate of their choice.

### JUDI KANOFF RETIRES

After serving Grant County producers for over 20 years, Judi Kanoff has elected to retire from the Farm Service Agency effective January 31, 2008. Judi's primary responsibility in the office was to administer the Conservation Reserve Program, which she enjoyed immensely.

Judi has also demonstrated to all of us in this office of how to balance the heavy workload involved with administering the various farm programs along with enjoying the time away from the hectic schedules we all have had here. We wish Judi the best of everything in her "new life", and all the happiness retirement has to offer.

### NEW EMPLOYEE HIRED

Roxanne Neilan was recently hired to fill the vacant position that will become open when Judi Kanoff's retirement becomes official. Roxanne is currently training with Judi to become the program technician responsible for the Conservation Reserve Program, and other programs to be determined at a later date.

Roxanne has previous work experience with this office. Roxanne was hired by Ben Davis as a temporary employee back in 2000. Roxanne dealt with the various disaster programs at that time, along with NAP, DCP, and other programs as assigned. Prior to accepting this position, Roxanne worked with the Grant County Conservation District working primarily with the Irrigation Water Management Program.

This office is excited for Roxanne to be part of the "FSA family", and we all look forward to working with her. Please stop by the office and say hello to our new employee!

### FARM BILL UPDATE

This office is receiving quite a few phone calls from producers wanting to know what the status of the farm bill is. To be quite honest with all of you, this office has received very little information on the status of the new farm bill.

Included are comments from our State Executive Director Jack Silzel, on the current status of the farm bill, as follows:

"Both the House and Senate have passed their versions of the new farm bill, and now a Conference Committee appointed by the leadership of both houses will be appointed to resolve the differences in the two bills. This process often takes some time before all the differences are resolved.

Once the Conference committee agrees and a Conference Report is written, the Farm Bill is then sent to both Houses for an up or down vote, as no amendments are allowed to be considered on a Conference Report. If both Houses approve the Conference Report, then it is sent to the President for his signature. If one of the Houses disapproves the Report, it is then sent back to the Conference Committee to further resolve the issues. If the President decides to veto the bill by not signing the document, the whole process has to start all over again".

Mr. Silzel further explained that he was confident that there will be a new farm bill, or at least an extension of the current farm bill, by early spring. This office will promptly notify all producers when new information is known about a farm program sign-up.

#### **Grant County FSA**

2145 Basin St. SW STE A  
Ephrata, WA 98823  
Phone: (509) 754-2463 ext. 2  
Fax: (509) 754-4705

#### **Office Hours**

Monday – Friday  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

#### **County Committee**

Richard Reffett, Chairman  
Mike Edwards, V-Chairman  
John Morris Jr., Member  
Angela Pixton, Advisor

#### **Farm Program Staff**

Greg Anderson, CED  
Marilyn Littleton, PT  
Katie Markham, PT  
Roxanne Neilan, PT

#### **Farm Loan Staff**

Everett Purrington, FLM  
Nancy Seger, FLO  
Libby Anderson, FLO  
Barb Williams, FLT

#### **Next COC Meeting**

February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008-8:30 AM

#### **FSA Web sites:**

State:  
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>

National:  
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

PLEASE KEEP OUR OFFICE  
UP-TO-DATE ON ANY  
CHANGES MADE TO YOUR  
FARM OPERATION. THIS  
INCLUDES LAND CHANGES,  
OPERATOR/OWNER  
CHANGES, ENTITY  
CHANGES, AND ANY  
UPDATES TO BANK  
ACCOUNT INFORMATION.  
THANK YOU!!



## **DISASTER SIGNUP CONTINUES**

This office continues to accept appointments for signups under two separate disaster programs, as follows:

The **Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)** will compensate eligible livestock producers who suffered feed losses on non-irrigated native pastures due to drought conditions occurring in calendar year 2005.

The list of eligible livestock under the LCP is somewhat extensive, with beef being the primary livestock affected in Grant County. Eligible beef categories include adult cows/bulls and non-adult cows/bulls. Livestock weighing less than 500 lbs. as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005 are not eligible under this program. Livestock must have been physically located in Grant County on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005 and be maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation.

Benefits will be based on the lesser of the calculated value of the feed loss on the native pastures, or the calculated value of the livestock based on a 30-day feed need basis. When signing up for this program, livestock producers will be asked as to the total number of livestock present on the native pastures, total number of acres of dry land native pastures, and the normal grazing period for the livestock on these pastures. The ending signup date for this program has yet to be determined. Please contact this office for more information on LCP.

The **Crop Disaster Program (CDP)** can provide benefits to eligible producers who suffered quantity or quality losses to crops due to adverse weather conditions in crop year 2005, 2006, or 2007. Producers must select one year if multiple years of losses are determined. **The current signup is for production losses only. Quality losses, such as rained on alfalfa, will be addressed during a later signup date that has yet to be determined.**

Producers must have sustained production losses in excess of 35% of the approved yield to be eligible for benefits. **A major change in eligibility criteria for CDP participation is the producer must have had federal crop insurance on any insurable crop or a NAP policy in place for any non-insurable crop in the year the crop loss was sustained.**

As stated above, this office will be conducting signups for these disaster programs **by appointment only**, so please, contact the County Office prior to your visit to establish an appointment. For more disaster program information, please contact the County Office.

## **FARM LOANS AVAILABLE**

FSA Loans can be used to pay for annual operating expenses, purchase equipment, and or farm ground. Loan limits are \$200,000 for operating expenses and/or farm equipment purchases and a separate limit of \$200,000 for real estate purchases.

FSA also offers a Youth Loan program to help kids in 4-H or FFA finance their project. This is great opportunity for them to pay for that fair animal/project while learning about banking and financing. The maximum loan amount for a Youth Loan is \$5,000.

To learn more about the FSA loan programs and provide assistance with submitting an application, please contact the Ephrata FSA Service Center FLP staff at 509-754-2463, ext. 2: Everett Purrington, Farm Loan Manager, Libby Anderson or Nancy Seger, Farm Loan Officers.