

October 24, 2007

Columbia/Walla Walla County FSA News

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

COUNTY COMMITTEE NOMINEES

Nominations for the County FSA Committee have been submitted to the County offices by individuals willing to serve on the Committee. Committee elections are held by mail in ballot which will be mailed in November, to eligible voters in the applicable areas of the County. Ballots must be marked, signed and returned or postmarked by December 3, 2007. In Walla Walla County, the area generally identified as "the recrop area" of the County will hold election this year. Nominees for this portion of the County are Donald R. Anderson and Jack McCaw.

In Columbia County, the area North of Patit Creek Road and East of Smith Hollow Road is up for election. Val Turner has submitted her name for re-election and is running un-opposed. Elected Committee members serve a three-year term and are eligible to serve three consecutive terms if re-elected. Please be involved in the process and vote for the candidate of your choice.

Fiscal Year-End Payments

All County offices throughout the nation are currently processing final Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) payments and Fiscal year 2007 Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) payments. The process does take time, however all payments should be processed and issued by the end of October. If you are expecting a program payment and have not received one by the first of November, please contact the applicable County office. Several payments are not authorized for release due to the fact that all updated eligibility information has not been provided to the County offices. As stated in previous newsletters, all program participants are required to review their farming operations and provide us with updated information, or verification that all information on file is correct **before** any program payments can be issued. Until you have provided the County office with these required updates, your payments can not be issued.

CROP DISASTER PROGRAM SIGN-UP BEGINS

Signup for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) has begun. Due to the fact that we are currently focusing all efforts in processing program payments, it would be appreciated if you could wait until November to set up an appointment to signup for this program. At this time no ending date for the program signup has been announced. It is anticipated signup will continue for a few months.

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.

Although similar to previous Disaster programs, there are some significant differences with this one. Eligible Crops are only those for which Federal Crop Insurance Coverage (FCIC) or Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) insurance was purchased in the year of the loss. 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.)

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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
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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:

Nov. 12th: Veteran's Day,
 observed, Office closed

Nov. 22nd: Thanksgiving Day
 Office Closed

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



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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. Quality losses of greater than 25% may also be eligible for program payments. However, signup for the **Quality Loss** portion of this program has not yet been announced. Program payments are limited to \$80,000 per eligible person or entity. CDP payments may be assigned to a third party, such as a lending institution. However, the payment assignment must identify the Crop Disaster Program and must have been submitted to the applicable County FSA Office after May 25, 2007.

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 will need to bring your production records into the County office for us to review. For crops covered under NAP, if you had a loss and have not provided the County office with your production records you will need to do so.

LIVESTOCK PROGRAMS

Another portion of the "U.S. Troop Readiness, Veteran's Care, Katrina Recovery and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007" (the Act which covers the Crop Disaster Program), addresses losses experienced by livestock operations in the years 2005 through 2007. This program provides monetary assistance to eligible livestock operations for livestock deaths and feed losses that occurred between January 1, 2005, and February 28, 2007.

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. Please contact the County office for more information on this program.

The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) This program provides compensation for feed losses that occurred as a result of an eligible disaster event that occurred between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007. As with the LIP, the animal must be maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation. Eligible livestock includes: beef cattle, dairy cattle, buffalo/beefalo, sheep, goats, swine, poultry, Horses (if used as part of a commercial livestock operation only). Farm raised Deer and Elk would also qualify for this program. Payments vary depending on the kind of livestock. An adult beef (cows and bulls) would be paid at a rate of \$10.66 per head. As with the Livestock Indemnity Program, please contact the County office for more detailed information on this program.

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, and print out your 1099G.