

FEBRUARY-2007

## GRANT COUNTY FSA NEWS

### 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

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

### Farm Program Staff

Greg Anderson, CED  
Judi Kanoff, PT  
Marilyn Littleton, PT  
Katie Markham, PT

### Farm Loan Staff

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

### Next COC Meeting

February 27, 2007-8:30 AM

### Important Dates:

Office closed February 19,  
2007 in observance of  
President's Day.

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

### 2007 DCP SIGNUP CONTINUES:

**By appointment only**, producers can sign up for the 2007 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program, known as DCP. DCP contracts must be completed every year. Contracts will be considered timely filed through June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007. Contracts completed after that date will be subject to a \$100 administrative fee. Contracts not enrolled by September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007 will be ineligible to receive payments for the 2007 program year. Advance direct payments can again be requested and will be equal to 22% of the total payment. The balance of the payment will be issued in October, 2007.

In an attempt to “clean up” and update existing entity and individual records, this office will be updating all payment limitation, highly erodible land/wetland, and gross income forms for the 2007 program year. This process is expected to be time consuming, and as a result, the “by appointment only” rule has been put into effect.

**We ask our dry-land operators to contact this office now to schedule an appointment to signup in the 2007 DCP. Please be prepared to spend a little time going through this process.**

### CRP SEEDING INFO:

This office again reminds producers with CRP acreage seeded down this past fall to submit final cost data to this office as soon as seeding has been finished. Seed receipts, seed tags, seedbed preparation costs, as well as guzzler installation expenses need to be submitted to this office so that cost share payments can be calculated and disbursed to producers in a timely fashion.

**UPDATE:** This office recently was informed that cost share rates for purchased seed have been updated, with the cost share rate being increased to a maximum of \$30 an acre. Those producers who seeded CRP this past fall, and who submitted cost data prior to this update will be eligible for an additional disbursement at the higher rate.

Any questions concerning the seeding of CRP can be directed to either this office or the guys next door in NRCS.

### FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS:

Ballots were counted at the FSA County Committee meeting held December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at the Service Center. We are pleased to announce that Mike Edwards, dry land wheat farmer from Hartline, was re-elected to a 3-year term on the County Committee.

Bill James from Wilson Creek will serve as alternate in Mike's absence. We wish to thank both candidates for their willingness to serve on the County Committee. This office also wishes to extend its appreciation to all producers who took the time to cast their ballot in this election.

Finally, the County Committee has also recommended the re-appointment of Angela Pixton to serve as County Committee Advisor. Angela and her husband Russ are irrigated producers from the Warden area. Angela has served as Committee Advisor for the past 4 years, and is an excellent source of information for the County Committee. Angela also serves on the Washington Potato Commission.

### WIND STORM UPDATE:

This office has prepared and submitted two separate flash reports documenting both wind storms occurring on December 14-15 and January 7-8. Both storms caused extensive damage to center pivots, barns, out buildings and caused widespread power outages. These flash reports will hopefully lead to a disaster designation for Grant County, which will qualify eligible producers for low interest loans.

Producers who have experienced property damage from the wind storms are strongly encouraged to contact the Grant County Emergency Services office in Moses Lake at (509) 762-1462. This office will explain reporting procedures and any possible benefits.

### **FSA 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. The current interest rates are 5.00% for operating/equipment loans and 5.125% for real estate loans.

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 and the current interest rate is 5.00%.

To learn more about FSA loan programs, answer your questions and to provide assistance with submitting an application, please contact the Farm Loan staff at (509) 754-2463, ext. 2. You can ask for Everett Purrington, Loan Manager, Nancy Seger, Loan Officer, or Libby Anderson, Loan Officer.

### **NEW FSA STATE DIRECTOR APPOINTED:**

Jack Silzel was recently appointed as the new State Executive Director for FSA in Washington State. Mr. Silzel previously served in former Congressman George Nethercutt's and current Congresswoman Cathy McMorris's staff in Washington DC for more than 10 years. Mr. Silzel and his family farmed in the Oakdale, Washington area.

### **FOREIGN INVESTOR REQUIREMENTS:**

Foreign investors of U.S. agricultural land are required by law to report these land holdings, any new acquisitions, leases of 10 years or more, and land use changes within 90 days of the occurrence of these transactions. Failure to report these changes to their local FSA Offices can result in severe penalties.

### **PAYMENTS REPORTED TO IRS:**

Producers receiving benefits from this office can expect to receive a CCC-1099G, Report of Payment to IRS. This form will list the total amount of payments you received in 2006 from FSA. Please review this form for accuracy. If you do not agree with the amounts listed, please contact this office immediately.

### **SPOUSAL SIGNATURE AUTHORITY:**

A husband and wife may sign on behalf of each other on most program documents unless written denial has been provided to the County Office.

### **HANDICAPPED ACCOMODATIONS:**

Special accommodations will be made for the physically handicapped, vision or hearing impaired person upon request. Please contact Greg Anderson at (509) 754-2463, ext. 2 if special accommodations are needed.