



March 1, 2010

Columbia/Walla Walla County News

Travis Martin, CED

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Walla Walla County FSA

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County Committee

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

Office Staff

Nicole Armijo, PT
Jeri Casali, PT
Norma Colunga, PT
Lee Walters, PT

Farm Loan Staff

Pam Castoldi, Farm Loan Officer
Pamela.castoldi@wa.usda.gov
Walla Walla County FSA Office
Phone: (509) 522-6347 ext. 111

Columbia County FSA

202 South Second St
Dayton WA 99328-1327
(phone) 509-382-2421
(FAX) 509-382-4084

County Committee

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

Office Staff

Christy Bell, PT
Gerri Richter, PT

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Next COC Meeting:

Walla Walla – March 24
Columbia – March 25

*meeting start at 8:00am

Dates to Remember:

***March 15** – NAP and CAT
spring crops deadline
***March 31** – 2009 Commodity
Loan deadline
***June 1** – DCP/ACRE signup
deadline
***June 30** – Acreage Report
deadline
*June 30—Production Reports
for ACRE Program



2009 County Committee Election Results

In Columbia County, Jay Penner was re-elected to a three year term. Valerie Turner will serve as chair for 2010. Steve Hair was re-elected for a three year term for the Walla Walla County Committee. Steve was also selected to serve on the Washington State FSA Committee in January; therefore he had to resign from the county committee. Valerie Cochran, who has served as committee advisor for several years, received the second most votes during the election and was elected to replace Steve. She will serve a three year term. Jack McCaw will serve as chair for 2010.

2010 DCP/ACRE SIGN-UP

Signup for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and/or ACRE Program has begun and will continue until June 1, 2010. **The June 1, 2010 deadline is mandatory for all DCP/ACRE participants.** FSA will not accept any late-filed applications. If you elected to enroll your farm in ACRE you are still required to sign-up for the program annually. Please contact the county office to schedule an appointment.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

The SURE program sign-up is underway, but a deadline has not been announced yet. SURE has been authorized in place of the previous adhoc Disaster programs offered through FSA offices in prior years. The current SURE sign-up is for 2008 eligible crop losses. Please remember, to qualify for program payments under SURE, you must have had crop insurance coverage on all insurable crops and/or Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on all uninsurable crops of economic significance. Producers need to contact the office to get their name on our list. The office will begin the application process, contact producers and each producer will need to visit the office in order to review all information. If all information is correct, applications will be approved and payments will be processed as quickly as possible. Our producer list is extremely long, so please be patient as we get to everyone's application

Farm Ownership/Operation Changes

Please notify your local FSA office of all Farm Operation, Direct Deposits, deaths, land ownership and address changes as soon as possible so your farm records can be updated timely and for proper application processing. A copy of the applicable documentation should be provided to complete changes.

Acreage Reporting

Acreage reports are required under the 2008 Farm Bill to maintain eligibility for the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program and Average Crop Revenue Election program. They continue to be required for CRP, NAP and on any farm in which production will be used for a commodity loan or loan deficiency payment. **June 30th** is the final date to timely certify. Beyond that date, fees will be assessed for late-filed acreage reporting. We encourage all producers in the county to report acreage annually to maintain accurate farm records even if you are not currently participating in FSA programs.

Payments and Tax Reporting - Check Your Statement

As you may know, FSA experienced a number of software issues in disbursing 2009 CRP and DCP/ACRE payments. Near the end of January, our Kansas City office issued your CCC-1099G form with the 2009 payment data that was reported to the IRS. It is very important this year that you closely review this document to ensure it accurately reflects the payments you received in 2009. If it does not, or if you have any questions about the data,

please contact our office. We will assist you to confirm the data or obtain a corrected CCC-1099G. Also keep in mind that this form does not include any refunds you may have made to FSA in 2009. That data must be obtained directly from our office. We appreciate your patience and understanding as the agency implements our new payment system. Please contact us with any questions about your payments or tax statement.

Adjusted Gross Income Certification

According to the 2008 Farm Bill, in order for FSA and NRCS participants to receive program payments, annual certification of Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) must be filed with the county office. To be in compliance, participants must certify to income levels for Farm and Non Farm incomes for a three year period. Also FSA is required to perform spot checks on all producers once every three years. This spot check will verify that participants comply with Farm and Non Farm income levels. To eliminate FSA requesting personal tax records, USDA has entered into an agreement with IRS. With producer consent, IRS will release information to USDA that shows compliance or non-compliance with AGI certification levels. No actual tax data will be released. IRS has provided USDA with a consent form for individuals and entities, during sign-up, you will be given this consent form to fill out and mail directly to IRS. FSA Power of Attorneys will not work on this IRS consent form.

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. FSA has a variety of loans, including Farm Ownership, Farm Operating, Emergency and Youth. To find out more about FSA's lending programs, contact Pam Castoldi, in the Walla Walla County FSA 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.

Welcome to the Area

As many of you are aware, Julie Himmelberger was hired as the Area 4 District Director in December 2009. With the acceptance of her new job, the position of County Executive Director was opened. Travis Martin, who has been with Washington State FSA for two years, was interviewed and hired by the Columbia and Walla Walla County FSA Committees in January. His official start date was February 1, 2010. Travis grew up in Eastern Oregon on a dry land wheat and cattle farm that his family has owned for 40 years. He graduated from Oregon State University with a Bachelor degree in Ruminant Nutrition and also has a Masters in Business from Tulane University. Travis trained in 7 counties in Washington in 2008, during his training program, one of which was Walla Walla. After his training he was hired as the CED in Snohomish County, north of Seattle, where he spent last year. Travis is very excited to work here in these two counties and looks forward to meeting all the producers.

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.