



July 24, 2009

GARFIELD/ASOTIN COUNTY FSA NEWS

Garfield County FSA

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Asotin County FSA

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Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Garfield County FSA Committee

Diane Koller
Max Scoggin
Chris Wolf

Asotin County FSA Committee

Casey Hagenah
Susie Appleford
Earl Fitzgerald

Office Staff

Nick Waldher, CED
Kathi Ledgerwood
Sherri Meacham
Emily Ruchert
Lorelei McNamee

Farm Loan Staff

Pam Castoldi – Walla Walla
Phone 509-522-6347 Ext 111
Steve King – Spokane
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Next FSA County Committee Meetings

Garfield County – Sept 8
Asotin County – Sept 9

National FSA Website

www.fsa.usda.gov

Washington State FSA Website

www.fsa.usda.gov/wa

IMPORTANT NOTICE

LORELEI WILL BE OUT OF THE ASOTIN COUNTY OFFICE ON MOST TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS. PLEASE CALL IN ADVANCE IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE OR SCHEDULE YOUR OFFICE VISIT ON ANOTHER DAY.



COUNTY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS DUE AUGUST 3

Nominations for the County FSA Committee are now being accepted through August 3, 2009. Nomination is done by petition that must be delivered to the County FSA Office by August 3, 2009. FSA encourages the nomination of under-represented group candidates including minorities and women. Nomination forms were sent to all producers with our prior newsletter and are also available upon request from the County FSA Offices. In Garfield County, the Northeast Area will hold the election this year. Diane Koller is currently representing the Northeast Area of the county and is eligible for re-election. In Asotin County, the Cloverland Area is up for election. Casey Hagenah currently represents the Cloverland Area and is eligible for re-election. Producers are encouraged to get involved by nominating candidates of their choice to represent them on the FSA Committee.

ACRE – TIME TO DECIDE

The time has come for producers to make the tough decision of whether to remain with the Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) or switch to the Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE). August 14, 2009 is the final date to complete the program contract for either DCP or ACRE. August 14, 2009 is the final date to have signatures returned for all producers on the farm. Therefore, start the process early if you have out of town landowners or other producers on the farm for which you do not have a valid power of attorney.

ACRE CALCULATOR

Need help deciding on ACRE? The “ACRE Calculator” is available on-line at www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp and will help you estimate ACRE benefits and compares ACRE with DCP. Assistance is available at our offices in using the calculator if you have questions. Fact sheets and other information are also available on the web site.

ACRE GUARANTEE PRICES SET

The final guarantee prices for use in calculating benefits under the ACRE program have been set for wheat and barley. Wheat is \$6.63/Bu and barley is \$4.09/Bu or \$170.43/Ton. Use these prices in the ACRE Calculator for the most up to date information.

ACRE PROGRAM – EDUCATE YOURSELF OR ASK FOR HELP

I have heard the statement “I am not going to participate in ACRE because it is too complicated and I do not understand it”. While the decision lies with the producers involved, it is still every producer’s responsibility to educate themselves so that an informed decision can be made as to whether the ACRE program fits their operation. With market prices for many program crops on a down trend, ACRE deserves one last look. ACRE payments can be very substantial in cases where either price, yield or both are below normal.

ACREAGE REPORT DEADLINE EXTENDED TO AUGUST 14

Most producers completed their crop acreage report by the original deadline of June 30, 2009. The final date to complete acreage reports has been extended to August 14, 2009. If you have not completed your acreage report, please contact the office for an appointment. Acreage reporting is required for participation in nearly all of the programs administered by FSA.

LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM

Signup for the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) began on July 13 for losses to eligible livestock that died due to eligible disaster conditions. The deadline to apply for losses suffered in calendar year 2008 is September 13, 2009. Losses for 2009 that occurred prior to July 13, 2009 must be filed by September 13, 2009. Losses suffered after July 13, 2009 must be filed within 30 days of when the loss is apparent. Losses suffered must be in excess of normal mortality rates as determined by FSA. Eligible disaster conditions include blizzards, extreme cold, extreme heat, floods, hurricanes, wildfires and disease. Producers should contact the county office for program details.

NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP) DEADLINE FOR 2010 CROPS

The final date to apply for the 2010 Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) for most perennial crops (grass seed, grass hay, alfalfa hay, mixed hay, rangeland) is September 30, 2009. The deadline for spring planted crops is March 15, 2010, except for spring planted mixed hay crops which is Sept 30, 2009. NAP fees are \$250 per crop not to exceed \$750 per county and \$1875 for multiple counties. Also remember to report 2009 crop losses within 15 days of the date of the disaster event or 15 days of when the disaster condition is apparent.

NAP & CROP INSURANCE LINKAGE REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for crop disaster benefits under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE), producers are required to have NAP coverage on all non-insurable crops of economic significance and Federal Crop Insurance on all insurable crops of economic significance. Note the following crop insurance sales closing dates:

August 31, 2009 – Winter canola

September 30, 2009 – Wheat (both winter & spring), winter barley, winter peas

Livestock producers are also reminded to obtain NAP coverage on their rangeland and other grazing crops to remain eligible for the Livestock Forage Disaster Program and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bee and Farm-raised Fish Program.

COMMODITY LOANS AVAILABLE

Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loans are available on 2009 crop wheat, feedgrains, oilseeds, pulse crops, honey, wool & mohair. CCC loans provide producers interim financing while holding crops for sale later in the marketing season. The interest rate is currently 1.50%. Producers may obtain loans on grain that is farm stored or stored in a Federal or State licensed warehouse. Producers may request measurement of farm stored grain or certify to the quantity in the bins. Warehouse loans may be requested by submitting a negotiable warehouse receipt to the county FSA Office. County loan rates were published in our last newsletter and are available at the county office. Remember, if you are participating in ACRE, your loan rate is reduced by 30%.

CONTINUOUS CRP SIGNUP

The following applies to Garfield County only. Asotin County is still over the 25% cropland limit for CRP enrollment and not eligible to enroll land into CRP at this time. In Garfield County, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts that expire on September 30, 2009 will leave the county with less than 25% cropland in CRP by a few hundred acres. To fill this shortfall, high priority continuous CRP applications are now being accepted. Producers with expiring CRP from general enrollments are also eligible to enroll a portion of the expired CRP into high priority continuous practices. Priority is on a first come first served basis. Eligible practices include filter-strips, riparian buffers, contour buffer strips, grass waterways and others.

FSA STATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPOINTED

Judy Olson has been appointed as the Farm Service Agency State Executive Director for Washington State. Judy Olson has served for many years as the Eastern Washington Director for U. S. Senator Patty Murray. She is a fourth generation farmer and was the first woman to be elected president of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers and is the first woman to serve as the Washington State FSA Director.

HANDICAPPED ACCOMODATIONS

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

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