



Wallowa County Harvester USDA Ag Service Center

Volume 26 Issue 7

USDA SERVICE CENTER

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Hours:

Monday – Friday
7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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Office Move

As some of you might know, the USDA Service Center will be moving to the Forest Service Building the week of November 27th. We will be occupying the first floor on the West Wing of the building.

Consequently, all FSA, NRCS and Wallowa SWCD activities will be curtailed for that week but we hope to be back in business the first week of December.

Our phone numbers and employee extensions will remain the same. Our new mailing address will be 88401 Hwy 82 Box B, Enterprise, OR 97828-3042.

We plan on having an open house during the first part of 2007 to show you are new 'digs'. We appreciate your patience during this time.



Puzzle

How many states in the U.S. end in the letter "a"?

Answer to the last puzzle: tennis, golf, bowling, table tennis & ping pong.

2007 COC Election

December 4th is the date of this year's COC election. The position open for election is from Local Administrative Area (LAA) #1, or the Flora/Troy area. Only farm operators and owners in that area will receive a ballot for this election. Ballots will be mailed the week of November 6th. The following is a brief biography of each candidate:

Dennis Beach resides at 85971 Paradise Road, Enterprise, and has farmed for 39 years producing wheat, barley, alfalfa, peas and cattle. He was a member of the Wallowa County Grain Growers Board of Directors and the Enterprise High School Budget Committee, and has served as a COC alternate for the last 6 years.

Wesley Wilsey resides at 81028 Flora Lane, Enterprise, and has farmed for 30 years producing wheat, barley, timothy hay, alfalfa and cattle.

Eligible ballots are those that are signed and returned to this office or postmarked by/on December 4, 2006. **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.** Please contact Bill (extension 104) for more details.

New Insurance Product Available for Pasture, Rangeland and Hayland

Producers in Wallowa County and eight other Oregon counties will have the availability to insure their pasture, rangeland and/or hay land for the 2007 crop year. The following are a few highlights of this new insurance product:

- Producers will be able to insure all or part of their acreage.
- Insurance period will be from April 1st thru March 31st of the following year. Each producer will be allowed to select up to four 3-month insurance intervals when determining the timing of coverage, for the selected acreage. Thus, the producer will be allowed to insure their acreage for those intervals where the risk is the greatest.
- Loss benefits are based on the vegetation index factor for the selected acreage, not the insured's individual production. Producers will have the opportunity to buy-up either 70%, 75%, 80%, 85% or 90% of the vegetation index factor.
- The insured producer is covering a dollar amount per acre which is based on the county established base value for the crop, productivity factor for the selected crop and the producer buy-up coverage level. All of these definitions along with premium calculations will be detailed prior to the insured purchasing a policy.

Sales closing date for purchasing 2007 pasture, rangeland and hay land policy is November 30, 2006. For further information or to purchase a policy contact your local crop insurance agent. Information regarding this new product can also be obtained at www.rma.usda.gov.



2006 Dates to Remember

November 3	– COC Election Ballots Mailed to Flora/Troy Producers
November 6	– SWCD Meeting, 12:30 p.m. - Extension
November 8	– COC Meeting @ 10:30 a.m.- Service Center (209 NW First)
November 10	– Veteran's Day Observed (Office Closed)
November 23	– Thanksgiving (Office Closed)
November 27 -30	– Office Move to New Location
November 30	– Pastureland, Rangeland, Hayland Insurance Deadline
November 30	– Deadline for EQIP signup
December 4	– COC Election ballots due or postmarked by this date.
December 6	– COC Meeting @ 10:30 a.m. – Service Center (88401 Hwy 82)

USDA Service Center
PO Box 387
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2007 DCP Contracts

Are you planning to participate in the 2007 Direct and Counter Cyclical Payment Program (DCP)? If so, please contact Lela (extension 102) or Bill (extension 104) to schedule an appointment. The deadline to enroll is June 1, 2007 without a late enrollment fee. If you enroll between June 1, 2007 and September 30, 2007, you will be charged a late enrollment fee of \$100/contract. **Remember that you must designate shares and sign a new DCP contract each year that you want to participate.**

Advance payments can be made beginning in December but will only be 30% for 2007.

When you sign the CCC-509, you are agreeing to:

- comply with highly erodible land conservation and wetland conversion provisions on all of your land;
- devote acreage equal to the base acreage to an agricultural or conserving use. Planting fruits and vegetables (other than lentils, mung beans and dry peas) on base acreage may result in payment reductions or loss of benefits;
- effectively control noxious weeds and otherwise maintain base acres according to sound agricultural practices;
- file acreage report(s) with respect to all cropland on the farm; and
- notify the county office staff when there is a transfer of or a change of interest of a producer.

CRP Land Sales

For those of you that have Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts, please remember that these contracts are in effect for 10 years or longer if extended or re-enrolled. These contracts are assumable if land is sold. However, if the new owner does not agree to maintain the CRP acres until the expiration date and assume the contract, **the original contract holder must refund all payments received plus interest, and pay liquidated damages.**

New owner(s) have 60 days from the date of notification from this office to return all required forms. If they don't return these forms in the allotted time the County Committee has no choice but to terminate the contract.

If you are selling some or all of your CRP acres, please visit with the new owner and/or the realtor. Let them know that your land has CRP acres and the potential penalties if the new owner does not assume the contract. We would be happy to visit with the new owner if he or she has questions or concerns about any CRP provisions.

NAP 2006 PRODUCTION EVIDENCE

August 15, 2007, is the deadline for Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) producers to submit their 2006 production evidence. Failure to submit this evidence by the deadline means that you lose all of your prior production information. All submitted production evidence must be verifiable.

Hay producer certifications of the number of bales and average weight of the bales are not acceptable without one of the following to verify production:

- Sales document for similar hay from your own place
- Sales production from a neighbor's farm
- Measurement Service performed by our office. There is no charge for this measurement service if you are feeding all of your hay to your own livestock.

Since feeding will be starting soon, please contact us ASAP so that we can schedule your measurement service.

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