

February 16, 2007

# Columbia/Walla Walla County FSA News

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

## REPORT OF PAYMENTS

All producers who received FSA program payments during calendar year 2006 should have received a form CCC-1099-G, in the latter part of January. This form indicates the amount of payments that you received during calendar year 2006. Amounts listed on this form have been reported to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

In past years, FSA has also provided refund information on form CCC-1099-G as a customer service. However, there is **no** IRS requirement to do so. Due to recent procedural changes, producer refunds will no longer be reported on the 1099-G. Producers were informed of this change on the "Important Information" section on the back of calendar year 2005 1099's. A reminder is also included in the "Important Changes" section on the back of calendar year 2006 1099's.

If you refunded a payment in calendar year 2006, the County office can provide you with a "Year to Date Activity report that will identify all payments and refunds recorded under your tax identification number. This report can then be provided to your accountant if needed.

If you have set up your personal User ID number and Password, you can access this information on-line. For more information regarding on-line access to your personal FSA records please go to the following web site.

<http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/eauthWhatIsAccount.html>

## CRP – WEED CONTROL DURING PRIMARY NESTING SEASON

The established primary nesting period in Washington State is April 1 through August 1. This time period was lengthened from April 1 to June 1 as a result of a complaint filed by the National Wildlife Federation against the Farm Service Agency. *No CRP haying or grazing is permitted during the primary nesting period (April 1 through August 1).* All approved Emergency CRP grazing will end on March 31<sup>st</sup> and all cattle must be removed by that date!

Provision of the CRP contract generally **prohibits** any activity on **established CRP stands** during the primary nesting season. (A CRP grass stand is generally considered to be established within 2-years from the date seeded.) Requests to conduct any management practices during the nesting season will only be authorized if it is determined to be the best method and time to improve the stand.

If you intend to complete ANY CRP MAINTENANCE during the primary nesting period, your proposed actions must be presented to the County Committee in ADVANCE, in accordance with spot treatment criteria.

If you are planning to complete some weed control efforts on your established CRP or CREP acreage, plan ahead! Any violations regarding CRP disturbance during the primary nesting period will result in noncompliance of your CRP contract.

**Changes in CRP Haying and Grazing Provisions** have been mandated as a result of National Wildlife Federation complaint. Effective immediately, any new CRP contracts, including re-enrolled contracts can be grazed no more than once in 10-years and stocking rates shall not exceed 75 percent of the NRCS approved stocking rate.

This policy does not apply to existing contracts where managed haying and grazing was authorized under a conservation plan of operations approved before September 26, 2006.

## DEADLINES FOR NON-INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The application closing date to purchase coverage for the 2007 crop year for spring planted crops under the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is March 15<sup>th</sup>. Crops affected by the March 15<sup>th</sup> closing date include most spring planted crops not covered through your crop insurance agent, ie. small grain forages, vegetable seed crops, summer planted buckwheat.

To be eligible for NAP benefits, production loss must be attributed to adverse weather conditions. *Losses must be reported to FSA within 15 days after the adverse weather event or when the loss becomes evident.*

Producers pay an application fee of \$100 per crop with a \$300 cap per county. The maximum for multiple crops in more than one county is \$900. In return, you receive a payment if all eligibility requirements have been met and the crop suffers

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Valerie Turner  
Dan McKinley

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Christy Bell  
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**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:

Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> – President's Day Holiday  
March 17<sup>th</sup> – St. Patrick's Day

**Call for appointment to sign-up**

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



greater than a 50% production loss for weather related damages.

Contact the county office if you would like more information or are interested in applying for NAP coverage.

## FARM STORED LOAN REMINDERS

Do not forget to obtain approval from FSA prior to removing grain from a bin that is under Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loan. Check bins regularly for bugs, heating, mold etc. Remember, it is the producer's responsibility to maintain the quality of the grain when under loan. CCC is not responsible for losses in quality. Also, don't forget that March 31<sup>st</sup> is the final date to take a loan on most 2006 crops.

## DCP SIGNUP CONTINUES

Signup for the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) continues through June 1, 2007. As stated in earlier newsletters, during signup we will be thoroughly reviewing all files to insure signatures are correct and all forms applicable to your farming operation are current and accurate. This will take some additional time so please plan accordingly. Call for an appointment before coming in the office to insure we will have all paperwork ready when you come in.

Remember, there are two potential types of payments available for producers who participate in DCP. **Direct payments** are issued regardless of the actual market price of the commodities. Direct payments are issued annually on 85% of the established crop base times the payment yield. Direct payment rates are 52 cents/bushel for wheat, 28 cents/bushel for corn, 24 cents/bushel for barley and 2.4 cents/bushel for oats. 22% of the total direct payment can be requested in advance with the balance of the payment issued in October.

**Counter-Cyclical Payments** are paid if market prices fall below certain levels during the 12-month marketing periods for the applicable commodity. Depending on the comparison between national average market levels and target prices, it is possible to receive 2 advance payments based on market projections. However if those projections don't pan out, you are required to refund any advance counter-cyclical payments received.

## WHEAT GROWERS ASSOCIATION INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) is seeking a student to work with its Washington DC staff as a summer intern. The internship is intended for students in their Junior or Senior year of college prior to graduation. This internship will provide the selected student with a vast amount of experience including working with Congress, attending hearings and meetings, helping to prepare testimony and tracking votes. NAWG will work with the selected applicant to secure any potential college credit and will provide a stipend of \$1,500/month (\$4,500 total) to assist with living expenses. Students interested in this opportunity must be able to work well in a group setting, demonstrate an interest in agriculture, have a working knowledge of government and be interested in pursuing an agriculturally-related career after graduation. The application deadline is April 1, 2007. For more information, please contact the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) at 509-235-2715. The Columbia and Walla Walla County FSA offices will also have some information available regarding this internship.

## For More Information regarding on-Line Program Availability

Please feel free to give me a call, or check out the FSA Website at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) . You can complete your on-line program registration by accessing: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> . Receiving your e-Authentication Account will allow you to access your program participation information, review your program payment history, print out your 1099G, enroll in the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) or apply for loan deficiency payments. It really is quick and easy.

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