

May 25, 2007

Columbia/Walla Walla County FSA News

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

Julie Himmelberger, CED
Julie.himmelberger@wa.usda.gov

Jon Wilson, Farm Loan Mgr.
 Franklin County FSA Office
 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:

May 28th: Memorial Day,
 Office closed

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



www.fsa.usda.gov

2007 ACREAGE REPORTS – IT'S TIME!

It is time to make your appointment and complete your certification of 2007 acreages. **Yes**, if you are enrolled in basically any program through the FSA office you are required to complete an **annual acreage report** to remain eligible for any potential program benefits. Accurate reporting is critical, especially important are ensuring that the shares you report are the same as the crop that is delivered to the warehouse or processor. Shares need to be the same as reported to your Crop Insurance Agent as well. Also, please remember that you need to provide planting dates when reporting acreages. Call the County office for an appointment and we will get you in as quickly as we can. **The deadline for reporting is June 30, 2007.** Late filed fees will be assessed for late filed acreage reports.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROVISIONS

Please be reminded that any fruit or vegetable harvested on DCP contract acreage will result in a payment reduction if there is history of growing fruits and vegetables from 1998 through 2001. Fruits or vegetables harvested on contract acres without the necessary history are considered a contract violation. A fruit and vegetable planting violation can result in a zero DCP payment, depending on the value of the crop and the number of acres in violation. If you have questions regarding how many acres of fruits or vegetables can be planted on your farm, please contact the County office for clarification.

COUNTY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS DUE

Nominations for the County FSA Committee are now being accepted. Nominations are completed by petition and must be delivered to the County FSA Office by August 1, 2007. Committee elections are held by mail in ballot in the fall and must be returned or postmarked by December 3, 2007. Farm owners, operators, and their spouses in the applicable area of the County up or election are eligible to run for County Committee and vote in the election. FSA encourages the nomination of under represented group candidates including minorities and women. Nomination forms will be mailed in a separate mailing or are available upon request from the County FSA Office. In Walla Walla County, the area generally identified as "the recrop area" of the County will hold election this year. This area is currently represented by Jack McCaw, who is eligible for re-election. In Columbia County, the area North of Patit Creek Road and East of Smith Hollow Road is up for election. Val Turner is the representative for this area of the County and is also eligible for re-election. Elected Committee members serve a three-year term and are eligible to serve three consecutive terms if re-elected. Producers are encouraged to get involved by nominating candidates of their choice to represent them on the FSA Committee.

DCP SIGNUP EXTENDED

Signup for the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) has been extended to August 3, 2007. As mentioned in previous newsletters, problems with FSA's computer systems and the thorough review of all files as required by the Improper Payment and Information Act (IPIA) has resulted in the need for agency officials to extend the deadline to ensure all interested producers have an adequate opportunity to signup and participate in the program. Please, call for an appointment before coming in the office to insure we will have all paperwork ready when you come in.

Producers failing to signup by August 3rd may still participate by enrolling before September 30th, but they will be required to pay a \$100 late-file fee.

NAP PRODUCTION REPORTS DUE

Producers with Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on their non-insurable crops must report their 2006 production on covered crops by June 30, 2007. Failure to report will result in an assigned yield entered in the database. The assigned yield will more than likely reduce the actual production history (APH) and result in lower coverage.

In addition, Producers with NAP coverage are reminded that notice of loss needs to be filed within fifteen days of the date of weather related disaster events, or when damage to a crop becomes evident. If you intend to destroy the crop, or will not continue to care for the crop through harvest, FSA must be contacted so that a loss adjuster can verify the damage prior to crop destruction. Failure to meet these requirements can compromise your coverage, or make claims ineligible for assistance.

Don't Forget! The application closing date for canola, onions, radish, carrots, turf sod grass or any fall planted crops not covered through your Crop Insurance Company is August 31st. The sales closing date for perennial grazing crops, forage crops, and forage seed is September 30th.

ASSIGNING PROGRAM PAYMENTS TO THIRD-PARTIES

Upon producer request, FSA will issue all or a portion of a program payment to a third-party, such as a lender. This can save time and effort for the producer and any third party who the producer may have the agreement with. It is very important that the producer and the third-party communicate concerning any changes in the operation that may affect the payment amount each receives. Privacy laws prevent FSA from reporting any changes directly to the third party without authorization from the involved producer. In situations where the assignee or the producer receives a portion of the other's payment, they are responsible for working together to resolve any differences. If you are interested in assigning all or a portion of your program payments to a third party, please stop by the County office for more information.

SIGNATURE AUTHORITY REQUIREMENTS

County offices must verify that a signature authority is on file on the County office before accepting a signature on any program or related documents on behalf of another. When signing in a representative capacity for a husband or wife, Corporation, Trust, Estate, Partnership or other entity an indicator such as "by" or "for" should precede the signature.

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. 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.

NEED A FARM CAT?

There is a group of individuals in Walla Walla County who are involved in finding homes for Stray Cats. These cats, (your basic barn cat) have been spayed or neutered and require little more than shelter, food and water. With luck a good amount of their food might even be mice! So, if you're in need of a barn cat, or two call: Harriet at 509-375-4024 or Lee at 509-544-9782. (This is Not the Lee from the Walla Walla FSA Office)