

December 22, 2006

Columbia/Walla Walla County FSA News

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Walla Walla County FSA

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Walla Walla County Committee

Richard "Steve" Hair, Chairman
 Jack McCaw, Vice Chair
 Steve Bughi, Voting Member
 Valerie Cochran, Advisor

Office Staff

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

Columbia County FSA

202 South Second Street
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 FAX: (509) 382-4084

Columbia County Committee

Valerie Turner, Vice Chairman
 Dan McKinley, Voting Member
 Jay Penner, 1st Alternate

Office Staff

Christy Bell
 Gerri Richter

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

2006 Loan Rates

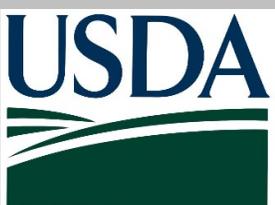
Columbia		Walla Walla
\$2.95/Bu	SWW	\$2.95/Bu
\$3.20/Bu	HRS	\$3.20/Bu
\$3.22/Bu	HRW	\$3.23/Bu
\$2.09/Bu	Barley	\$2.12/Bu or
\$87.09/Ton		\$88.34/Ton
\$5.23/Bu	Soybeans	\$5.32/Bu
\$6.63/cwt	DPeas	\$6.63/cwt

Dates to Remember:

Dec. 25 – Christmas, Office Closed
 Jan. 1 – New Year's Day – Closed
 Jan 15- M. L. King Day, Closed

Call for appointment to sign-up

Please keep us informed of any changes in your farming operation.



DIRECT & COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM SIGNUP UNDERWAY

Signup for the final year of the Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) continues through June 1, 2007. Contracts enrolled after June 1st but before September 30th will be eligible for enrollment but are required to pay a \$100 late-filing fee. We are taking signups for the 2007 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP), and strongly encourage you to make your appointments soon to get the process started.

Annual acreage reporting is also a program requirement for DCP. When all your crops for 2007 have been planted you will need to report what is planted where as well as the date it was planted. No annual acreage report, no DCP payment. Please call for an appointment to enroll in 2007 DCP, keep in mind we will be making a careful review of all paperwork, present and past to insure all is in order. Remember, if you have made No Changes to your farming operation, you can signup on line from your home computer. To enroll on-line you will need your secure user-ID and password. Go to <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> to begin the "e-authentication" process. Call the County office for assistance if needed.

AGENCY REVIEW

Sign-up this year will most assuredly take longer than in past years as we will be thoroughly reviewing all eligibilities forms with you, not only for 2007 eligibility but also to insure all was in order for fiscal year 2006.

As a result of a very well publicized internal audit, we will be carefully reviewing all contracts and other pertinent paperwork to insure prior year applications were properly signed. Issues being scrutinized the most intently are improper signatures or signature authority not on file in the County offices.

For the next several weeks, all staff will be working on this high priority task. Any forms discovered to be incorrect or not on file will be required to be provided to the County office before any future payments can be issued to the involved producer. Your cooperation in promptly providing requested documentation will be greatly appreciated.

Through this process, we will do our best to insure you continue to receive any assistance you may need from the office.

Proper Signatures ??

One of the main concerns in regard to the internal review has been "proper signatures". When signing for corporations, partnerships, joint ventures, limited liability companies, trusts or estates, the person signing **must write the word "by" in front of their name.** In addition, you are **required** to state your title, following your signature. For example: *by John Doe, President.* When signing on behalf of someone else with an approved Power of Attorney, you need to sign as follows: *by John Doe, P.O.A.* Although this may seem like nothing too significant, the Office of General Counsel (OGC) has determined this to be an improper signature. In the future all County offices will be very particular that documents are signed in this format.

COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

December 4th was the final date to submit election ballots for the FSA Committee elections. Ballots were counted for both County Committees with results as follows: In Columbia County, Jay Penner will be the representative for the area North of Highway 12 and West of Smith Hollow Road. Jay will serve a three-year term. In Walla Walla County, Richard "Steve" Hair was re-elected to represent the "summer fallow rotation" area of the County. This will be Steve's second term as representative for that area of Walla Walla County. Claudia Kelly received the second highest number of votes and will serve as 1st alternate to Steve. Claudia may be called upon to represent that area of the County if Steve is unable. Ryan Kregger will serve as second alternate to the Committee. The newly elected Committee members will begin their 3-year term in January 2007. Congratulations to the new

members! And Thank You to those willing to serve and those who voted in this very important process.

Year-End Commodity Loans

2007 is nearly upon us! If you are planning on taking a Commodity Loan on your 2006 grain prior to the end of this calendar year, it is very important that you let us know as soon as possible to insure we can get all necessary paperwork completed timely. Please keep in mind that staffing levels are limited around the holiday season as all employees need to spend time with family.

Removing CCC Loan Collateral

If you currently have grain under Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loan, please remember it cannot be moved without prior authorization or repayment. Unauthorized removal, which includes removal for cleaning for seed or planting, is considered a violation and is subject to monetary and administrative penalties.

Your loans are subject to spot check. Determined shortages must be repaid with principal plus interest and additional monetary penalties, plus loss of future eligibility may apply. If you are planning to remove or clean grain under loan with CCC, **contact the County FSA office** for additional information first!

PNW Under Cutter Grant Applications Available

The Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) is the recipient of an NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant for a 3-year project to demonstrate and advance the “undercutter method” for winter wheat summer fallow farming. This project is a regional effort across two states, Washington and Oregon. Its goal is to engage 50 growers, through a cost share program, to demonstrate and encourage the adoption of the undercutter method of summer fallow farming. The grant is focused on growers in the dryland areas, 12 inch rainfall or less, engaged in a winter wheat/summerfallow rotation in the following counties: Washington State – Adams, Benton, Douglas, Franklin, Grant, Klickitat, Lincoln, **Walla Walla** and Yakima. Oregon State – Gilliam, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla and Wasco.

For more information and applications, please check the WAWG website at: www.wawg.org or called them at 1-800-598-6890, etc. 11.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

All of us from the Columbia and Walla Walla County FARM SERVICE AGENCY wish you and your families the very best during this holiday season and a healthy, happy and prosperous NEW YEAR!!

Julie, Lee Ann, Christy, Gerri, Nicole, Jeri, Norma and Ray