

NOVEMBER-2006

# 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

Mike Edwards, Chairman  
John Morris, V-Chairman  
Richard Reffett, 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

November 14, 2006-8:30 AM

## Important Dates:

**November 3<sup>rd</sup>- Ballots mailed out to eligible voters.**

**November 17<sup>th</sup>- EQIP signup closes.**

**November 20<sup>th</sup>- Crop insurance deadline for orchards.**

**November 23<sup>rd</sup>- Office closed for Thanksgiving.**

**December 4<sup>th</sup>- Last day to submit election ballots.**

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:

**By appointment only**, producers may now begin signing 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 be requested starting this December, 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. In addition, new GIS maps will be updated based on producer input as to the location of proper field boundaries. This process is expected to be time consuming, and as a result, the “by appointment only” rule has been put into effect.

This fall and winter, we will be focusing our efforts primarily on our dry-land farms. This is being done since relatively few changes are made to these operations, winter wheat acreage has been seeded, and most of our CRP in the county is located here. 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:

Producers with CRP acreage to seed this fall are reminded 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.

Another point to make about CRP is **the importance of having a weed free seed bed prior to seeding CRP grass mixes**. This office cannot stress enough the importance of having a properly prepared seedbed that will provide newly seeded grass mixes the best chance of survival. Please do your part to ensure compliance with this very important element of seeding CRP grass. Any questions concerning the seeding of CRP can be directed to either this office or the guys next door in NRCS.

## FSA COMMITTEE ELECTIONS:

Beginning November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006, election ballots will be sent to all eligible voters in local administrative area #1, which encompasses most of the dryland regions of northern Grant County. The election period will be from November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006 through December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Voters will choose from the following candidates:

**Mike Edwards:** Mike and his family raise wheat and cattle in the Hartline area, and

**William James:** Bill and his family have CRP, and raise wheat primarily in the Wilson Creek area.

Ballots must be returned to our office, or postmarked if mailed, not later than December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006. **Please remember to sign the ballot where indicated.** Ballots will be counted on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006 here at the Service Center. The counting of ballots is open to the public.

## MILC MONEY:

This office just recently received updated software to resume issuing benefits to dairy operations under the MILCX program. We apologize for the delay, and will begin issuing MILCX payments in the very near future. Your patience is greatly appreciated. Please contact this office for more information related to the MILCX program.

### **FSA LOW INTEREST LOANS AVAILABLE:**

As the fall harvest winds down, now is the time to get your records in order and prepare for next year's financing needs. If you are unable to obtain the necessary credit from your local lender, FSA may be able to assist you. FSA offers low interest loans to beginning farmers as well as those unable to finance commercially. Loans can be used to pay for annual operating expenses, purchase equipment, and or farm ground. Loan limitations are \$200,000 for operating expenses and/or farm equipment purchases. Real estate purchases also have a loan limitation of \$200,000. Current interest rates are 5.375% for operating/equipment loans and 5.625% for real estate loans.

FSA also has emergency disaster loans available for those producer's sustaining at least a 30% loss in crop production in 2006 due to adverse weather conditions occurring April 1, 2006 and continuing. Loan funds may be used for annual operating purposes or to replace property damaged by the adverse weather event. Loan limits are \$500,000 and the current interest rate is 3.75%.

Do you have a son or daughter involved in 4-H or FFA? If so, FSA offers a Youth Loan program to help them finance their 4-H/FFA 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 with the current interest rate being 5.375%.

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.

### **EQIP DEADLINE APPROACHES:**

NRCS is accepting applications under the 2007 Environmental Quality Incentive Program, or EQIP, **through COB Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006**. This new deadline will allow NRCS more time to develop sound conservation plans which will result in better conservation practices and contracts.

EQIP provides cost share assistance to those eligible producers installing certain practices that will provide the most conservation benefits. Please contact the NRCS office at (509) 754-2463, ext. 3 for more EQIP information and to make application.

### **ANNUAL NOTICE OF PAYMENT LIMITATIONS:**

Producers participating in federal farm programs are subject to limitations on the total payments that can be earned under those programs.

The maximum amounts a "person" can receive under the various farm programs are listed as follows:

|                                |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| DCP direct payments:           | \$40,000 |
| DCP counter cyclical payments: | \$65,000 |
| CRP annual rental payments:    | \$50,000 |
| Loan deficiency payments:      | \$75,000 |

A new eligibility provision is now in effect that deals with a producers adjusted gross income, or AGI. This provision now requires individuals or entities to certify whether their average adjusted gross income exceeds \$2.5 million, and if so, was at least 75% of this income derived from farming, ranching, or forestry operations. Producers not able to certify to this requirement will be determined ineligible for benefits subject to the AGI provision.