

OCTOBER-2006

GRANT COUNTY FSA NEWS

Grant County FSA

2145 Basin St. SW STE A
Ephrata, Wa. 98823
Phone: (509) 754-2463 ext. 2
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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
Edna Thomas, PT

Farm Loan Staff

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

Next COC Meeting

October 24th, 2006-8:30 AM

Important Dates:

November 3rd-Ballots to be mailed for the FSA County Committee elections.

November 17th- Deadline for submitting applications under the 2007 EQIP.

December 4th-Last day to submit ballots for FSA County Committee elections.

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!!

DISASTER DECLARATIONS:

Grant County has been designated as a primary disaster county due to adverse weather conditions consisting of severe hailstorms, excessive rain, and high winds.

This designation now allows effected producers to qualify for low interest emergency loans. For crop losses, producers must have sustained at least a 30% reduction of normal production levels due to one of the adverse weather conditions.

Producers must not be able to obtain financing from normal commercial lenders at reasonable rates. Applications must be made for emergency loans within eight months from the date of the disaster declaration. The deadline to apply is May 6, 2007. Please contact the Farm Loan Program staff at (509) 754-2463 for more emergency loan information.

CROP DISASTER PROGRAMS??

We continue to receive phone calls and office visits from producers wanting to know if we will be conducting a crop disaster signup in the near future. We occasionally hear of congressional reports that have included crop disaster appropriations, with most of those appropriations being for crop losses caused by Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana and Mississippi.

This office has received numerous reports of crop damage resulting from severe weather such as apple and pear damage from hail storms on the Royal Slope, rain damaged cherries in Mattawa, winterkilled vegetable seed crops in the central basin, to rain damaged 1st cutting hay pretty much throughout the whole county. This information has been assembled and sent to our State Office in Spokane.

We appreciate all of the crop damage reports submitted so far. This office will promptly notify all producers if and when a crop disaster program is announced and becomes available. Please monitor this newsletter closely as it will most likely be the main source of information if and when a disaster program is put into motion.

OCTOBER IS BUSY WITH PROGRAM PAYMENTS:

This office will be extremely busy in the first two weeks of October preparing for and issuing program payments under the two major programs we administer.

Final direct payments under the 2006 DCP will be issued as soon as national authorization to do so is received. This usually happens the first day or so in October. 2006 CRP annual rental payments will also be prepared and issued by the county office beginning as soon as national authorization is received, again, usually around the first day or so of October.

The ending of the 2006 fiscal year will also occur on September 30th, 2006. This creates a large workload in the county office associated with year end close-out reports and program workload activities.

As a result, we ask that you contact the county office before you visit us. We might be able to answer your questions over the phone, and if not, we will schedule you an appointment to visit us. Thank you for your patience.

SED TO WASHINGTON DC:

Jim Fitzgerald, former State Director for FSA, has accepted a position as Chief of Staff with the Rural Development Agency in Washington DC. Mr. Fitzgerald will oversee day to day operations of the agency. Bob Nordstrom of Yakima has been appointed Acting State Director until a replacement is appointed. We wish Jim and his family the best of luck.

COST SHARE PROGRAM DEADLINE:

The Natural Resource & Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced a **deadline of Friday, November 17th, 2006** for interested producers to file applications under the 2007 Environmental Quality Incentive Program, or EQIP.

EQIP can provide cost share incentives to producers wishing to install eligible conservation practices such as rill to center pivot conversions, pest management, nutrient management, and irrigation water management practices. Producers submitting applications will be contacted by NRCS to conduct an in-depth review of available practices, and to evaluate the producer's desired practices.

For more program details or to obtain an EQIP application, producers are encouraged to contact the local NRCS office at (509) 754-2463 ext. 3.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST UNDERCUTTER PROJECT INFO:

Harry Schafer, Project Manager, and Gretchen Borck, Project Administrator has announced the Washington Association of Wheat Growers being the recipient of a NRCS Conservation Innovative Grant for a three year project known as the PNW Undercutter Project.

This three year project is designed to demonstrate and advance the Undercutter method for winter wheat – summer fallow farming in the Inland Northwest. The grant will address natural resource concerns of soil erosion, overall soil quality, soil productivity, and atmospheric resources such as the emission of soil particulates.

The project is a regional effort across Washington State and Oregon. Its goal is to provide cost share incentives to 50 growers to demonstrate and encourage the adoption of the undercutter method of summer fallow farming. The grant targets growers in dry land areas with 12 inches or less of annual precipitation in the following Washington counties: Adams, Benton, Douglas, Franklin, Grant, Klickitat, Lincoln, Walla Walla, and Yakima. 5 counties in Oregon are also targeted for this project: Gilliam, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, and Wasco counties.

Project duration will be from the summer of 2006 through the summer of 2009, and includes cost share incentives to the producers that will be administered by the Washington Association of Wheat Growers. Applications and project criteria are now available at the WAWG website www.wawg.org or by calling 1-800-598-6890, ext. 11.

HANDICAPPED ACCOMODATIONS:

Special accommodations will be made for the physically handicapped, vision or hearing impaired person upon request. If accommodations are required, please contact the county office at (509) 754-2463.