



April 2007

WHITMAN COUNTY FSA NEWS

USDA Announces 2007 Pulse Crop Loan Rates

Pulse crop loan rates for 2007 have been announced by USDA. In establishing this year's pulse crop loan rates, the base quality levels for the 2007 crops, as required by the Agricultural Assistance Act of 2003, are set at feed grade for dry peas, #3 for lentils and small chickpeas (that drop below a 20/64 screen). Prior to the 2003 Act, Commodity Credit Corporation used #1 grade for base quality for pulse crop loan rates. The 2007 rates will be applicable for calculating LDP's as well as Marketing Assistance Loans on 2007 crop pulses. Once harvested, producers have the ability to request Marketing Assistance Loans or LDP's on these commodities. The following are the Western Region Rates for 2007:

Commodity	2006 Rate	2007 Rate	Change from 2004
Dry Peas	\$6.63	\$6.63	No Change
Lentils	\$12.76	\$13.31	+0.55
Small Chickpeas	\$7.43	\$7.43	No Change

Due to expanding lentil production and more accurate pricing information, USDA determined to establish regional loan rates beginning in 2006. This was continued for 2007. The West Region lentil loan rate is \$13.31 per cwt; the East Region loan rate is \$10.97 per cwt. These rates average to the national rate based on recent regional production shares. The regions are defined the same for lentils as for dry peas.

Reminders about CRP Enhancement Work

Whether you are doing some work on your CRP related REX or just doing some spring cleanup work you need to keep these things in mind. Formal permission for burning on CRP must be granted by FSA prior to the purchase of a burn permit. Burning must be completed by April 1st, no burning on CRP is permitted from April 1 – August 15.

The primary nest season (non-disturbance period) is April 1 – June 1. Spot spraying or mowing is permitted during this time frame but approval must be requested from FSA. This can be done by just calling the County Office. Whole field mowing cannot be done until after July 1st. The Committee requests that CRP participants make use of spot treatment provisions during the nesting season. In many instances the worst areas of a contract can be treated under spot treatment provisions and later follow up work can pickup the remaining areas of the contract after the non-disturbance period. Usually weedier areas of a contract are found in draw bottoms or swales along hillsides that meet the criteria of spot treatment.

If your stand is not yet considered "certified" by NRCS the non-disturbance period restrictions do not apply. An uncertified stand is typically a newly seeded contract in the first three years of establishment. Weed control measures on uncertified stands can be taken at the discretion of the participant. If you are unsure as to whether NRCS has "certified" your stand give us a ring and we can check for you. However, we ask that you exercise good judgment when mowing and spraying to not harm nesting birds. Please be a good steward. Evaluate your stand and take necessary actions to prevent weeds from being a problem on the stand or for surrounding cropland.

Extension of June 1 Deadline for 2007 DCP

Enrollment in the 2007 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) began on October 1, 2006 and ends on September 30, 2007. June 1, 2007 is the deadline for enrollment for the 2007 contract period. However, because FSA is experiencing web-based performance problems, the deadline for enrollment has been extended to August 3, 2007. **A late-file fee of \$100 will be assessed for farms that enroll after August 3, 2007.** Farms must be enrolled in DCP no later than September 30, 2007. Because this is the final year for the 2002 Act, there is no statutory authority for DCP enrollment beyond that date.

Reminder on FAV/WR Restrictions and Base Acres

If you are planning on planting garbanzo beans or other FAV crops on a farm enrolled in DCP please make the effort to check with our office on the implications related to those plantings. It pays to check and ensure you are ok prior to proceeding.

