

AUGUST-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

August 28th, 2007-8:30 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!!

### 2007 DCP SIGNUP CONTINUES:

**Producers have until August 3<sup>rd</sup> to timely file under the DCP program.** DCP contracts must be completed every year. **Contracts will be considered timely filed through August 3<sup>rd</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.

### SIGNATURES NEEDED BY AUGUST 3<sup>RD</sup>:

This office has a number of contracts where we are still waiting for some type of signature to be obtained and returned. Producers are reminded that **all owner signatures on the DCP contract must be obtained and returned to this office by August 3<sup>rd</sup>.** **Copies of the cash lease or cash lease certification must also be submitted to this office by this same deadline.** Contracts will be considered late filed and subject to a \$100 administrative fee if all signatures or cash lease agreements are not received by the deadline. Call this office if you are unsure of your signature status.

### COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS STILL ACCEPTED:

Nominations to the Grant County FSA Committee are still being accepted, with a deadline of August 1, 2007 fast approaching. The area up for election covers the Ephrata, Quincy, Royal Slope and Mattawa areas. John Morris is currently representing this area. Producers are encouraged to get involved by nominating themselves or candidates of their choice to represent them on the FSA Committee.

### CRP WEED CONTROL:

NRCS status reviews are being completed now on newly seeded CRP, with reports being received of some weed problems in CRP stands. While most of the weed problems exist on newly seeded CRP, producers with established CRP are also encouraged to monitor these grass stands and conduct weed control as necessary.

Letters will be sent out in the near future from this office advising producers who need to conduct some type of weed control measure on CRP acreage. This office understands that harvest will begin very shortly in the dryland regions of the county, and your priority will be with that. No problem. Please conduct the weed control measure as soon as possible, and if it's after the harvest season is over, so be it. Follow up visits will be conducted by this office later in the fall to verify that weed control activities have been completed.

Failure to conduct weed control measures in a timely fashion can lead to the County Committee assessing payment reductions. This can be an expensive learning experience for the producer. Please ensure that timely and effective weed control is being taken on your CRP.

### 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 a 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.

### **ADVANCE PAYMENTS TAKING LONGER TO ISSUE:**

Producers who have requested direct advance payments under the 2007 DCP are being asked again by this office to have a little patience as we continue to prepare new eligibility forms, update the new web-based eligibility system, and complete newly required eligibility and payment checklists. All of these functions take us more time to complete, which means that your advance payments will take that much longer for us to issue. We appreciate your continued patience.

### **FRUIT AND VEGETABLES ON DCP FARMS:**

The DCP program is intended to allow producers flexibility in the crops they may wish to plant with the exception of planting fruits and vegetables on contract acres. This acreage is computed by taking the farms effective total cropland minus the total of all crop bases. Fruit and/or vegetable plantings in excess of this acreage limitation will experience payment reductions. If the farm or producer on that farm does not have a fruit/vegetable growing history, a contract violation may be incurred.

This office processes 150 to 300 farms every year that have some type of fruit and vegetable related payment reduction. Approximately 100 farms every year never enroll into DCP because the effective cropland is planted entirely too some type of fruit and or vegetable.

The good news to all of this is that both the House and Senate version of the new Farm Bill have wording included that will eliminate this annoying regulation.

### **EQIP WORKSHOPS:**

The Washington State Horticultural Association and Washington Tree Fruit Research Commission are sponsoring workshops in coordination with NRCS for orchardists on how to apply for cost share assistance under the Environmental Quality Incentive Program, or EQIP, to implement integrated pest management and other resource conserving practices on their farms.

Yakima: Monday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 3:00-5:30 pm former Pizza Hut on 1<sup>st</sup> & Lincoln

Prosser: Tuesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 3:00-5:30 pm WSU/Prosser IAREC Center 24106 N. Bunn Rd

Wenatchee: Thursday, July 19<sup>th</sup> 3:00-5:30 pm WSU Tree fruit Research Center 1110 N. Western

For more information please contact Nana Simone at (509) 667-9557.