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

SEPTEMBER 2006

NON-INSURED DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

THIS WILL BE THE LAST NOTIFICATION BEFORE THE SIGNUP DEADLINE FOR ALFALFA – MIXED FORAGE - GRAZING

If you have a 2005 NAP policy and have suffered a loss due to weather related conditions you must report that loss to the County Office no later than 15 days from the date the loss becomes apparent. All producers with 2005 coverage on non-irrigated forage crops should report to the office immediately if you have not done so already. The deadline to purchase **NAP coverage for 2007** Alfalfa, Mixed Forage and Grass is **September 30, 2006**. The deadline for small grain hay is **March 15, 2007**. If you received benefits for 2003/2004 CDP and did not have NAP coverage on that crop, you are required to purchase coverage for that crop the following two years. Failure to do so will result in a refund of the CDP payment with interest. That is a heavy price to pay for ignoring a deadline. NAP is the only disaster program available on a yearly basis, and \$100 per crop a small fee to participate.

PAYMENT LIMITATIONS

Most programs administered by FSA have maximum payment limitation per "person" per program year. The most common annual payment limitations include:

- \$40,000 for Direct Payments & \$65,000 for Counter-Cyclical Payments (DCP)
- \$75,000 for Gains on Market Loans or Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP)
- \$100,000 for the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)
- \$50,000 for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Program benefits, subject to a payment limitation cannot be provided to any producer until the County Committee (COC) makes the necessary payment eligibility determinations. In order for producers to become eligible for benefits, they must file a Farm Operating Plan on form CCC-502. The plan specifies information needed by the COC to determine if the applicant is a "person" and is "actively engaged in farming" such as, who provides the land, capital, equipment, labor and management for the farming operation. For farms owned or operated by corporations, partnerships, joint ventures, trusts or estates, the COC reviews the Farm Operating Plan to determine how many "persons" will be allowed. Corporations or trusts, and partnerships must also provide the names, addresses and ID numbers of the members. Once determinations have been made, annual filings are not required as long as no changes occur.

ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME

Producers whose gross income exceeds \$2.5 million per year may not be eligible to receive program payments unless at least 75% of that income is from farming, ranching or forestry. This is based on the three previous years' tax returns. Producers must certify on form CCC-526 that they do not exceed the gross income limit before they are eligible for payments.

2006 DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM

Signup for the 2006 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) will begin **October 1, 2006** and will continue through **June 1, 2007**. Late filed applications will be accepted through September 30, 2006. However, a fee of \$100 is required for any late filed application. Remember, you must sign an FSA-509 Contract each year in order to receive payment. Producers can elect to take 50% of the annual direct payment starting in December, 2006 with the remainder being paid October 2007.

NEW DEADLINE FOR EQIP

NRCS will be taking applications for the 2007 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) from October 1 through close of business November 17. The deadline of November 17 is a new deadline for EQIP. In past years, signup began in the fall, with the deadline in early January. With this new deadline, NRCS will have more time to work with growers to develop sound conservation plans, which will make for better contracts. EQIP is a cost-share program that provides financial assistance for growers to implement conservation practices. If you have interest in signing up, please contact your local NRCS office.

SIGNATURE AUTHORITY FOR SPOUSES

A husband or wife may sign documents on behalf of the other unless written notification denying the spouse this authority has been filed with the county office.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS TO FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing loss. If accommodations are required, please contact Kent Harris at (509) 773-5822.

DIRECT DEPOSIT CHANGES

If your account number has changed or you have changed banks please inform the County Office as soon as possible. We have had many transmission failures because of account changes that the county office was not informed of. **This delays your payment!**

FARM CHANGES

Please report any changes in your farming operation to the County Office as soon as possible. These changes would include; addresses, phone numbers, shares in joint operations and corporations and any land transactions.

CRP REMINDERS

If you have Canada Thistle in your CRP, you must take care of it. The county office has received several complaints this year. Do not let it get to the point where your annual payments are reduced for non-compliance. Please, be a good neighbor.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

County Committee Meeting	September 27
Office Closed	October 9