

January 22, 2007

# Columbia/Walla Walla County FSA News

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**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:**

Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> – President's Day Holiday

**Call for appointment to sign-up**

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



**CRP WEED CONTROL EFFORTS?**

Spring will be here before you know it. Do you have your CRP weed control plan ready to put into action? Many CRP participants were asked to submit their plan for weed control to the County Committee for review. It is imperative that you follow through with your stated intentions. Failure to do so **will** result in noncompliance payment reductions or possible contract termination. As stated earlier, the County Committees' are very serious regarding program compliance. By allowing CRP participants to develop their own plans regarding weed control and improving on weak stands, the responsibility lies with you to get it completed as you indicated you would.

Although it is unlikely CRP throughout the area will be spot checked as extensively as last year, the Committee members are determined to insure a very large percentage of CRP contracts are checked early this spring. Additionally, those contracts that were not checked last year, due to restrictions resulting from the numerous wildfires, will be checked for grass stand health and weed presence. **Even though CRP contract extensions and/or re-enrollments may have been offered, if the 2007 spot checks result in an adverse finding, the offered extension may be rescinded and current contracts may be terminated.**

I can not stress enough the importance of taking aggressive action to clean up your CRP. It is not only imperative that you control weeds to remain in compliance with program provisions, it is also important as a good neighbor. The County office frequently receives complaints from individuals with land neighboring CRP fields. If you do not stop the onset of weeds on CRP they will create problems, not only for you but your neighbors. When the County office receives complaints regarding potential program non-compliance, we are required to follow-up on the complaint. Weeds creating the greatest heartburn to the County Committee and your neighbors are generally: Star Thistle, Cereal Rye, Rush Skeleton weed, Russian Thistle, and this past year Jim Hill Mustard to name a few. Please, be proactive and work on controlling your weeds! Timing is critical, so get your plan prepared and be ready for spring. If you need assistance in addressing weed control options or how to improve a weak grass stand, please contact your local NRCS office or a certified crop advisor for assistance.

**DCP SIGN UP CONTINUES. .**

Signup for the 2007 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) continues through June 1<sup>st</sup>. Please remember that no payments can be made on a farm until all necessary signatures have been received in the County office. Also, as a direct result of the ongoing Agency review, all supporting documentation needs to be reviewed, updated and signed as applicable prior to payment issuance.

Advance payments for 2007 will be 22% of the projected total payment and will be issued, (if you request it) once all signatures on the farm are provided. If advance payments are not requested, the entire payment will be issued in October, 2007.

For those who have not yet begun the sign up process for 2007 DCP, please remember that the final date to enroll, without paying a \$100 late-filing fee, is June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**AGENCY REVIEW**

As stated in previous newsletters, we are working diligently in assuring all required paperwork is in order for all individuals receiving payments through USDA Farm Service Agency programs. We truly appreciate your willingness to help in this process. Many who have been in and signed up for 2007 payments have gone through this review process with us. Your cooperation and patience has made this very cumbersome process much easier to handle. **Thank You!**

Not to sound like a broken record but, don't forget that if you do not provide the proper signature on a contract or application for program payment, we will be required to send the paperwork back to you for a "proper signature", this will delay any potential payments you would otherwise be eligible to receive. When signing for corporations, trusts, partnerships or similar type entities you must write the word "by" in front of your name and identify your title after your name. (ie. *by Julie M Himmelberger, Manager*).

### **Conservation Compliance**

All participants in USDA Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) programs are required to be actively applying a conservation system in place on all highly erodible land (HEL) they operate. Several areas where problems may arise in complying with a conservation system are: renting new cropland, purchasing new land, breaking out additional cropland, planting different crops and changing or removing existing conservation practices. It is important that you contact the FSA office BEFORE taking any of these actions. Also, it is very important that you contact the county office before modifying, tilling, draining, dredging, filling or leveling any wetland or drainage ditch. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations may result in loss of all USDA payments and eligibility.

### **AFIDA**

Under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA), foreign persons acquiring or transferring interest in agricultural lands are required to report such dealings to the Farm Service Agency office in which the land is located, within 90 days of the date of acquisition or transfer. Penalties for failure to disclose these holdings may be assessed at not more than 25% of the fair market value of the land. FSA offices are required annually to provide notification of these requirements. If you will be selling lands to foreign persons, either as an individual, or as a real estate agent, please be aware of these requirements. For more specific information, please call the County FSA office serving your land.

### **Adjusted Gross Income**

Under the 2002 Farm Bill, producers are ineligible for certain FSA program payments and benefits if their adjusted gross income (AGI) is in excess of \$2.5 million; unless, 75 percent of the AGI is from farming, ranching or forestry operations. This is based on an average of the 3 previous years' tax returns. AGI is effective through 2007. Entities and all ownership members must certify individually on form CCC-526 before payments can be issued.

AGI is not to be confused with the gross revenue limit which applies to programs such as CDP, LCP and MILC. The gross revenue limit restricts eligibility for benefits if a "person" has gross revenue in excess of \$2.5 million for a previous tax year.

### **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.