



July 13, 2009

## Columbia/Walla Walla County News

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### Farm Loan Staff

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### County Committee

Steve Hair, Chair  
Jack McCaw, V-Chair  
Steve Bughi, Member  
Valerie Cochran, Advisor

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### Columbia County FSA

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### County Committee

Dan McKinley, Chair  
Jay Penner, V-Chair  
Valerie Turner, Member

### Office Staff

Christy Bell  
Gerri Richter

### Office Hours

Monday – Friday  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

### Dates to Remember:

#### AUGUST 14:

**Final date to submit Acreage Reports, and Enroll in DCP or ACRE Program.**  
**NO LATE FILING PROVISIONS**

**SEPT. 7 Labor Day  
Office Closed**



### DCP/ACRE Signup Time To Decide!

As most of you are now aware, the deadline to signup for the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) or the new Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program has been extended through August 14, 2009.

It is understood that the decision regarding which program to choose this year is a difficult one to make. There are many issues to take into consideration. That being said, **please, please, please, do Not wait until the last hour to signup.**

The time frame to enroll in DCP or ACRE was originally established as June 1. Due to various reasons; signup was extended through August 14. This doesn't mean you can wait until August 14 to start the process.

FSA offices throughout the Nation are working diligently to insure all those interested in signing up for these programs have the opportunity to do so. If you wait until the last minute to signup, we may not be able to get a time scheduled. So call the County office **now** and make your appointment to signup. We will do our best to answer your questions regarding ACRE and how it may affect your particular farming operation. Again, PLEASE do not wait to enroll.

### Acreage Certifications

Due to the wet spring weather experienced in many areas of the Nation, the deadline to provide the FSA office with your annual acreage report has been extended from June 30 to August 14. Annual acreage reports are required to remain eligible for most program payments issued through this office. All Conservation Reserve Program payments, Marketing Loan eligibility, DCP or ACRE payments as well as Non-Insured Assistance Programs (NAP) and SURE, requires completion of an acreage certification. Although most have completed this program requirement, there are still a few out there who have not provided their acreage reports. As with enrolling in DCP or ACRE, we implore you to not delay in completing this requirement. Harvest will begin soon, call for an appointment **now** and get your paperwork completed before you start harvest!

### Deadlines for Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

The application closing date to purchase coverage for the 2010 crop year for fall planted crops under the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is August 31. NAP coverage is limited to crops for which Catastrophic Coverage (CAT) is not available through an area Crop Insurance Agent.

To apply for NAP coverage, the fees have changed effective for 2009 and subsequent crop years. The application fee is \$250 per crop, up to a \$750 cap per county. The maximum for multiple crops in more than one county is \$1,875 per crop year. In return, the crop is covered from catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting due to natural disaster conditions.

To be eligible for NAP benefits, production loss must be attributed to adverse weather conditions. Losses must be reported to FSA within 15 days after the adverse weather event or when the loss becomes evident. You may receive a payment if all eligibility requirements have been met and the crop suffers greater than a 50% production loss for weather related damages.

Some of the basic eligibility requirements include annual reporting of crop acreages, providing actual production evidence on a yearly basis, obtaining a loss adjustor appraisal if the damaged crop will be destroyed or left unharvested.

Contact the county office if you would like more information or are interested in applying for NAP coverage.

### FSA – Lender of First Opportunity

The Farm Service Agency offers farm loan assistance to farmers and ranchers who have the experience and desire to own and operate their own farm or ranch, but who don't yet meet the qualifications to obtain financing from a traditional lender. FSA makes both direct and guaranteed loans. The current loan limit for a direct loan is \$300,000 and for a guaranteed loan the limit is \$1,094,000.

FSA has a variety of loans, including Farm Ownership, Farm Operating, Emergency and Youth. FSA offers farmers and ranchers the following:

- Loans delivered in a timely manner
- Agricultural loans at lower interest rates and longer repayment terms
- Individualized financial planning and expertise
- A wide range of financial products and services to meet your needs
- Experienced loan officers familiar with cash flow lending.

To find out more about FSA's lending programs, contact Pam Castoldi, in the Walla Walla County FSA office. Pam has recently joined the Walla Walla County office staff. She was previously headquartered in the Franklin County office. If you have questions about FSA's farm loan program, stop by the office, call or email Pam. Her contact information is on the first page of this newsletter.

## **FSA State Executive Director Announced**

Judy Olson has been named as the newly appointed State Executive Director (SED) for the Washington State Farm Service Agency. Ms. Olson has served for many years as the Eastern Washington Director for U.S. Senator Patty Murray. She is a fourth-generation farmer and has over 25 years of experience working with volunteer producer organizations and on community service activities. Ms. Olson was the first woman to be elected president of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers and is the first woman selected to serve as a Washington State FSA Director. It is anticipated that Ms. Olson will begin her appointment in early August.

## **Crop Insurance Decisions**

To maintain eligibility for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) and to qualify for disaster assistance, producers must obtain a policy or plan of insurance of at least catastrophic (CAT) level coverage for crop year 2010. Note: the more crop insurance coverage a producer has, the more the SURE guarantee will be. For those crops that are non-insurable, coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be timely obtained. Therefore, producers with fall planted commodities need to be making important crop insurance decisions for the 2010 crop year. Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office and visit with a crop insurance agent (a list of agents is available at all USDA Service Centers) to fully understand what crop insurance programs are available in the county and to ensure they are obtaining adequate coverage for eligibility. The next round of sales closing dates for Federal crop insurance:

August 31: Canola and Onions (fall planted types);

September 30: Barley with winter coverage; dry peas with winter coverage; mint with winter coverage; forage production; forage (alfalfa) seed pilot; and wheat.

Note: The Adjusted Gross Revenue-Pilot and Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite programs do meet the linkage requirements for SURE. Also, if there is no crop insurance coverage in a county for a specific crop, and that crop is insurable in another county under the traditional Federal crop insurance program, a producer may seek coverage by asking an agent whether they would be eligible for crop insurance coverage under a written agreement. A 2010 Multi-Peril Crop Availability Listing by county is posted on RMA website, [http://www.rma.usda.gov/aboutrma/fields/wa\\_rso/](http://www.rma.usda.gov/aboutrma/fields/wa_rso/). Producers are encouraged to contact their local agent for additional details. In addition to USDA Service Centers, a listing of crop/livestock agents is also available at, (<http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents/>).

## **Have a Safe & Prosperous Harvest!!!**

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