

October 6, 2006

Columbia/Walla Walla County FSA News

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Walla Walla County Committee

Richard "Steve" Hair, Chairman
 Jack McCaw, Vice Chair
 Steve Bughi, Voting Member
 Valerie Cochran, Advisor

Office Staff

Nicole Armijo
 Jeri Casali
 Norma Colunga
 Lee Walters

Columbia County FSA

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Columbia County Committee

Mike Mathews, Chairman
 Valerie Turner, Vice Chairman
 Dan McKinley, Voting Member

Office Staff

Christy Bell
 Gerri Richter

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

2006 Loan Rates

Columbia		Walla Walla
\$2.95/Bu	SWW	\$2.95/Bu
\$3.20/Bu	HRS	\$3.20/Bu
\$3.22/Bu	HRW	\$3.23/Bu
\$2.09/Bu	Barley	\$2.12/Bu or
\$87.09/Ton		\$88.34/Ton
\$5.23/Bu	Soybeans	\$5.32/Bu
\$6.63/cwt	DPeas	\$6.63/cwt

Dates to Remember:

Oct 9 – Columbus Day
 Office Closed
 Nov 10- Veteran's Day Observed
 Office Closed

Call for appointment to sign-up

Please keep us informed of any changes in your farming operation.



EMERGENCY USE OF CRP DUE TO WILDFIRES

Columbia and Walla Walla Counties have been given approval by the National FSA office to authorize grazing on CRP with no payment reduction.

This authorization to graze CRP is limited to livestock producers directly affected by the Columbia Complex Fire or the Tripod Fire in Okanogan and Douglas Counties. Due to loss of available pasture, livestock may be temporarily moved to CRP for **no more than 60 days** as approved by the applicable county office on a case-by-case basis.

Important issues to be aware of regarding this authorization:

- Those impacted by the Columbia Complex fire may graze any offered CRP in Columbia, Walla Walla, or Garfield Counties. Approval for Washington State Counties only.
- Grazing only approved for a 60-day time period which will be based on the date each individual grazing plan is approved by the FSA office
- All cattle **MUST BE REMOVED** from CRP by March 31, 2007, prior to the designated primary nesting period.
- The **CRP participant** will need to sign a revised conservation plan that will specifically outline allowed stocking rates. This **MUST BE** completed before the cattle are allowed onto the CRP.
- Annual CRP rental payments **WILL NOT** be reduced!!

We are still awaiting approval for the requested Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) practices requested by the County office. If approved and funded, the ECP practices may offer assistance in rebuilding fences damaged by the fire, restoring rangeland by seeding grasses, and possibly emergency livestock water hauling assistance. Currently, if it is necessary to haul water to cattle grazing CRP, there are no funds authorized for this expense. Please contact the County office for further details or any questions you may have in regard to this emergency grazing opportunity.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Ballots for the upcoming County Committee elections will be mailed to eligible voters within the area of the County up for election. In Walla Walla County, the area generally referred to as "summer fallow rotation area" will choose one of the following nominees:

Ryan Kregger: Ryan is a 4th generation farmer in Walla Walla County, continuing a longstanding tradition. He graduated from Touchet High School where he was an active member in FFA and student government. After graduation he attended Cal Poly SLO in California, receiving a Bachelor degree in Agri Business. He is a member of Northwest Grain Growers and the Washington Association of Wheat Growers. Ryan and his wife, Wendi have two sons, Erich and Ethan.

Note from Julie: In the September FSA newsletter, I inadvertently announced that Kevin Kregger was nominated to Committee. This was an error I did not catch until after the newsletter was printed and mailed. Kevin is Ryan's brother, and is actively involved on the family farm, in partnership with Ryan. I apologize for this error and any confusion it may have caused.

