



September 2007

## WHITMAN COUNTY FSA NEWS

### USDA Announces Livestock and Crop Disaster Programs Signup

Secretary Johanns has announced sign-up dates for the Livestock Compensation Program, Livestock Indemnity Program and Crop Disaster Program. The three ad hoc disaster programs provide financial relief to farmers and ranchers who suffered losses caused by natural disasters in recent years.

Program signup for the livestock programs begins **September 10, 2007**. The Crop Disaster Program signup begins **October 15, 2007** for agricultural producers who suffered yield losses. A later signup will be announced for crop losses related to crop quality. End dates for the program signups have yet to be announced.

The Livestock Compensation Program compensates livestock producers for feed losses occurring between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007 due to a natural disaster. Drought caused much of the feed loss in Washington State during that time but loss from other disasters may also be eligible. The Livestock Indemnity Program pays producers for the physical loss of livestock due to natural disasters that occurred during the same January 1, 2005 to February 28, 2007 timeframe. Producers who suffered losses in multiple years must choose one year for which to receive payments for both livestock programs.

Counties had to receive a Secretarial or Presidential Disaster Declaration, or be in a contiguous county, before producers could be eligible for the livestock programs. Whitman County had designations and/or was a contiguous county in 2005, 2006, and 2007.

The Crop Disaster Program provides payments to producers who suffered damage to their crops. Damage includes decreased yields or prevented plantings. It also includes lower prices received due to impaired crop quality. The program covers losses that occurred in 2005, 2006 or 2007 if the crop was planted, or prevented from being planted, before February 28, 2007. Producers may claim losses for multiple crops but must choose one crop year if losses occurred in multiple years.

**Producers must also have obtained crop insurance or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year for which the claim benefits.** Yield loss must exceed 35 percent to be eligible for the Crop Disaster Program. Producers suffering losses in any county may apply for the Crop Disaster Program. For additional information about the Livestock Compensation Program, the Livestock Indemnity Program or the Crop Disaster Program check the Farm Service Agency website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> give us a ring at (509)397-4301. We will take signups on an appointment basis and can schedule you an appointment for your livestock or disaster signup.

#### 2007 Farm Bill Update

The current farm bill (Farm Security & Rural Investment Act of 2002) is set to expire 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 will continue work on their version when returning from recess. 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.

#### NAP Sales Closing Date – Perennial Forage Crops

Producers of perennial forage crops such as alfalfa and grass hay can purchase NAP coverage through FSA. The sales closing date for 2008 crop is September 30, 2007. To be eligible for NAP benefits, production loss must be attributed to adverse weather conditions. Losses must be reported to FSA within 15 days after the adverse weather event or when the loss becomes evident. Producers pay an application fee of \$100

#### Whitman County FSA

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#### 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  
Candi Wilson, Student Intern

#### Farm Loan Manager

Steve King  
(509) 924-7350

#### Important Dates

September 10 – Livestock  
Compensation Program  
Signup Begins

September 13 – County  
Committee Meeting

October 8 – Columbus Day ,  
Office Closed

October 15 – Crop Disaster  
Program Signup Begins

#### 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.



per crop with a \$300 cap per county. The maximum for multiple crops in more than one county is \$900. In return, you receive a payment if all eligibility requirements have been met and the crop suffers greater than a 50% production loss for weather related damages.

### **October is Payment Month**

The month of October is a busy month at the County Office with payments being issued. CRP annual rental payments will be made during the month as well as 2007 Final DCP Direct Payments. Due to high commodity prices we do not anticipate making either Counter-Cyclical advances or LDP payments; however, we are still processing Marketing Assistance Loans and will be taking appointments for the Livestock and Disaster programs. **Because it is such a busy time we appreciate the courtesy of calling ahead to schedule an appointment to handle signups, submitting cost share documents, or making changes to farm records**

### **Farm Records Changes**

Changes in leases, ownerships, or reorganizations of farm entities should be updated in our office as soon as they are known. Changes for the 2007 crop year must be completed by September 30, 2007. The 2008 crop year will begin October 1, 2007. Please notify us of any changes to your records so this can be completed prior to signup.

### **Assigning Program Payments to Third-parties**

When producers request such a service, FSA will issue all or portion of a producer's program payment to a third-party, such as a lender. This can save time and effort for a producer and any third-party with which the producer has an agreement. However, it is important that the producer and third-party communicate concerning any changes in operation that may affect the payment amount each receives. Privacy laws prevent FSA from reporting any changes to the third-party, or assignee. FSA will make every attempt to pay the full amount designated by the producer on an assignment form. FSA will only pay the third-party to the extent the listed producer earns the payment. In situations where the assignee or the producer receives a portion of the other's payment, they are responsible for working together to resolve any differences. If you would like to sign up for Assignment of Payment or would like more information on assigning program payments, contact the FSA office.

### **Crop Insurance Deadlines**

Please remember that the deadline to purchase crop insurance is approaching quickly. The deadline for the purchase of crop insurance for wheat is September 30<sup>th</sup>. Please check with your insurance agent for other deadlines.

### **Use of FSA Loan Funds**

If the cost-share requirement on a conservation practice is preventing you from adopting the practice or a new tractor is needed on the farm, FSA may be able to help with the financing. FSA provides low interest, long-term loans to producers who have difficulty obtaining commercial credit. Direct Farm Ownership Loans may be used to purchase land, construct buildings or other improvements and apply soil and water conservation practices. FSA also has a Beginning Farmer Down Payment program to help purchase a farm or ranch. Producers may use Direct Operating Loans to purchase livestock, poultry, equipment, feed, seed, farm chemicals, and supplies; to apply soils and water conservation practices and to refinance indebtedness with certain limitations. When a county or contiguous county receives a disaster designation, FSA makes Direct Emergency Loans available. These loans may be used to restore or replace essential property, pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year, pay essential family living expenses, reorganize the farming operation or refinance indebtedness with certain limitations. FSA also makes available Guaranteed Loans through commercial lenders. Guaranteed Farm Ownership and Guaranteed Operating loans can be used for the same purposes as the corresponding Direct Loans but they may also be used to refinance debt. For more information about FSA loan programs, contact Steve King at 509-924-7350.

**Whitman County 2007 Crop Loan Rates**  
**Loans disbursed in September 2006 will mature June 30, 2007.**  
**August CCC Interest Rate 6.00%**

|                          |                                   |                          |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 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. |