

Average crop revenue election program signup to begin in spring

Morrow County FSA County Executive Director Darcy Vial said that enrollment for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program for farms with base acres will begin Dec. 22 and will continue until June 1, 2009.

Producers can visit their local USDA Service Center or their administratively assigned center to complete their 2009 DCP contract. The June 1, 2009 deadline is mandatory for all participants. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications. USDA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2009, eligible producers may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. USDA will issue advance direct payments beginning Dec. 2008. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price. The effective price for each covered commodity and peanuts equals the direct payment rate plus the higher of the national average market price received by farmers during the 12-month marketing year or the national average loan rate.

Producers who are eligible for the DCP Program will also be eligible to enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program. The enrollment period for the ACRE Program will begin in the spring. Producers may first enroll in the DCP Program, elect to receive advance direct payments and then later modify their enrollment to include

the ACRE program or they may wait and elect to enroll in DCP and ACRE at the same time in Spring 2009.

The optional ACRE Program provides a safety net based on State revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity. For the 2009 crop, the 2-year price average will be based on the 2007 and 2008 crop years.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the State and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. The payment is based on 83.3 percent (85 percent in 2012) of the farm's planted acres times the difference between the State ACRE guarantee and the State revenue times the ratio of the farm's yield divided by the State expected yield. The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may not exceed the total base on the farm. In exchange for participating in ACRE, in addition to not receiving counter-cyclical payments, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20 percent, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30 percent.

The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.

Direct payment rates and maximum counter-cyclical rates for 2009: Direct Payments and Maximum Counter-Cyclical Rates for Covered Commodities and Peanuts, Crop Year 2009

2008 Nativity art show a 'treat for the senses'

from Carol Michael

Upon entering the 2008 Nativity Art Show, No Room At The Inn, a nativity art show held December 6-7 at the Boardman Senior Center, an exhibit of twirling German style pyramids greeted visitors. In the traditional setting, pyramids turn when heat rising from decorative candles moves wooden propeller blades. At the art show, currents provided by a small fan turned the pyramids.

Moving through the 52 individual exhibits, one would see nativity themed tapestries adorning the walls, and the floor and tables covered with nativities of many sizes and forms. Sets varied from formal Spanish and Italian porcelain to primitive wooden sets lovingly crafted by local fathers and woodworkers. A most intriguing nativity, complete with kings and shepherds, was in made in Africa of banana leaves.

Community Groups involved with the art exhibit included: Boardman Sr. Citizens; Riverside High School Honor Society; Sam Boardman Elementary School Staff; Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church; and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Exhibitors came from Boardman, Irrigon, Hermiston, Pendleton; and the Tri-Cities WA.

Nativity Scenes displayed were from many cultures: Mexican, Columbian; Peruvian; German; Swedish, Thai; Vietnamese, African; and Italian. Materials included fabric; yarn; felt; china; pottery, Bisque; straw, olive wood from the Holy Land; banana leaf; plastic and more.

Mary Lou Daltoso, North Morrow Community Foundation, and chair of the event, acknowledged that funding support from Morrow County Unified Recreation District was critical to the success of this art show.

Rep Greg Smith appointed to key education and public safety

"Funding for education and public safety will be critical in the upcoming legislation session," said State Representative Greg Smith (R-Heppner) after his recent appointments to the Sub Committees on Education and Public Safety for the Joint Committee on Ways and Means. Smith will also be a member of the Full Ways and Means Committee.

"The state budget is facing potentially devastating cuts, and I'm excited to have the opportunity to serve on these very important committees."

Dixie Lund, President of Eastern Oregon University, expressed her approval of Smith's committee assignments. "Representative Smith has always been a strong advocate for education, and as an EOU alum, he is particularly aware of the unique challenges affecting the smaller, regional universities in Oregon. We are very pleased with Representative Smith's appointment to the Ways and Means Education sub-committee and look forward to working with him and other legislators on issues facing education in rural Oregon."

"Blue Mountain Community College is encouraged that Representative Smith has been assigned to both the Ways and Means Committee and its Education Sub-Committee," reported President John H. Turner. "He understands the connection between Oregon's economic recovery, the need for a trained workforce and the role community colleges play in providing access to affordable career technical and baccalaureate-track degrees and training. We have the utmost confidence in Greg's judgment and look forward to working with him to meet the challenges facing Oregon."

Since being elected to House District 57 in 1999, Smith has served on every budget committee in the Oregon Legislature and has chaired several of them. "I am looking forward to a hand-in-hand with teachers and students to ensure we are crafting the best budget possible for our schools," explained Smith. "I will also seek advice from local law enforcement officials from Northeastern Oregon to ensure strong programs in our criminal justice system."

