



NEWSLETTER



Columbia and Walla Walla County Farm Service Agency

June 2012

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Office Hours
Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Office Staff

Columbia
Christy Bell, PT

Walla Walla
Nicole Armijo, PT
Norma Colunga, PT
Lee Walters, PT

Next County Committee Meeting:
June 27 – Dayton Service Center

*Special Accommodations: Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in any meeting, event or function should contact the county office. FSA is committed to making programs accessible to all customers.

CRP SIGNUP 43 RESULTS ANNOUNCED

The results of General CRP Signup 43, which ran this spring, have been announced. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that 3.9 million acres were accepted during the signup. Nationwide, nearly 48,000 offers on more than 4.5 million acres were submitted.

ACREAGE REPORTING

Please remember to schedule an appointment with the FSA office to report and certify your acreage for the 2012 crop year. Most FSA programs require that you report your planted acres every year, including but not limited to Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Direct and Counter-Cyclical (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Programs. The deadline to report your acres is **June 30**. There are late file provisions for acreage reporting, all farms filed after the deadline will be subject to a late file fee.

DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL/AVERAGE CROP REVENUE ELECTION PROGRAMS

The deadline to sign up for the DCP/ACRE programs was **June 1**. If you failed to enroll your farm in the DCP/ACRE programs prior to the deadline, there are late file provisions available for the 2012 contract period. To be eligible for the programs, all individuals on the contract must sign and return the contract no later than **August 1**. Any contracts received after the August 1 deadline will not be considered enrolled and will not be approved or disapproved.

For farms enrolled in the ACRE program, you are required to certify your crop production no later than July 15th. If you have not done so already, please provide the county office with your 2011 crop production. **If you fail to certify your crop production, your 2011 ACRE contract will be denied and you will be required to pay back money received on that contract for the 2011 crop year including interest.** There are no late file provisions.

UPDATES TO CRP CONTRACTS

Please be aware that if you gain an interest (inherit, purchase, etc.) in farmland which has an active CRP contract on it, you have a limited time to sign a revised contract showing the changes in shareholders. In fact, any changes to a CRP contract are required to be signed and submitted to the FSA within 60 days of those changes becoming apparent to the FSA. Changes may include but are not

limited to; changes of owners and operators, revised acreage numbers, and revised share distribution. Additionally, new shareholders of a CRP contract may need to complete other documentation to establish their eligibility for payment. If a change occurs in your farming operation that you think may affect your participation in any FSA program, please contact the county office to determine what steps will be needed to maintain eligibility.

PREVENTED PLANTING

Producers who have been unable to plant due to adverse weather need to timely report this acreage to their insurance agent if the crop is covered by FCIC. If the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) covers the crop, producers must file a request for prevented planting credit by filing form CCC-576 along with an acreage report in the county office within 15 days after the final planting date for the crop. Producers with insured crops are also encouraged to file prevented planting claims with the FSA. Providing a timely claim will help reduce inconsistencies in the case of a disaster program being run for the 2012 crop year. Late filed requests may be assessed a late fee to cover the costs associated with a field visit to verify the disaster conditions. Please contact the county office to report prevented planted acres.

FSA SEEKS CANDIDATES FOR FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting nominations for Columbia and Walla Walla County Committees between June 15 and August 1, 2012. Farmers and ranchers are elected by their peers to help the agency administer farm programs and provide an important information link between producers and the agency. The three person committee is the place producers can appeal most agency determinations. The committee also makes decisions which can impact program payments. It usually meets every other month.

The committee draws its members from local administrative areas (LAAs). Counties are broken up into administrative areas for the purposes of representation and voting. This year's election is for LAA #3 for Columbia County. The LAA is roughly a third of the county Northwest of Dayton. LAA #1 for Walla Walla County is up for election this year. The LAA is roughly a third of the county Northwest of Walla Walla. Candidates must live in the local administrative area they will represent and must be eligible to vote in the county election. Members serve on staggered three-year terms so that one of the seats is up for re-election each year. Committee members are compensated for official duty hours. To be eligible for involvement, producers must participate or cooperate in at least one FSA program and be of legal voting age. Nomination forms must be submitted to the local FSA office.

We encourage all producers to consider being a candidate. Producers benefit from a diverse committee representing agriculture in our area. The FSA office can help you determine which administrative area you are located in if you are unsure. Information about the elections and nomination forms may be obtained from the FSA office or the FSA website -[FSA Home](#)

FARM CHANGES AND RECONSTITUTIONS

Any changes in your farm's physical makeup, such as adding or removing land, can impact your acreage base. Farm reconstitutions must be requested by **August 1** to be effective for the 2012 program year. Your farm must currently comply with program requirements as it is structured, including required signatures and acreage reporting.

2011 NAP PRODUCTION DEADLINE IS JUNE 30, 2012

The production reporting deadline for NAP participants is June 30, 2012. This is for supplying yields and signing your Actual Production History (APH) reports for 2011. If you have not provided production for the previous few years, you could also do so at this time.