



NEWSLETTER



Columbia and Walla Walla County Farm Service Agency

December 2012

Travis Martin, CED
travis.martin@wa.usda.gov

Columbia County
202 S 2nd St.
Dayton, WA 99328
509-382-2421 ext 2
509-382-4084 fax

Walla Walla County
325 N 13th Ave.
Walla Walla, WA 99362
509-522-6347 ext 2
509-525-2811 fax

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

Office Staff
Columbia
Christy Bell, PT
Amber Steinhoff, PT

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

Next Joint County Committee
Meeting:
Jan 17th – 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.

County Committee Election Results

Farm Service Agency is happy to announce the following individuals have been elected to represent the local producers on the County Committee. Elected representatives serve a 3 year term and can serve up to 3 consecutive terms.

Columbia County Committee

Jay Penner – Jay will be entering his 3rd term serving on the committee.

Walla Walla County Committee

Valerie Cochran – Valerie will be entering her 2nd term serving on the committee. Before serving as a member of the committee, Valerie served as an advisor to the committee representing female producers for Walla Walla County.

Travis Chabre – Travis will serve as an alternate to the committee, representing producers in the absence of Valerie.

2012 Average Crop Revenue Election Program

If you participate in the ACRE program for the 2012 crop year, you need to provide the county office with your crop production. This is an annual requirement for all participating farms. The deadline to certify your 2012 production is July 15, 2013. If you would like the county office to input your production into our system and generate the certification form for you, we will need your production prior to the deadline to ensure that you can certify it timely.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Signup

Signup for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) program continues through June 7, 2013. SURE covers weather related crop losses suffered during the 2011 crop year, through September 30, 2011.

Eligible producers must either have suffered a minimum 10% production loss to one or more crops of economic significance, and be located within a county declared as a primary disaster county, or contiguous disaster county, as designated by the Secretary of Agriculture; or be an individual producer with losses of 50% or greater, regardless of county designation. SURE requires applicants to have carried Federal crop insurance and/or Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on all crops of economic significance as a condition of eligibility. In order to apply for SURE, please contact our office to request an appointment.

2013 Acreage Reporting Reminder

All producers that participate with Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Risk Management Agency (RMA) are required to annually report their planted acreage to be in compliance with program guidelines. As a reminder FSA and RMA have merged their reporting dates and established a set of reporting dates that are in place for 2013 crop year.

If a producer fails to report their crops by the final reporting date, their acreage reports will still be accepted but will be considered late filed. All late filed acreage reports are subject to a late file fee and spot check. Any producer that has contacted the county office by the final reporting date will be placed on a register and those producers will be considered timely filed. If you still need to report your fall planted crops, please contact the county office as soon as possible to schedule an appointment.

The dates for Washington State for 2013 are as follows.

All fall planted wheat/small grains	12/15/2012	Fall planted canola	12/15/2012
Mint	12/15/2012	Fall planted onions	12/15/2012
Alfalfa seed	12/15/2012	Perennial fruits and grapes	1/15/2013
Spring planted crops	7/15/2013	CRP	7/15/2013
Perennial forages*	7/15/2013	Buckwheat	8/15/2013

* Perennial forage crops covered under a Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP) policy are required to be reported not later than 15 days after the beginning of harvest of the crop; for range policies within 15 days of the beginning of the NAP grazing season; for hayed crops, within 15 days of first cutting, as established by the County Committee.

Holiday Season and Office Hours

The holiday season is upon us again and its times like these that we reflect back on all that we are thankful for. All of us at the Farm Service Agency wish to send out our best wishes to all of the families and individuals that have been involved in the string of violent acts that have plagued our country over the past couple weeks.

To all of our local producers, business partners, colleagues, friends and families we at the Farm Service Agency want to wish you and your family a very happy and safe holiday season.

FSA offices will be closed on Christmas Day and New Years Day. There is the potential that office hours will be shortened on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve. As with most businesses, during the holiday season many staff members will be on vacation to spend time with their families. There could be times when the offices will have limited staffing. To ensure that we can provide exceptional customer service, we ask that you call prior to visiting the office over the next couple weeks.

Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced a claim process open to Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA between 1981 and 2000 due to denial of application for loan or loan servicing assistance. The claim period began September 24, 2012, and will continue through March 25, 2013. The voluntary claims process will make available at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible claimants. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

Information related to applying for consideration under the claim process may be obtained by calling 1-888-508-4429 or on the web at www.farmerclaims.gov. Claimants must register for a claims package (by calling the number or visiting the website) and the claims package will be mailed to claimants.

Independent legal services companies will administer the claims process and adjudicate the claims. Although there are no filing fees to participate and a lawyer is not required to participate in the claims process, persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provided.