Whitman County FSA

805 Vista Point Drive
Suite 1
Colfax, WA 99111
(509) 397-4301
Fax (509) 397-6763

Email:
mike.mandere@wa.usda.gov

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

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Larry Schroetlin, Chair
Greg Hall, Vice-Chair
David Swannack, Member
Gracie Miller, Committee
Advisor

Office Staff

Mike Mandere, CED
Ann Holbrook, CPT
Fred Hendrickson, PT
Bonnie Riebold, PT
Kathy Carothers, PT
Doreen Riedner, PT
Nancy Doege, PT
Jonelle Olson, PT
Wes Taylor, PT
Candi Wilson, Student Intern

Farm Loan Manager

Steve King
(509) 924-7350

Important Dates

March 31 – Final Loan
Availability Date 2006 crop
wheat, barley, oats, canola,
rapeseed or flaxseed

April 1 – Beginning of CRP
Non-disturbance period

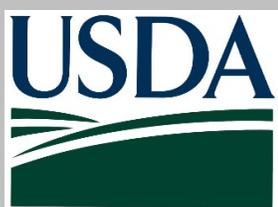
April 11 – County Committee

Get Your Payments Timely & Accurately

Changes in your Bank Account
or has your Bank merged or
changed names?

Don't Forget – Update your
Direct Deposit Form.

USDA Avg Price Received by
Farmer's for 2006 Wheat: **\$4.25**



2007 Acreage Reports Now Being Accepted

FSA is taking appointments for 2007 acreage certifications. You are required to complete an annual acreage report to maintain eligibility for DCP, loans and LDP's, NAP and CRP. When completed with spring planting, contact the County Office and we will set you up with a date and time to come in and report. If you do not have spring crops this year you may call and make an appointment anytime. Accurate reporting is critical; especially important is ensuring that the shares you report are the same as the crop that is delivered to warehouse or processor. **The deadline for reporting is June 30, 2007.**

FSA ANNOUNCES NATIONWIDE CONSERVATION INITIATIVE TO RESTORE SPECIES OF CONCERN AND THEIR HABITATS

FSA Administrator Teresa Lasseter has unveiled a new 500,000-acre Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) practice to improve habitat for high-priority wildlife species throughout the United States. "The State Areas for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) initiative is a Locally led, results-oriented effort to address high-value wildlife habitat restoration and Cooperative Conservation goals," said Lasseter. "The project furthers CRP's achievements in protecting our nation's natural resources, builds on a strong legacy of wildlife enhancement and is consistent with the Bush administration's goal of making CRP a more targeted and focused program."

SAFE will enable the public, producers, state and federal agencies, non-profit conservation organizations and others to propose areas where new CRP acreage may be established to address the habitat needs of endangered, threatened or high-priority fish and other wildlife species. Successful proposals must comply with CRP eligibility requirements and may come from any of the 50 states. SAFE seeks to enroll 500,000 acres in new CRP contracts. In addition, conservation practices currently offered under CRP can be fine-tuned under SAFE to improve, connect or create higher-quality habitat to promote healthier ecosystems in areas identified as essential to effective species management.

FSA state offices will accept proposals beginning August 2007. FSA will consider SAFE proposals through a review process that includes FSA and the USDA state technical committees.

Later this year, FSA state offices will begin to announce approved SAFE proposals and sign-up periods. Eligible producers in these areas may enter into new CRP contracts with USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). FSA administers CRP on behalf of CCC. CCC will offer participants an annual CRP rental rate equivalent to soil rental rates for the county plus an annual maintenance payment. Also, the producer is eligible for cost-share assistance of up to 50 percent of eligible practice installation costs. In addition, producers will be eligible for a one-time payment of \$100 per acre Signing Incentive Payment. Producers may also receive a Practice Incentive Payment equal to 40 percent of the eligible establishment costs of the practice.

Notable Quotes

"I know there have been questions about early withdrawal of acreage from our Conservation Reserve Program for increased corn plantings. We're investigating this issue. We have now for many weeks, and we will make the final decision sometime in the spring." – **Secretary Mike Johanns, Remarks to the National Grain and Feed Association Annual Meeting San Francisco, California - March 19, 2007**

Whitman County 2006 Crop Loan Rates
Loans disbursed in April 2007 will mature January 31, 2007.
March CCC Interest Rate 6.125%

SWW: \$2.90 per bu HRS & HWS: \$3.15 per bu HRW & HWW: \$3.18 per bu	BLY: \$2.07 per bu (\$86 per ton) Oats: \$1.28 per bu Canola: \$7.32 per cwt.	DPEAS: \$6.63 per cwt LENTILS: \$12.76 per cwt S. Chickpeas \$7.43/cwt.
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