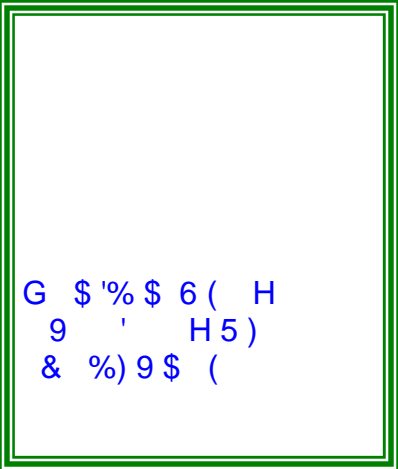
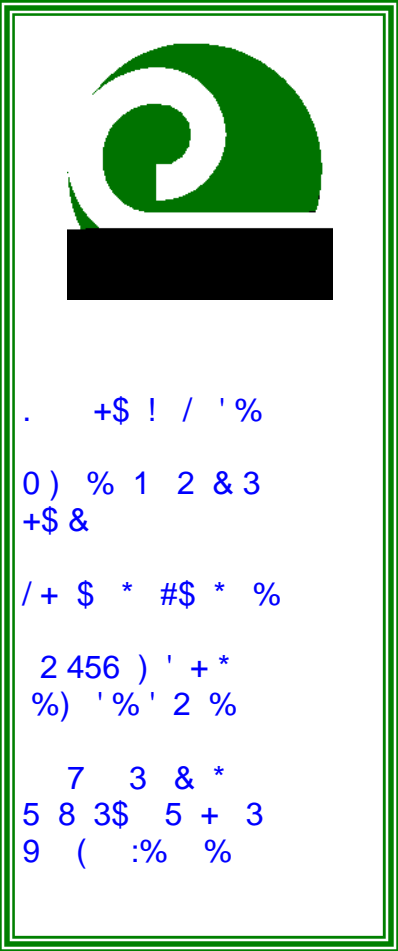


Walla Walla County Conservation District

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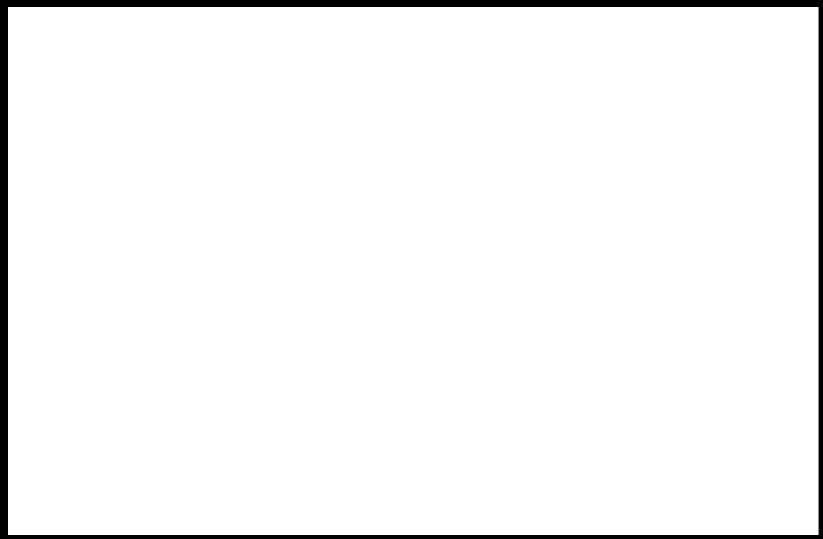
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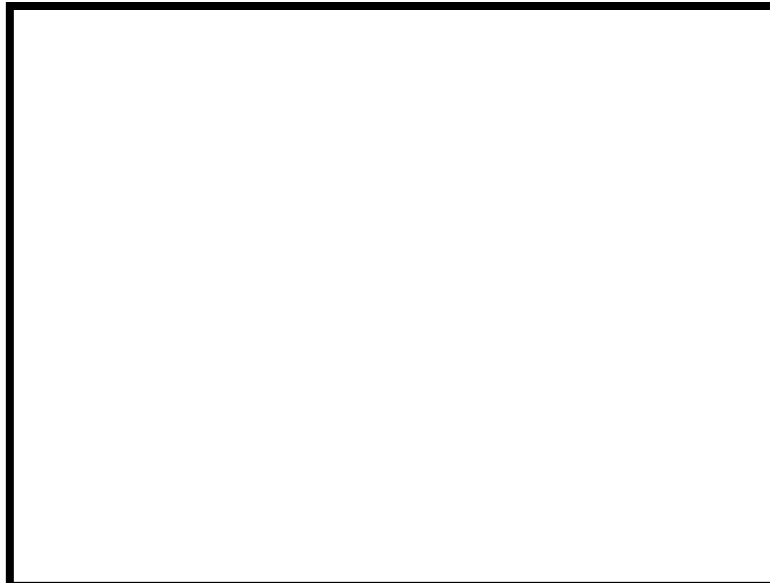
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ATTENTION ASPARAGUS GROWERS!