Claudia Kelly: Although born in Seattle, Claudia has spent most of her adult life in Walla Walla. She worked as a Program Technician in the Walla Walla FSA office from 1983 through 1994 where she developed a great understanding of the farming industry and the challenges farmers are faced with today. In 1994, Claudia left FSA and accepted a new position at Kelly Farms, as Mrs. Tim Kelly. She states she now understands all sides to farming, from the government side to the family farmer. Besides her responsibilities with Kelly Farms, Claudia has also worked as the Membership Director for the National Intercollegiate Rodeo since 1997. Claudia has two sons Sean and Travis Jernberg and is a proud grandmother of Travis' three children, Miranda (7), Brianna (4), and Daniel (1). Claudia states, "If elected, it would be a pleasure to serve on the county committee".

Richard "Steve" Hair: Steve's great-grandfather homesteaded in the Eureka area in the 1880's. The family moved to their present Clyde area farm in 1931. Steve has been farming full-time since 1976 responsible for a mix of dry-land wheat and CRP. Steve was born and raised in Walla Walla where he graduated from Walla Walla High School in 1972. He attended Shoreline Community College and WSU, studying business, horticulture and real estate. Steve and his wife Elizabeth have been married for 25 years and have two children, Lauren, a senior at WSU and Adam, a freshman at Loyola Marymount University in California. Steve is the incumbent Chairman of the Walla Walla County Committee and has served on the committee for 3-years. Steve says, "It has been interesting serving on the county committee and dealing with a myriad of issues that comes before the Committee. I try my best to listen and address the concerns and viewpoints brought to the Committee. We live in a very diverse agricultural area, and I find it very challenging and rewarding to

be a member of the Walla Walla County Committee system.”

In Columbia County, the area North of Highway 12 and West of Smith Hollow Road will receive ballots. Jay Penner is running un-opposed as representative for this portion of the County. Jay Penner, a 3rd generation wheat farmer was born and raised in Columbia County and has farmed all his adult life with his wife, Jackie, his 2 children Debbie Fortner and husband Kirk, Dwight and his wife Janell and son Brandon, and brother Ted Penner and his wife Sharon. Jay graduated from Dayton High School in 1964 and spent 2 years attending Oregon Technical Institute in Klamath Falls, Oregon. Jay is very active in his community and has spent the last 6-years as Environmental Co-Chairman for the Washington Assoc. of Wheat Growers, where he has worked on the stubble burning issues. He has also been a past Chairman for Columbia County Grain Growers, Columbia County Wheat Growers, Columbia County Conservation District and served 8 years as a past FSA County Committee member.

OCTOBER IS PAYMENT MONTH

The month of October is a very busy month at all FSA offices. CRP annual rental payments will be issued in October as well as 2006 final Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) payments. There is also a *possibility* that 2006 DCP Counter-Cyclical advance payments may be issued. In addition we continue to process and pay Marketing Assistance Loans and LDP's. Currently LDP's are available on Dry Peas, lentils and Soybeans. Please ALWAYS check with us on LDP availability before selling your commodities. **Because October is such a busy month**, we would greatly appreciate it if you would call ahead to schedule an appointment to handle any program signups, submit cost share documents, or make changes in your farm records. Keep in mind the less interruptions, the quicker those payments get out the door!

CRP INSPECTION FOLLOW UP

Many producers who have CRP contracts subject to the re-enrollment or extensions have been notified of concerns and instructed to develop a plan to address those concerns. Please be aware that follow-up inspections will be preformed to insure actions indicated are taken. It is imperative that you keep the County office informed as to the status of your activities as applicable to these contracts. We are still in the process of sending letters to CRP participants offered contract extensions and/or re-enrollments. If you have not heard from the County office yet, please be patient, you should be notified as to the results of the compliance spot checks soon.

For More Information regarding on-Line Program Availability

Please feel free to give me a call, or check out the FSA Website at: www.fsa.usda.gov . You can complete your on-line program registration by accessing: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> . Receiving your e-Authentication Account will allow you to access your program participation information, review your program payment history, enroll in the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) or apply for loan deficiency payments. It really is quick and easy.