



NEWSLETTER



January 2013

Franklin County FSA

1533 E. Spokane St., Ste. A
Phone: (509) 545-8543 ext. 2
Fax: (509) 547-2007

Office Hours

Mon.-Fri. - 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Chris Herron – Chair
Terri Hayles – Vice Chair
Scott Knight – Member

Farm Program Staff

Bruce Clatterbuck, CED ext.104
bruce.clatterbuck@wa.usda.gov
Lynda O'Connor, PT ext.111
Patty Welch, PT ext. 109
Bonnie Anderson, PT

Farm Loan Staff

Joyce Nevingsinsberg, SFLO ext.105
Beth Farias, FLT ext. 108

FSA Web sites:

State:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>
National:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

Dates to Remember

- **Jan. 21** – Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Office closed).
- **Feb. 18** – Presidents Day (Office closed).
- **Feb. 28** – Next County Committee meeting.

*Special Accommodations: Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in any meeting, event or function should contact the county office. FSA is committed to making programs accessible to all customers.

County Committee Election Results

Farm Service Agency is happy to announce the following individuals have been elected to represent the local producers on the County Committee for Local Administrative Area #1 (north irrigated Franklin County). Elected representatives serve a 3 year term and can serve up to 3 consecutive terms.

Elected Regular Member

Scott Knight – Scott will be entering his second term serving on the committee.

1st Alternate Member

Kellan Weger – Kellan will serve as Scott's alternate should he not be able to perform his Committee responsibilities. This is Kellan's first affiliation with the FSA County Committee.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Signup

Signup for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) program continues through June 7, 2013. SURE covers weather related crop losses suffered during the 2011 crop year, through September 30, 2011.

Eligible producers must either have suffered a minimum 10% production loss to one or more crops of economic significance, and be located within a county declared as a primary disaster county, or contiguous disaster county as designated by the Secretary of Agriculture; or be an individual producer with losses of 50% or greater regardless of county designation. SURE requires applicants to have carried Federal crop insurance and/or Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on all crops of economic significance as a condition of eligibility. In order to apply for SURE, please contact our office to request an appointment.

2012 Average Crop Revenue Election Program

If you participate in the ACRE program for the 2012 crop year, you need to provide the county office with your crop production. This is an annual requirement for all participating farms. The deadline to certify your 2012 production is July 15, 2013. If you would like the county office to input your production into our system and generate the certification form for you, we will need your production prior to the deadline to ensure that you can certify it timely.

2013 Acreage Reporting Reminder

All producers that participate with Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Risk Management Agency (RMA) are required to annually report their planted acreage to be in compliance with program guidelines. As a reminder FSA and RMA have merged their reporting dates and established a set of reporting dates that are in place for 2013 crop year.

If a producer fails to report their crops by the final reporting date, their acreage reports will still be accepted but will be considered late filed. All late filed acreage reports are subject to a late file fee and spot check. Any producer that has contacted the county office by the final reporting date will be placed on a register and those producers will be considered timely filed. If you still need to report your fall planted crops, please contact the county office as soon as possible to schedule an appointment.

The dates for Washington State for 2013 are as follows:

All fall planted wheat/small grains	12/15/2012	Fall planted canola	12/15/2012
Mint	12/15/2012	Fall planted onions	12/15/2012
Alfalfa seed	12/15/2012	Perennial fruits and grapes	01/15/2013
Spring planted crops	07/15/2013	CRP	07/15/2013
Perennial forages*	07/15/2013	Buckwheat	08/15/2013

* Contact the office for special 15 day reporting requirements.

Changes to IRS Forms 1099-G and 1099-MISC for Calendar Year 2012

In past years, IRS Forms 1099-G were issued to show all program payments received from the Farm Service Agency, regardless of the amount. For calendar year 2012, the 1099-G reporting will change. IRS Form 1099-G (Report of Payments to Producers) will only be issued to producers whose reportable payments total \$600 or more for the calendar year. Additionally, if the producer has at least \$600 in reportable payments received from multiple FSA offices, only one Form 1099-G will be issued. Producers subject to voluntary withholding or backup (involuntary) withholding will receive the appropriate IRS form even if combined payments are less than \$600. The same changes will apply to producers and vendors who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA. Any producer who receives less than \$600 in combined payments should consult a tax advisor to determine if these payments must be reported on their tax return.

Farm Program Staff Personnel Changes

We are very saddened to report that our long time colleague and Pasco office FSA team member, Bonnie Riehle passed away unexpectedly in November due to surgical complications. Bonnie started as a temporary employee back in 1987 with the then Walla Walla ASCS office (before ASCS and Farmers Home Administration merged into FSA). In 1988 she and her husband moved to Pasco and she began her 24 year career with our office. Bonnie was a genuinely joyful person in the office and was a devoted Mom and wife. We are sorry to bring to you this sad news. She is and will truly be missed.

While Bonnie Riehle could never be replaced, we are fortunate to welcome a new (to Pasco) experienced FSA employee, Bonnie Anderson. Bonnie has been with FSA (most recently in the Benton County office) for 26 years and brings a wealth of FSA farm program experience to the office. We welcome Bonnie to the Franklin County FSA team and look forward to working with her. Bonnie's first day with the office is January 14.

Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced a claim process open to Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA between 1981 and 2000 due to denial of application for loan or loan servicing assistance. The claim period began September 24, 2012, and will continue through March 25, 2013. The voluntary claims process will make available at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief to eligible claimants. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

Information related to applying for consideration under the claim process may be obtained by calling 1-888-508-4429 or on the web at www.farmerclaims.gov. Claimants must register for a claims package by calling the number or visiting the website, and the claims package will be mailed to claimants.

Independent legal services companies will administer the claims process and adjudicate the claims. Although there are no filing fees to participate and a lawyer is not required to participate in the claims process, persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provided.