Heppner High School Basketball Schedule

Following is the Heppner High School basketball schedule for the 08-09 season:

- Monday-Tuesday, Dec. 29-30: Heppner Tourney vs. Dufur, Grant Union, Riverside Varsity only at Heppner, 3 p.m.
- Friday, Jan. 2: vs. Imber at Imbler, 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, Jan. 6: vs. Umatilla JV/V at Heppner 3 p.m.
- *Friday, Jan. 9: vs. Union JV/V at Union, 3 p.m.
- *Saturday, Jan 10: vs. Weston JV/V at Heppner, 1 p.m.
- *Friday, Jan 16: vs. Enterprise JV/V at Heppner, 3 p.m.
- *Saturday, Jan. 17: vs. Elgin JV/V at Heppner, 1 p.m.
- *Friday, Jan. 23: vs. Pilot Rock JV/V at Heppner, 3 p.m.
- *Saturday, Jan. 24: vs. Weston McEwen JV/V at Athena, 1 p.m.
- *Friday, Jan. 30: vs. Stanfield JV/V at Stanfield, 3 p.m.
- *Saturday, Jan. 31: vs. Irrigon JV/V at Heppner, 1 p.m.
- *Friday, Feb. 6: vs. Enterprise JV/V at Enterprise, 3 p.m.
- *Saturday, Feb. 7: vs. Elgin JV/V at Elgin, 1 p.m.
- *Tuesday, Feb. 10: vs. Pilot Rock JV/V at Pilot Rock, 3 p.m.
- *Friday, Feb. 14: vs. Union JV/V at Heppner, 3 p.m.
- Friday-Saturday, Feb. 20-21: District Tournament, Pendleton, time TBA

Mustang Wrestling Schedule

Following is the Heppner High School wrestling schedule for the 08-09 season:

- Jan. 3: Riverside Rumble, 9 a.m.
- Jan. 9-10: Jo-Hi Invitational, 10 a.m.
- Jan 15: at Grant Union/Crane, 5 p.m.
- Jan. 17: Sherman Invite, 11:30 a.m.
- Jan. 22: Heppner, 5 p.m.
- Jan. 24: at Gervais, 10 a.m.
- Jan. 31: Irrigon Tournament, 5 p.m.
- Feb. 7: BEO Invita-

Justice Court

Morrow County Justice Court Judge Charlotte Gray has released the following report:

- Casey W. O'Neal, 19, Heppner, Driving Uninsured, \$185 fine.
- Jean P. Gallagher, 19, Pendleton, No Operator's License, \$244 fine.

Ione High School Basketball Schedule

Following is the Ione High School basketball schedule for the 08-09 season:

- Dec. 30: Pilot Rock at home (GJV, BJV, GV, & BV) at 3 p.m.
- Jan. 3: Stanfield, away (GJV, BJV, GV, & BV) at 1 p.m.
- *Jan. 9: Sherman at home (GJV, BJV, GV, & BV) at 3 p.m.
- *Jan. 10: Central Christian in Prineville (GJV, BJV, GV, & BV) at 1 p.m.
- *Jan. 13: Echo at home (GJV, BJV, GV, & BV) at 3 p.m.
- *Jan. 16: Arlington at home (GJV, BJV, GV, & BV) at 3 p.m.
- Jan. 17: Helix, away (GJV, BJV, GV, & BV) at 1 p.m.
- *Jan. 23: Cascade Locks at home (GJV, BJV, GV, & BV) at 3 p.m.
- *Jan. 24: Echo, away (GJV, BJV, GV, & BV) at 1 p.m.
- *Jan. 30: Horizon Christian at Hood River (GJV, BJV, GV, & BV) at 3 p.m.
- *Jan. 31: Condon/Wheeler at home (GJV, BJV, GV, & BV) at 1 p.m.
- *Feb. 3: Nixyaawii at home (GJV, BJV, GV, & BV) at 3 p.m.
- *Feb. 6: Arlington, away (GJV, BJV, GV, & BV) at 3 p.m.
- *Feb. 7: Condon/Wheeler in Fossil (GJV, BJV, GV, & BV) at 1 p.m.
- *Feb. 13: Helix at home (GJV, BJV, GV, & BV) at 3 p.m.
- *Feb. 14: South Wasco in Maupin (GJV, BJV, GV, & BV) at 1 p.m.
- Feb. 19-21: District Tournament in Umatilla, TBA

* denotes a league game

Heppner Garden Club announces January meeting date

Heppner Garden Club will hold its meeting on Monday, January 5, at 1:30 p.m. at Heppner High School. The program will be about Shepherd's Flat Wind Farm and will be delivered by Patricia Pilz from Sacramento, CA. The public is invited to attend.

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THERE'S STILL HOPE

Perhaps you were turned down by a bank when you applied for a mortgage because your income was too low for the size of the loan desired. Don't give up, there's still hope. Today, banks sell more than half of their mortgages on the secondary market made up of companies such as: Ginnie Mae, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. They pool mortgages, change them to securities and sell the stock to investors. These secondary buyers have strict income guidelines which may state, for example, that the total monthly payments may not exceed 25 to 30% of gross income. That's the bad news.

The good news is that loans NOT sold by banks into the secondary market are retained by them for their own investment. These banks have much more flexibility to establish their own income guidelines which may not be as strict.

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