

# What's News in FSA

USDA Farm Service Agency

Washington/Columbia County FSA Office

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## Office Staff:

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## County Committee:

Crystal VanderZanden, Chairperson

Tom Duyck, Vice-Chairperson

Kay C VanNatta, Regular Member



## Farm Record Changes

If you bought, sold, or are renting different land, make sure you report those changes to our office as soon as possible so farm record changes can be updated. If you no longer own or operate agricultural land, please let us know so that your name may be removed from our mailing list.

## Did You Know?



**October** is Disability Employment Awareness Month

**October 2** – Direct and Counter-Cyclical Signup Began

**November 3** – County Committee Election Ballots will be mailed

**November 10** – Veterans Day, Office Closed

**November 20** – Berries, fruit and honey deadline to purchase NAP or Multi-Peril Crop Insurance Policy

**November 23** – Thanksgiving Day, Office Closed

**December 4** – County Committee Election Ballots must be postmarked or returned



## County Committee Election

Ballots will be mailed on November 3<sup>rd</sup> to all eligible voters in Local Administrative Area 3. Nomination form was received by Crystal VanderZanden. Voted and signed ballots must be returned or postmarked by December 4<sup>th</sup>. Ballots will be counted on December 7<sup>th</sup>.



## Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) Signup Deadline

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is now taking applications for cost-sharing under EQIP at the Hillsboro Service Center at 1080 SW Baseline in Hillsboro. Applications are accepted through **November 30, 2006** for **Washington County** producers, and through **November 24, 2006** for **Columbia County** producers.

EQIP provides farmers with funding for a variety of conservation practices that conserve water, protect water quality, reduce erosion or improve habitat for steelhead.

“The EQIP rules will be similar to previous years,” stated Dean Moberg, with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Hillsboro. “However, we listen to what farmers tell us, we see what works and doesn’t work and every year we fine tune the program to make it work better for farmers and for the natural resources.”

One way in which EQIP will be different this year is stream-lined payment for completed practices. NRCS no longer needs invoices and farm labor records for cost-sharing, and participants are no longer required to install filter strips and buffers to get an EQIP contract.

Examples of practices that have been successful in the past in Washington County is funding for no-till farming (\$40-\$75 per acre), drip irrigation systems (30cents per foot, plus \$6,000 for a filter) and composting facilities (approximately one half of the cost). Usually, farmers in EQIP also elect to receive funding for increased use of technology to manage nutrients, irrigation water and pests. Funding for these management practices can total up to \$27,000 over three years.

There are many more practices that are eligible for cost-sharing under EQIP. Details are available at the USDA Service Center in Hillsboro, by calling Dean Moberg at 503-648-3174 x113. Information is also available at the Columbia County office, by calling Don Mehlhoff at 503-397-4555 x105.

WASHINGTON-COLUMBIA COUNTY FSA OFFICE  
1080 SW BASELINE, SUITE B-3  
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### Land Contract Guarantee for Beginning Farmers

Washington County FSA recently helped close the first Land Contract Guarantee Program to a local producer under a new national pilot program that involves land sales contracts used for transferring farm property from sellers to beginning farmers.

Under the program, sellers are provided a 10-year guarantee. In the event the buyer does not pay an installment, FSA will provide the scheduled payment to the seller through an escrow agent. The guarantee is limited up to the equivalent of two annual installments and the purchase price of the farm property cannot exceed \$500,000. Please call Suzanne Hayes, Farm Loan Officer at 503-648-3174 x116 or email her at [suzanne.hayes@or.usda.gov](mailto:suzanne.hayes@or.usda.gov) for more information.



Remember, husbands and wives may sign for each other as individuals for FSA programs unless written notification is provided denying a spouse this authority.

### 2007 Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) Deadline

The Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) is established for all crops that cannot be insured under federal crop insurance. NAP provides catastrophic insurance coverage (50% yield, 55% price). The cost of an application is \$100 per crop per year and no one will pay more than \$300 per county per year, no matter how many crops are grown. A NAP policy for berries, fruit and honey must be purchased by **November 20**, and all spring planted crops must be purchased by March 15, 2007.



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