A grower, with any size of operation, who produces asparagus and can meet the USDA Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) for Farmers eligibility requirements is eligible for an intensive technical assistance training program, professional consultation in the development of a business plan, and a cash payment of up to \$12,000 to help implement the plan. The training will help any asparagus grower increase profitability, improve production efficiency, consider marketing opportunities, evaluated alternative enterprises, and in general become more competitive. The training will be developed and be provided by Extension educators, specialists, and industry experts. Training will be available on-line and in person-to-person workshop formats.



It is important for any interested asparagus producers to apply for this program with the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) by the **September 23, 2010 application deadline**.

Information on the Asparagus TSS for Farmers program is available at:

1. any local USDA FSA office
2. on the web at: <http://taaforfarmers.org> or (<http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/taa/taa.asp>) or by emailing or
3. calling John Nelson at the WSU Western Center for Risk Management Education, jnelson@wsu.edu, 509-477-2176.

Eligibility Requirements: Asparagus producers must provide documentation that they produced asparagus in the 2009 marketing year and during at least one of the three years previous marketing years (2006, 2007, 2008). Producers may also need to certify that their production or price declined from previous years. Interested family members or business partners may be listed as an alternate on the application form if producers are unable to attend training.

FISH PASSAGE BARRIERS STILL A PROBLEM ON SMALL STREAMS

Created intentionally or unintentionally by the informed, uninformed or indifferent – fish passage barriers are still a significant problem on small streams in the Walla Walla area. Some of the older barriers were created many years ago to divert irrigation water to small farms or garden plots or for livestock. A great many of these have been remediated over the past 10-years or so and others are on the radar screen for future treatment.

Two other types of barriers are especially irksome, however. These are 1) recreational dams – created by kids playing in the creeks, and 2) barriers created by livestock fencing. While fish can generally get through or around the recreational dams, some of the barriers created by hog-wire fencing placed in the stream are far more serious. And they need not happen. Either the WWCCD or your local NRCS staff can provide examples of good fences along or across streams that are fish friendly.

SNAKE RIVER SALMON RECOVERY REGION **COMPLETES 11th GRANT ROUND CYCLE**

As is usual this time of year, the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board (SR-SRB) has completed its most recent round of project applications. The summer and fall of 2010 marks the 11th grant round cycle held for the Snake River Salmon Recovery Area. This year, there were initially 22 proposed projects from the five counties included in the recovery area (Asotin, Columbia, Garfield, Walla Walla, and Whitman). After an exhaustive screening process that including pre-application reviews, tours of proposed projects, pre-scoring, final application development and final scoring, a total of 13 new projects and one carry-over project were considered for funding.

For the 11th grant cycle, recovery dollars were less than in previous years. Therefore, competition for available funding was even more rigorous than the past. There were close to \$2.2 million dollars in projects competing for part of the \$1.6 million dollars available for SR-SRB recovery efforts. Again, the Lead Entity Project Review Committee used a uniform ranking methodology to score and rank project proposals based on their relative merits. This committee is made up of one technical representative and two citizen representatives from each of the five counties in the recovery area.

After final scoring, ranked projects along with recommendations of the Lead Entity Project Review Committee were forwarded to the SR-SRB. The Board can accept the ranking and recommendations or re-rank the projects if desired. It appears that perhaps only 11 or 12 projects will be funded this cycle.

For details, visit the SR-SRB website: <http://www.snakeriverboard.org>. *By: Larry Hooker, Agricultural Projects Coordinator.*

Walla Walla County Conservation District

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