



Columbia and Walla Walla County Farm Service Agency

February 2011

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

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>

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

Office Staff
Columbia
 Christy Bell, PT
 Gerri Richter, PT

Walla Walla
 Nicole Armijo, PT
 Jeri Casali, PT
 Norma Colunga, PT
 Lee Walters, PT
 Ray Painter, Temp PT

Farm Loan Officer
 Pamela Castoldi
pamela.castoldi@wa.usda.gov
 509-522-6347 ext 111

Next County Committee Meeting:
 2/23/11 – Joint meeting in Walla Walla

Dates to Remember:
 March 14-April 15 – CRP Signup

June 1 – DCP/ACRE Deadline

June 30 – Final Acreage Reporting Deadline

July 15 – ACRE Production Due

July 29 – SURE Deadline

***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 General Signup 41

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general signup starts Monday, March 14, 2011 and ends Friday, April 15, 2011.

CRP allows producers to enroll land in ten year contracts that help preserve environmentally sensitive areas. In exchange for idling the land, producers receive annual rental payments and 50% of the cost to establish the cover. Rental rates are tied to county average rental rates and the productivity of the soils in the offered acreage.

Eligibility and ranking scores are based on several factors, including but not limited to native versus introduced grass and shrub species, addition of pollinator habitats, and soil types. Eligible land must have been planted to an annual crop or conserving use in at least four years between 2002 and 2007. In addition, the land must have an erodibility index of 8 or greater, be in the state air quality or wildlife Conservation Priority Area, or be CRP expiring in 2011.

Offers will be ranked using the Environment Benefits Index. Points will be awarded based on the environmental and habitat benefits of the proposed cover. More points are awarded for native covers. Existing CRP covers may need to be replanted or enhanced to maximize the score. Extra points will be awarded for the most erosive land and bids that include pollinator habitats. To schedule an appointment, contact the office.

Asparagus Revenue Market Loss Assistance Payment (ALAP) Program

Asparagus growers who were adversely affected by asparagus imports could be eligible for financial compensation through the Asparagus Revenue Market Loss Assistance Payment (ALAP) Program. The signup for the ALAP program is February 7 through April 8, 2011.

To be eligible for the program, growers must have produced and marketed asparagus in commercial quantities in the U.S. during both crop years 2003 and 2007. Asparagus production must be producer-certified in either fresh or processed for 2003. According to the USDA National Agriculture Statistics Service, there were 17,000 acres of asparagus planted in 2003, but only 8,000 acres in 2007.

The program has \$15 million available nationwide split evenly between the fresh and processed varieties. The maximum

payment rate is \$1.06 per pound for fresh asparagus, and \$1.08 per pound for processed. The application forms can be found at the office or online at www.fsa.usda.gov. Applications must be postmarked on or before April 8, and no late applications will be accepted.

2011 DCP/ACRE Signup

The 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical program and the Average Crop Revenue Election signups are underway. The county office is accepting appointments for producers to sign up their eligible farms for the DCP/ACRE programs.

DCP and ACRE provide producers an income safety net in the form of annual direct payments. DCP also offers assistance through counter-cyclical payments when commodity prices are below certain levels. ACRE protects against crop revenue shortfalls resulting from price and/or production declines at the State and farm levels.

Payments for DCP and ACRE are made annually in October; producers can select to receive a 22% advance as early as December. This year, 2011 is the last year that the advance payment has been authorized. There will not be an advance payment option for fiscal year 2012.

The deadline for signup is June 1, 2011. Just a reminder all required signatures must be received no later than the deadline. Contact the county office to schedule an appointment today.

Tree Assistance Program

The Tree Assistance Program (TAP) provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes, and vines that were lost by natural disaster occurring before October 1, 2011.

To qualify for TAP, orchardist and nursery tree growers must:

- suffer qualifying tree, bushes, and vine losses in excess of 15% mortality from and eligible natural disaster
- have owned the eligible trees, bushes, and vines when the disaster occurred
- replace eligible trees, bushes, and vines within 12 months from the date the application is approved.

Applications are due within 90 calendar days of the disaster event or date the loss is apparent, no later than September 30, 2011. Contact the office for additional information or to submit an application.

2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program

The county office is accepting 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) applications. The SURE program is the permanent disaster assistance program that Congress established with the 2008 Farm Bill.

The SURE program assists producers that suffer a revenue loss due to quality or quantity losses and market price fluctuations. All farms associated with a producer and national average market crop prices are used to establish expected revenue for that producer. Your expected revenue will be compared to your actual revenue for the crop year. Included in your actual revenue calculation is your actual yield, the actual national average market price, RMA indemnities, and FSA program benefits such as DCP/ACRE payments.

To be eligible for program benefits, the land and crops you are associated with must have suffered a 50% production loss. Applications must be received by the county office by July 29, 2011. There are no late file provisions.

Acres Reporting

Several FSA programs require producers to file annual acreage reports to be eligible to receive program benefits. Acreage reports must be submitted accurately and timely. If an acreage report is not received by the reporting deadline, the farm will be subject to a late file fee and mandatory field check.

Acreage reports include all crops and land uses as well as failed acres and prevented acres. The accuracy of the acreage report is extremely important, as several agencies and businesses use the acres and shares that are reported. A few of these include: Federal crop insurance (RMA) and local grain growers.

Reporting deadlines are as follows:

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) covered crop - 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop.

Failed Acreage is acres that were timely planted with the intent to harvest, but due to disaster related conditions, the crop failed before it could be brought to harvest. Producers that request failed acreage credit will need to provide satisfactory evidence to the county committee that the crop was planted with the intent to harvest and that it failed due to a disaster related condition – acres must be reported prior to disposition of the crop, except for insured crops which must be reported before the final crop reporting date. Producers will need to provide crop insurance data to support the failed acreage.

Prevented Planting Acreage is the inability to plant the intended crop acreage with proper equipment by the final planting date for the crop type because of a natural disaster – to receive prevented planting credit; acres must

be reported within 15 calendar days after the final planting date for the crop.

Final reporting date for all crops not previously listed is June 30. To ensure that your farm is eligible to receive program benefits and to avoid paying a late filed acreage reporting fee, report your acreage as soon as possible and prior to the final reporting date of that specific crop.

ACRE Production

If you have enrolled your farm into the ACRE program, you need to provide production to the county office annually.

If production is not provided annually, you could be determined ineligible for the ACRE program. This production needs to be provided no later than July 15 of the year following the year the crop(s) were reported to the county office. If 2010 was the first year you enrolled your farm in ACRE, you will also need to provide production for crop years 2005-2009.

Producers are not required to purchase crop insurance to participate in ACRE; however, if a producer does have crop insurance with a premium-based insurance policy, value is added to the farm ACRE benchmark revenue that increases the likelihood that a farm will trigger. The farm ACRE guarantee calculation requires that producers report their per acre producer-paid crop insurance premium. There is no deadline for this; however, payments will not be calculated until this information is provided to the county office.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters. To be eligible for NAP, crops must be noninsurable and commercially-produced agriculture commodities which the catastrophic risk protection level of crop insurance is not available.

Eligible producers must apply for coverage and pay the service fees by the application closing date. The service fee is the lesser of \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,875 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties. This fee is authorized by the 2008 Act.

Application closing date for spring planted crops; small grain forages (wheat, barley, and oats including annual pea forage); mustard; summer planted buckwheat; camelina is March 15, 2011. There are no late file provisions