



NEWSLETTER



January 2012

Garfield County Farm Service Agency

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Asotin County Farm Service Agency

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Office Hours

Mon. – Fri. 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Garfield County FSA Committee

Diane Koller
Max Scoggin
Chris Wolf

Asotin County FSA Committee

Earl Fitzgerald
Bruce Petty
Susie Appleford

Office Staff

Jeremy Nelson, CED
Sherri Meacham
Connie Forsmann
Emily Ruchert
Lorelei McNamee

Next COC Meeting

Garfield County – January 24
Asotin County – January 25

Committee Elections Results

Earl Fitzgerald was elected to a three year term on the Asotin County Committee. He represents the Peola Community. Also serving on the Asotin County Committee are Susie Appleford and Bruce Petty. In Garfield County, Chris Wolf was elected to a three year term on the Committee and Beau Blachly was elected as the first alternate. They represent the Northwest area of Garfield County. Also serving on the Garfield County Committee are Max Scoggin and Diane Koller. Thanks to all who took time to vote and many thanks to those who have chosen to serve on the committee.

DCP/ACRE Signup – 2012

Signup for the Direct & Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) for 2012 **begins January 23, 2012 and ends June 1, 2012.** To be eligible for program payments and benefits, producers must file a contract each year. Producers on farms that elected the ACRE program in previous years remain in ACRE through this year; however, they are still required to file a contract each year.

DCP direct payment rates remain unchanged from last year: \$.52/bu wheat, \$.24/bu barley. ACRE direct payments are reduced by 20% and the county loan rate is reduced by 30%. Advance direct payments are not

available in 2012. Payments are earned on 85% of the farm's established base acreage times the farm's established yield times the producer's share. Producers are free to plant any crop on their base acreage with the exception of fruits & vegetables and wild rice. Producers who have farms enrolled in ACRE are urged to bring their 2011 production with them to signup this year. It is a requirement to annually report all crop production on ACRE farms. Please call in advance for an appointment to signup for DCP or ACRE.

SURE Signup for 2010 Crop Losses

Applications are now being accepted for the 2010 Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) Program. SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that occurred in 2010. SURE is a revenue based program that covers both crop yield and price. To be eligible for SURE, a county must be declared a Secretarial Disaster Designated County (or a contiguous county) or individual producers may qualify if the actual production on the farm is less than 50% of normal. Garfield County is eligible because Columbia County received a Secretarial Disaster Designation for 2010; thus making Garfield county eligible because it is a contiguous county.

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SURE Continued

Asotin County did not receive a disaster designation for 2010, nor was it contiguous to a county that received the declaration, so losses must be 50% or greater on the farm in order to qualify. Producers must also have Federal Crop Insurance or NAP coverage for all economically significant crops. Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of "Socially Disadvantaged," "Limited Resource," or "Beginning Farmer or Rancher," do not have to meet this requirement. The program takes into consideration crop losses on all crops of economic significance grown by a producer nationwide. SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60% of the difference between the SURE farm guarantee and the total farm revenue. The farm guarantee is based on the amount of crop insurance and Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on the farm.

The signup period for 2010 SURE is November 14, 2011 – June 1, 2012. FSA will have all the information needed to run the initial application. You do not need to bring anything into the office when you submit an application. Please call with any questions or to schedule an appointment to apply.

Reporting Payments to IRS

Near the end of January, producers who received FSA payments will receive a CCC-1099G Report of Payment to IRS from our Kansas City Office. It shows the total amount of payments made by FSA to you in 2011. Check these notices carefully. Contact our office if you do not agree with the amount listed, or if you have questions.

Acres Reporting

FSA's acres reporting deadline has changed since last year. Acres reports need to be filed by July 15th rather than the traditional June 30th deadline. This change is being made in hopes that FSA and RMA reports will be taken in a more efficient and uniform manner.

Producers with NAP coverage on forage/grazing crops need to file an acres report with FSA at least 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acres being reported.

New AGI Forms Required for 2012 Participants

FSA and NRCS participants, including all members of entities, must meet Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) requirements to qualify for benefits. Beginning this crop year, the CCC-931 will be used to report whether or not a participant meets the AGI requirements from FSA's standpoint as well as authorize the IRS to confirm this information. This new form reflects an additional AGI limitation applicable to 2012 direct payments only. In addition to the \$500,000 average nonfarm AGI and the \$750,000 average farm AGI limitation, a \$1 million average AGI limitation will be applicable for the 2012 direct payments.

Another difference with the CCC-931 AGI form pertains to signature authority. In the past, power-of-attorney (POA) authorizations filed with FSA allowed participants to have the AGI certification filled out and signed on their behalf by the grantee. Since the form now authorized the IRS to confirm the information, it has to be signed by the individual and not a POA. All the information on the form needs to be completed in the same way you do your tax information. The CCC-931 must have your legal name,

current address, complete social security number, and only have one year selected to certify to. We will do our best to help landowners and operators complete these forms.

Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse. There are exceptions to the rule. Spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for interest in partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities. A spouse may not sign a Power of Attorney on behalf of their spouse. The individual must be the person granting POA.

CRP Update

Many producers have been asking the county Committee members, as well as the FSA staff, when the next CRP signup will be. Unfortunately, none of us know that information at this time. When we receive more information, we will let you all know as soon as possible.

Handicapped Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made for the physically handicapped, vision, or hearing impaired person upon request. If accommodation is required, please contact Jeremy Nelson at 509-843-1997.



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