



October 2007

WHITMAN COUNTY FSA NEWS

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
Sarah Kane, PT
Candi Wilson, Student Intern
Kara Lanthorn, Temporary
Work Detail

Farm Loan Manager

Steve King
(509) 924-7350

Important Dates

October 15 – Crop Disaster
Program Signup Begins

November 6 – County
Committee

November 12 – Veterans' Day
Office Closed

November 22 – Thanksgiving,
Office Closed

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.



Crop Disaster Program (CDP) Signup Underway

Signup for the CDP program began October 15, 2007. Authorized under the "U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007" (2007 Act), the 2007 Act provides approximately \$3 billion in agricultural disaster aid for America's farmers and ranchers.

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses from natural disasters and related conditions that occurred in 2005 and 2006 and for 2007 crops if the crop was planted before Feb. 28, 2007, or in the case of prevented plantings would have been planted before Feb. 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to receive benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple crops as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.

Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP. The payment rate is set at 42 percent of the established price. The payment quantity for quality losses will be equal to the lesser of: (1) the actual production of the crop affected by a quality loss; or (2) the quantity of expected production of the crop affected by a quality loss. The quality loss must be at least 25 percent of the value that all affected production of the crop would have had if the crop had not suffered a quality loss. Assistance, together with any crop insurance or NAP payment received for the same crop and including the value of the crop production not lost, must not exceed 95 percent of the total value of the crop absent the disaster.

Farmers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in CDP benefits. If you feel you suffered a qualifying loss under the CDP program please contact the office and we can set you up with an appointment. **There currently is no set deadline on the CDP signup, we will notify you through the newsletter when USDA sets signup deadline.**

Livestock Program Signup Continue

Signup began September 10, 2007 for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). LCP provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered weather related feed losses or incurred additional feed costs directly resulting from natural disasters occurring between January 1, 2005, and February 28, 2007. Whitman County is approved for LCP under disaster designations from 2005 and 2006. LIP provides assistance to livestock producers who suffered physical losses to livestock inventory directly resulting from natural disasters occurring between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007. Both LIP and LCP are similar to livestock programs the agency has offered in the past. No deadline for the program signups has yet been set. However, we will notify you through the newsletter when USDA has set a deadline. Please contact the office if you want to make an appointment to apply for LCP or LIP.

Disaster and Livestock Program Payments

Payments under the CDP, LCP and LIP will be issued once FSA has completed the process of publishing the program rules in the Federal Register. We are unsure of when this will be completed but anticipate that it may not be done until after the first of the year.

2007 Farm Bill Update

The current farm bill (Farm Security & Rural Investment Act of 2002) expired September 30, 2007. Most programs administered through FSA are authorized under the farm bill. The House of Representatives passed their version of the farm bill in July and the Senate is continuing to work on their version. However, to date there is no new farm bill or extension of the current bill, which means no 2008 Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) signup. The DCP program was authorized under the 2002 Act for crop years 2002-2007. Whether or not there is a DCP program for 2008 or similar program utilizing base acres will be determined by Congress in the farm bill debate. If there is a decision to extend the current act we will let you know. We will inform you of any signup dates and program provisions once the farm bill has been passed...stay tuned.

2007 County Committee Elections

Ballots for Committee Elections in Local Administrative Area 3 (Eastern Whitman County) will be mailed November 2, 2007. This area is currently represented by County Committee Chairperson Larry Schroetlin. **Ballots must be returned by December 3, 2007. Please remember to sign your ballot return envelope. Also please remember that you cannot sign a ballot using a Power-of-Attorney.** The following have been nominated and have agreed to serve if elected to the County Committee:

Raymond Folwell

Larry Schroetlin

Greg Stout

Joe Horlacher

Attention CRP Participants: Wind Blown Weed Advisory

Fall is the time of year the wind picks up and sometimes “picks up” Russian thistles and Jim Hill Mustard and carries them to neighboring fields, roads, and even people’s yards. The County Committee reminds CRP participants to be good stewards; check your stands for Russian thistles, Mustard and other weeds that are susceptible to being moved by the wind. Please mow or chop any infestations. Don’t let your CRP be a source of irritation and complaints from your neighbors. Contact the County Office and we can provide you a list of contractors if you don’t have access to a mower.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL) is a program where Commodity Credit Corporation provides low cost financing for producers to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities for eligible commodities. Eligible applicants may qualify for the 7-year loan program and may borrow up to \$100,000 per “person.” A down payment of 15% is required and a non-refundable application fee of \$45 must be paid at the time of application. Loans may be made for purchasing and installing eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. The need for more storage capacity for your farming operation must be documented. Please contact the County Office for further information. The October FSFL interest rate is 4.375%.

SIGNUP FOR EQIP SET FOR OCTOBER 1 THROUGH NOVEMBER 2, 2007

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a program from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) which provides financial and technical help with conservation practices on agricultural land. **The 2008 EQIP signup begins October 1 and the cutoff for applications is November 2, 2007.** The Palouse Local Work Group priorities for 2008 include crop residue management practices such as mulch tillage and direct seed to prevent soil erosion, structural practices for erosion control, grazing land protection and streamside vegetation enhancement, and forestland practices to thin or prune trees and plant adapted trees on understocked land. EQIP offers contracts which run a minimum of two years to a maximum of ten years, and provide funds to help install planned conservation practices based on identified natural resource concerns. Conservation practices are subject to NRCS technical standards and federal environmental protection provisions. Management is key to successful conservation so plans will include management practices. Landowners applying for EQIP assistance will need to prove they meet income and land production and control requirements, along with federal conservation rules on any cropland or wetlands present. The 2008 EQIP applications will be ranked according to the environmental benefits resulting from their conservation plan and local priorities, with the highest-ranked applications selected for funding. Contracts will be written in spring 2008 with implementation to follow awarding of contracts. Check facts and features of EQIP on the WA NRCS website www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov under “Programs” or contact your local NRCS office for more information.

Whitman County 2007 Crop Loan Rates
Loans disbursed in October 2007 will mature July 31, 2008.
October CCC Interest Rate 5.25%

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|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| SWW: \$2.79 per bu | BLY: \$2.11 per bu (\$88 per ton) | DPEAS: \$6.63 per cwt |
| HRS & HWS: \$3.07 per bu | Oats: \$1.30 per bu | LENTILS: \$13.31 per cwt |
| HRW & HWW: \$3.24 per bu | Canola: \$7.30 per cwt. | S. Chickpeas \$7.43/cwt. |

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.