

December 21, 2007

# Columbia/Walla Walla County FSA News

Phone: (509) 382-2421 Dayton (509) 522-6347 Walla Walla

## COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Ballots for County Committee elections in Columbia and Walla Walla County have been counted and results tallied. In Walla Walla County, Jack McCaw was elected to serve a second term as a Committee member. Don Anderson will serve as first alternate and may be asked to attend meetings if Jack is not available.

In Columbia County, Valerie Turner ran unopposed and was elected to serve a second term as a committee member. Both of these individuals have done an excellent job as your representatives on the FSA County Committee and I look forward to working with them for another three-year term. Congratulations to both and thanks to all those who took the time to cast their votes.

### Status of the New Farm Bill

The House of Representatives passed its version of the new farm bill back in July and the Senate has passed its version this past Friday. It is anticipated that there will most likely still be some substantial changes made to the bill before both houses support it as outlined and present it to the President for his approval. At this time, we have no information regarding what the new farm program will offer in place of the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP), whether there will be advance payments, or any other details. We will let you know as soon as we know any details of the 2008 Farm Bill.

### CROP DISASTER PROGRAM UNDERWAY

Signup for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) is in progress. This program may provide some additional assistance to those suffering from a crop loss in 2005, 2006, or 2007. For 2007, crops **must have been planted or prevented from being planted before February 28, 2007**. If a loss was experienced in each of the listed years, only the year with the greatest loss will be paid.

**ONLY those producers who purchased** Federal Crop Insurance Coverage (FCIC) or Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) insurance in the year of the loss are eligible for benefits under this disaster program. Crops covered under other insurance policies, such as Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR), AGR-Lite and Written Agreements are also eligible. County offices have received information from the Risk Management Agency (RMA) outlining who in each county had crop insurance coverage in the years 2005, 2006 and 2007. The Crop Disaster Program does not pay for revenue based losses (i.e., if the price dropped, that is not an eligible loss).

To be eligible for a CDP payment, you must have suffered a loss in production of more than 35% of your historic proven yield or the county established average, whichever is greater. Program payments are limited to \$80,000 per eligible person or entity.

If you received an indemnity payment on your insured crop, you will not be required to provide the county office with any additional production records for production losses. If your harvested production did not qualify for indemnity yet you believe your loss was greater than 35% of your historic yield or the county established average, you may need to bring your production records into the county office for us to review. If you had a loss for crops covered under NAP, and have not provided the county office with your production records, you will need to do so.

### LIVESTOCK PROGRAMS

Signup for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) are also in progress.

**The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)** Livestock producers who suffered losses from natural disaster may be eligible for payment based on their feed loss and livestock numbers. The major disaster condition that qualifies producers in our area is the 2005 drought. When applying for the program, producers need to provide their livestock numbers as of January 1, 2005, their rangeland pasture acreage and cost of any additional feed that was purchased as a result of the

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 Phone: (509) 545-8543

**Walla Walla County FSA**  
 1501 Business One Circle # 100  
 Walla Walla WA 99362-9526  
 FAX: (509) 525-2811

### Walla Walla County Committee

Jack McCaw, Chairman  
 Steve Bughi, Vice Chairman  
 Steve Hair, Member  
 Valerie Cochran, Advisor

### Office Staff

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

### Columbia County FSA

202 South Second Street  
 Dayton WA 99328-1327  
 FAX: (509) 382-4084

### Columbia County Committee

Valerie Turner, Chairman  
 Dan McKinley, Vice Chairman  
 Jay Penner, Member

### Office Staff

Christy Bell  
 Gerri Richter

### Office Hours

Monday – Friday  
 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

### 2007 Loan Rates

Columbia		Walla Walla
\$2.84/Bu	SWW	\$2.84/Bu
\$3.12/Bu	HRS	\$3.12/Bu
\$3.28/Bu	HRW	\$3.29/Bu
\$2.13/Bu	Barley	\$2.16/Bu or
\$88.76/Ton		\$90.00/Ton
\$1.30/Bu	Oats	\$1.30/Bu or
\$81.25/Ton		\$81.25/ton

### Dates to Remember:

Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> : Office Closed  
 Christmas

Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>: Office Closed,  
 New Year's Day

Jan 21<sup>st</sup>: Office Closed  
 Martin L. King Jr. Birthday

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



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disaster condition. Please call the county office for more information on this program.

**The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** may compensate those livestock owners who lost livestock in the Columbia Complex Fire of 2006 or the School House Fire of 2005. To be eligible the animal must have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation on the day the animal died and it must have died in an eligible disaster county after January 1, 2005, and before February 28, 2007.

### **CRP WEED CONTROL/SEEDING PRACTICES**

Great progress has been made by many in regard to weed control efforts and enhancing their grass stands on CRP contracted acreages. Your efforts are appreciated as it is imperative that the integrity of this program is maintained. Those who have stated their intent to perform needed maintenance practices, such as harrowing, mowing, burning, and/or spraying need to report completion of these practices to ensure that the county office has a record that work you stated you would do has been completed. Any planned re-seeding needs to be completed in accordance to your plan. Please contact the local NRCS office regarding any concerns you may have about seeding conditions, etc. The County Committee is committed to continue monitoring the condition of area CRP acreage throughout the county. If the improvements you agreed to make to your grasses are not made, your CRP contracts risk being out of compliance with the program provisions and may be assessed "failure to fully comply" payment reductions and/or contract termination.

### **Impress Your Lender from the Start**

There comes a time when most farm operations need credit to operate. While planting crops or repairing equipment may come naturally, dealing with lenders may seem intimidating to first-time borrowers. There are a few steps that borrowers can take to help make the loan application process go smoothly and quickly.

- Provide the lender with an accurate income statement and balance sheet.
- Project cash flow for the business for at least a year - or longer.
- Maintain a good set of farm business records and use them to make management decisions.
- Approach a lender in a businesslike manner with a business plan.
- Arrange credit in advance of major purchases.
- Have a repayment program developed.
- Give the lender time to review the plan and make suggestions - but not too much time.
- Maintain good communication with the lender such as asking questions as they arise.
- Avoid split lines of credit if possible by staying with one lender.
- Practice good production and financial management at all times.
- Do everything possible to build understanding and trust with your lender.
- Set long-range goals for the business and for the family and develop a plan for reaching them.

The Farm Service Agency works directly with borrowers through the direct loan programs. These programs target beginning farmers and others who may have difficulty obtaining loans from commercial lenders. FSA also makes guaranteed loans available through commercial lenders. To learn more about FSA loan programs, contact Jon Wilson, Farm Loan Manager at 509-545-8543.

### **HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!!**

The Columbia and Walla Walla County Committees and office staffs would like to wish you a very happy and safe holiday season. As Americans we have much to be thankful for. Thank you for your patience with us this past year. Working for you, our American farmers and ranchers make all our efforts worthwhile. Thank you for all you do. Enjoy the season and see you in 2008!