



MARCH/APRIL-2010

## GRANT COUNTY FSA NEWS

### Grant County FSA

2145 Basin St. SW STE A  
Ephrata, WA 98823  
Phone: (509) 754-2463 ext. 2  
Fax: (509) 754-4705

### Office Hours

Monday – Friday  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

### County Committee

Richard Reffett, Chairman  
Mike Edwards, V-Chairman  
John Morris Jr., Member  
Angela Pixton, Advisor

### Farm Program Staff

Greg Anderson, CED-ext.1101  
Marilyn Littleton, PT-ext. 1100  
Katie Markham, PT-ext. 1104  
Roxanne Neilan, PT-ext. 1103  
Paul Daling, PT, FLT-ext.1107

### Farm Loan Staff

Libby Anderson, FLM-ext.1105  
Nancy Seger, FLO-ext. 1106

### Next COC Meeting

April 20TH, 2010 8:30 AM

### FSA Web sites:

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

National:  
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

PLEASE KEEP THIS OFFICE  
UPDATED ON ANY RECORD  
CHANGES SUCH AS NEW  
LAND BEING PURCHASED  
OR FARMED, SELLING OF  
LAND, NEW OPERATORS  
OR OWNERS ON FARMS,  
OR ANY CHANGES MADE  
TO YOUR ENTITIES.

CHANGES TO BANK  
ACCOUNTS ALSO NEED TO  
BE UPDATED AT THIS  
OFFICE. THANKS FOR  
YOUR COOPERATION!!!



### 2010 DCP/ACRE SIGNUP:

This office is now accepting appointments for those producers wishing to enroll into the 2010 Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP), or the Average Crop Revenue Election program (ACRE). **Contracts for both of these programs are required to be completed annually.** Signup deadline to enroll into DCP or ACRE is **June 1, 2010.**

The majority of our dry land operations have completed their 2010 signups. **We are now focusing our efforts on getting our irrigated farming operations to establish appointments to enroll into the program, and if all crops are planted, to certify 2010 crop plantings.**

During this appointment, producers will be reviewing and completing the following items:

- Reviewing eligibility forms previously completed for the 2009 crop year and making any necessary adjustments. If major structural changes have or will be occurring for 2010, new forms will need to be completed. New adjusted gross income forms for 2010 will also be completed.
- Reviewing and completing the 2010 DCP/ACRE contracts. All owners receiving a share of the payment will need to sign the contract.
- Completing 2010 acreage reports, if all crops have been planted. **Please have your planting dates with you.**

### NEW DISASTER PROGRAM ANNOUNCED:

Signup for the new disaster program called the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program, also known as SURE has began. An ending date to this signup has yet to be determined. This program can provide disaster payments to those eligible producers sustaining crop production or quality losses due to adverse weather events for the **2008** crop year.

The following eligibility criteria have to be met before a producer is considered eligible for SURE payments:

- Suffered at least a 10% production loss on a crop of economic significance.
- Obtained crop insurance on all insurable crops, or NAP coverage on all non-insurable crops.
- Have a farming interest in a county that has been declared a primary disaster county, or contiguous to one, under a Secretarial Disaster Designation. For Grant County, this requirement has been met for both the 2008 & 2009 crop years.
- SURE program requires that all crop losses on all crops the producer has an interest in **nationwide** will be included in the application.

Payments issued under SURE will equal 60% of the difference between a producer's SURE farm guarantee and the producer's total farm revenue. The farm guarantee is based on the amount of crop insurance and any NAP coverage obtained by the producer. The total farm revenue includes the value of any crop production on the farm, along with insurance indemnities and certain farm program payments.

As stated in the article above, we will be reviewing this program with you during your scheduled appointment. If you should have any questions on SURE, please contact this office.

### CRP MAINTENANCE/WEED CONTROL:

FSA and NRCS will be conducting maintenance checks on CRP contracts in the coming months. Please understand that **weed control is required on CRP land.** The County Committee approves of activities such as harrowing or chopping of dried up mustards and Russian thistle after the nesting period has ended. These activities can be a valuable tool in keeping weeds from getting on your neighbor's property. These activities can also help maintain grass vigor and ensure that you have a viable cover for the entire contract period. **Lack of weed control can lead to payment reductions or contract termination.** Please do your part in keeping your CRP acreage as weed free as possible.

### **FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS AVAILABLE:**

The 2008 Farm Bill extended the number of crops for which producers can obtain Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL). These loans are a source of low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will accept FSFL applications for the following crops:

- Corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, oats, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds
- Pulse crops, lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruit and vegetable cold storage facilities (CA cold storage facilities are ineligible).

Producers may borrow up to \$500,000. A 15% down payment is required. FSA loans the remaining 85% of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. Loan terms of 7, 10, or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation borrows from the Treasury Department.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. Producers do not have to be denied commercial credit to obtain an FSFL. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

### **SALES CLOSING DATE FOR SPRING PLANTED NAP CROPS:**

The deadline to sign up for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, or NAP coverage is **March 15, 2010**. Producers are reminded about the need for insurance coverage on crops in order to remain eligible for the agency's Disaster Assistance Programs such as SURE, LFP, TAP, and ELAP. Producers must purchase at least catastrophic (CAT) level of insurance for all insurable crops.

NAP is a federally funded program that provides coverage to producers for non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters. Crops eligible for NAP coverage are those for which crop insurance is not available, including fruits and vegetables, aquaculture, pecans, turf grass and forage crops just to name a few. Producers must apply for coverage before a disaster strikes. NAP applications for coverage must be filed using Form CCC-471 and pay the applicable service fees by the closing date. Application closing dates vary by crop. Producers interested in purchasing NAP can contact the County Office for more program details.

### **NEW CONSENT FORMS FOR IRS REVIEW:**

Beginning in January, 2010, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will provide producers with consent forms they voluntarily complete and submit to IRS. These forms authorize IRS to disclose a very limited amount of information to USDA for 2009 and 2010 average adjusted gross income (AGI) compliance purposes. **These forms must be prepared by the producer and sent directly to IRS at the address listed on the form. FSA cannot accept the consent forms.**

**Producers must submit the applicable form to IRS, authorizing the review, in order to retain 2009 and future payments subject to current AGI requirements. The form must be mailed to the IRS within 60 days of signing the form.** Two consent forms, one for individuals (CCC-927) and one for legal entities (CCC-928) will be used. Every individual or entity who was required to file form CCC-926, Average Adjusted Gross Income Statement, must file the applicable consent form.

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotapes, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington D.C. 20250-9410 or call 1-800-795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.