

Direct Seed Farm Tour

The Umatilla County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is planning a FREE tour to John Aeschliman's farm in Colfax, WA. John has been a direct seeder since the mid-1970's and has given presentations in Pendleton at our direct seed breakfast discussion groups and at our annual Sustainable Ag Seminar in December 2007. John has also been involved with the WSU Cook Agronomy Farm and serves on the Advisory Board.

The tentative date is May 29th. The SWCD would rent a bus and we would spend the day touring his farm. John has a lot of stories to share of his direct seed successes and pitfalls; this would be a fun, entertaining, and great learning experience for long-time direct seeders and those who are new to no-till farming.

If you are interested in attending or know someone who may be; please contact Heidi Hartman at 541-276-8131 or nrs@my180.net. We would like to have a minimum of 25 people to sign-up to make this tour happen, so please RSVP if you would like to go.



ACRE Analysis Tools Available on Web



Umatilla County USDA FSA held their first workshop, Thursday, May 7, to provide information on the Average Crop Revenue Election (ARCE) Program. They may present another workshop in June, if needed.

The ACRE Program is an option available to producers that is an alternative revenue-based safety net to the price-based safety net that has been available in recent years. The decision to elect ACRE may be made in any of the crop years 2009-2012; however, once the ACRE election is made, it is irrevocable and cannot be changed from the time it is elected through the 2012 crop year. There are several moving parts to the analysis for each individual farm. Listed below are resources available on the web, some are calculators, others are presentations by ag economists at land grant universities.

The University of Illinois has posted a free presentation on the ACRE program. The slide set and recorded voice "lecture" is located at:

<http://www.farmdoc.uiuc.edu/presentations/2009%20items/ACRE-farmdoc/player.html>

Texas A&M has released a calculator for estimating ACRE payments. You will need to scroll down to the bottom of the page and hit the "I agree" button to start the program. The online calculator is located at:

<http://www.afpc.tamu.edu/models/acre/index.php>

Remember, any ACRE calculator is basing results on a 2009 yield forecast and a 2009/10 price forecast (and later years). The A&M calculator gives growers suggested numbers but the user is allowed to enter their own forecast. The University of Illinois also has a free ACRE calculator located at:

<http://www.farmdoc.uiuc.edu/fasttools/index.asp>

The A&M calculator runs on their site so there is no need to download the program. You may have a problem downloading the Illinois model because of your security code setting on your internet browser.

Doing your homework is important for these decisions—so sharpen your pencils...

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CALENDAR

May 2009

May 21 Umatilla County Weed & Crop Tour
Touring: Helix, Juniper Canyon Area

8:00am Registration ~ Coffee & Donuts
Location: OSU Umatilla County Extension
Contact: Extension 541-278-5403

June 2009

June 4 Grass Seed Field Day
8:30am Registration
Location: HAREC
Hermiston, OR
Contact: 541-567-8321

June 2009 (cont.)

June 8 Cereal Field Day
6:30am **Location:** HAREC
Hermiston, OR
Contact: 541-567-8321

June 9 CBARC Field Day
Location: Pendleton, OR
Contact: 541-278-4186

June 10 CBARC Field Day
Location: Moro, OR
Contact: 541-278-4186

June 30 HAREC 100th Year Celebration
Location: Hermiston, OR
Contact: 541-567-8321

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