

# Wallowa County Harvester USDA Ag Service Center

## USDA SERVICE CENTER

401 NE 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Suite E  
Enterprise, OR 97828-1185  
(541) 426-4521  
(541) 426-4789 FAX

### Hours:

Monday – Friday  
7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### FSA

**Bill Williams ext. 104**  
[bill.williams@or.usda.gov](mailto:bill.williams@or.usda.gov)  
**Lela Kunkle ext. 102**  
[lela.kunkle@or.usda.gov](mailto:lela.kunkle@or.usda.gov)  
**Susie Madigan ext. 103**  
[susie.madigan@or.usda.gov](mailto:susie.madigan@or.usda.gov)

### FSA Committee Members

Wes Wilsey  
Melvin Stonebrink  
Donna Smith

### County Committee Meeting

3rd Thursday of every month  
@ 10:30 a.m.

### NRCS

**Tom Smith ext. 101**  
[tom.smith@or.usda.gov](mailto:tom.smith@or.usda.gov)  
**Lance Burton ext. 107**  
[lance.burton@or.usda.gov](mailto:lance.burton@or.usda.gov)

### SWCD

**Cynthia Warnock ext. 106**  
[cynthia.warnock@or.nacdnet.net](mailto:cynthia.warnock@or.nacdnet.net)  
**Lisa Mahon ext. 5108**  
[lisa.mahon@or.nacdnet.net](mailto:lisa.mahon@or.nacdnet.net)

## The Aftermath

Since the devastating fire of July 11<sup>th</sup>, there have been a lot of hurdles to get over before we could open for business, namely finding and stocking a new office. We certainly appreciate your patience in this matter.

We are now settled in the old Wallowa Memorial Hospital just off of East Garfield Street and between the old emergency room entrance on the west side and the old physical therapy entrance on the east side. Please use the east entrance to come into our offices. We were able to retrieve the USDA Service Center sign from the old building and it is located on the corner of the building next to the sidewalk. More signage will be installed to help you find us.

When you enter through the door, FSA will be on the right-hand side of the hall and NRCS/SWCD will be located on the left-hand side. Our phone number is the same, 541-426-4521, but our extensions have been changed i.e. the 5 has been removed and we are back to our original 3-digit extension numbers.

Our mailing address is: 401 NE 1<sup>st</sup> Suite E, Enterprise, OR 97828-1185. Office hours are the same 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

If you come to visit us you will notice that our office furniture is a hodgepodge of tables, carts, cabinets, etc. that we were able to scrounge from Wallowa Resources and the old hospital. We sincerely appreciate the use of this equipment. New office furniture will be ordered but that is one of those items on our long list of items to do.

We did have electronic record back-up stored off-site and were able to retrieve the majority of our records. Some records were lost in the transition and we appreciate your prompt response to our requests for information which you had already given to us. We believe some physical records may be recoverable which hopefully will be determined in the next couple of weeks.

So, life does go on and FSA, NRCS & the Wallowa SWCD staff will too. Again thanks for your patience, your understanding, your concerns and your wishes. Come in and see us in our new office. We are here to serve the agricultural producers of Wallowa County.

## Paper Check Conversion – Over the Counter (PCC –OTC)

In the upcoming months, FSA/CCC is moving toward an electronic method for processing producers' checks thus allowing FSA/CCC to process collections faster. When producers present checks, either in person or through the mail, the checks will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT).

The funds will be debited from the producer's account, usually within 24 hours of receipt. Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the Service Center or visit the following U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site for detailed information:

<https://www.pccotc.gov/pccotc/pcc/usingpcc/Legal%20Notices/legalnotices.htm>

### What is PCC - OTC?

PCC – OTC is a process for converting paper checks presented to FSA into electronic debits to the producer's bank account. This improves customer relations, speeds the check clearing process, and reduces the potential for human error.

### How will my checks be handled?

If the check is presented in person, the check will be scanned into the system, voided, and stamped with the words, "Electronically Processed" or "Electronically Presented" and the voided check will be returned to the customer. If the check is mailed to FSA, the check will be scanned into the system and voided. The customer will not receive the check back from FSA. FSA will hold checks for up to 14 calendar days to ensure that the item was successfully processed, and then FSA will shred the check.

### How quickly will funds be transferred from my account?

The transfer of funds from your account could occur within 24 hours. Therefore, you should be sure that you have sufficient funds in your account to process the transaction. If you do **not** have sufficient funds, we may initiate the transaction again.

### How will this transaction appear on my account statement?

The transfer of funds will be reflected on your account statement. The transaction may be recorded in a different place on your statement than where your checks normally appear, such as under "other withdrawals" or "other transactions".

### What are my rights if there is a problem with the transaction?

You have protections under Federal law for an unauthorized electronic fund transfer from your account. You should contact your financial institution immediately if you believe that the transaction reported on your account statement was not properly authorized or is otherwise incorrect.

USDA Service Center  
401 NE 1<sup>st</sup>, Suite E  
Enterprise, OR 97828-1185

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
TUALATIN OR  
PERMIT NO. 71

## 2010 COC Election

December 6<sup>th</sup> is the date of this year's COC election. The position open for election is from Local Administrative Area (LAA) #3, or the Lostine/Wallowa area. Farm operators and owners in that area only, will receive a ballot for this election. Ballots will be mailed the week of November 5<sup>th</sup> and must be returned or postmarked by December 6, 2010. The following is a brief biography of each candidate:

**Bruce Lathrop** resides at 618 Elizabeth St, Lostine. Bruce has farmed for 25 years and produces hay, grain and livestock. He also operates a portable sawmill. He is a member of the Southfork Grange and is a volunteer on the Lostine Fire Department.

**Melvin Stonebrink** resides at 80995 School Flat Lane, Wallowa. Melvin has farmed for 18 years and produces wheat, barley, oats, grass hay and livestock. He has served as a member on the Wallowa County FSA Committee for 3 years and is a member of the Oregon Wheat League and the Oregon Cattleman Association.

Eligible ballots are those that are signed and returned to this office or postmarked by or on December 6, 2010. **NOTE:** You must sign by the X on the Return Envelope for your ballot to be official. If it is not signed, your ballot will not be counted.

## 2010 Crop Loan Rates

Wallowa County loan rates for 2009 grain crops are:

Soft White Wheat - \$3.23/bu.	Barley - \$2.16/bu. (\$90.01/ton)	Rapeseed - \$9.89/cwt.
Hard Red Spring - \$4.22/bu.	Oats - \$1.37/bu. (\$85.63/ton)	Dry Peas - \$6.12/cwt.
Hard Red Winter - \$3.07/bu.	Canola - \$8.10/cwt.	

To be eligible for a commodity loan, you must:

- have filed an acreage report for 2010, and
- have beneficial interest in the commodity that is tendered for loan

For warehouse loans, the rate is based on the county where the grain is initially stored, except when the grain is physically moved to another location for storage. If the grain is moved, documentation of paid or provided for transportation charges must be filed before the grain is eligible for loan. If you are considering a loan, please remember that it usually takes 7-10 days from the date of request until the loan is disbursed. The deadline to request a 2010 commodity loan is March 31, 2011.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication and Compliance, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.