



# NEWSLETTER



## Pierce County FSA

1011 E. Main #107  
Puyallup, WA. 98372-6768  
Office (253) 845 9272  
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## October 2010

### Office Hours

Monday – Friday  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

### County Committee

Lucy Cerqui, Chair  
Harry Petersen, V-Chair  
Joy Garitone, Member  
Cindy Stolz, Member

### Office Staff

George R. Jaquish, CED  
Kathy Modin, PT

### Farm Loan Staff

Mark Tuner, FLM  
(360) 354-5658  
Jeff Peterson, FLO  
Jon Wilson, FLO  
(360) 748-0084

### Next COC Meeting

December 9, 2010  
10:00 AM

### Web Sites

[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) –FSA  
National

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa/> -  
WA State FSA

<http://www.usda.gov> -USDA

Handicapped  
Accommodations: Special  
accommodations will be  
arranged for those persons  
with a physical, vision, or  
hearing impaired disability. If  
special accommodations are  
needed, please contact our  
office



## County Committee Election

Election ballots will be sent out November 5 to eligible voters in Local Administrative Area number one (LAA#1). LAA #1 boundaries are as follows:

*Pierce county, south of State route 512 and southeast of I-5 (Lakewood, Fort Lewis), west of State Route 161, south of 224<sup>th</sup> St. E., and that portion of South King County east of HWY 167, south of Holm Road extending east to county line.*

If you do not receive a ballot and you think you should, please contact the Pierce FSA office and we will check the eligible voters list for you.

We encourage everyone to vote. To make sure your vote counts, all instructions on the ballot must be followed exactly as prescribed. Do not send two or more ballots back in one envelope. And, don't forget to **sign your ballot**. All ballots must be received in the Pierce County FSA Office by **December 6, 2010**.

## Paper Check Conversion (PCC)

### Paper Check Conversion – Over the Counter (PCC – OTC)

Over the next year, FSA/CCC is moving toward an electronic method for processing producers' checks. This will allow FSA/CCC to process collections faster. When producers present checks, either in person or through the mail, the checks will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The funds will be debited from the producer's account, usually within 24 hours of receipt. Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the Service Center or visit the following U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site for detailed information:

<https://www.pccotc.gov/pccotc/pcc/usingpcc/Legal%20Notices/legalnotices.htm>

## Timely Filing Notice of Loss

With the cool spring weather and cooler summer many producers have contacted the office about potential yield losses and were wondering how and when to file a notice of loss. Historically producers don't file a notice of loss until weeks or months after completion of harvest, because that is when the loss of yield becomes apparent. FSA procedure now specifies that a notice of loss must be filed by the earlier of the following:

- 15 calendar days after the damaging weather or disaster occurrence or date damage to the specific crop acreage is apparent to the producer for low yield claims
- 15 calendar days after the normal harvest date.

It is important for producers to recognize that during the growing season, if there is a weather condition that could adversely affect their crop; they need to file a notice of loss. Also producer should file a notice of loss for each weather related condition as applicable throughout the growing season for that crop. If a producer waits to file a notice of loss a month after harvest, the notice of loss will be considered late filed.

If you have any questions about filling a notice of loss please contact our office.

## AGI Compliance

Since January, 2010, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) have provided producers with consent forms they voluntarily complete and submit to IRS. These forms authorize IRS to disclose a very limited amount of information to USDA for Average Adjusted gross Income (AGI) compliance purposes. Consent forms can be obtained at the local USDA Service Center or online at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov>.

Producers must submit the applicable form **directly to IRS**, authorizing the review, in order to retain payments subject to current AGI requirements. **USDA Service Center Employees cannot accept any tax information or consent forms.** Consent forms must be mailed to IRS within 60 days of the date the form was signed.

Two consent forms, one for individuals (CCC-927) and one for legal entities (CCC-928) are to be used. Every individual or entity who was required to file an AGI certification must file the applicable consent form.

Agents who are authorized to sign FSA or NRCS documents on behalf of a program participant are **not** authorized to sign CCC-927 or CCC-928. Consent forms must be signed by the applicable individual or authorized legal entity representative. A durable power-of-attorney may be used to sign on behalf of an incapacitated person. However, the durable power-of-attorney document must be enclosed with the CCC-927 and submitted directly to IRS.

IRS will provide FSA and NRCS with a report, indicating whether or not producers met the statutory AGI limits. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to USDA.

Producers whose average AGI appears to exceed statutory limitations will be notified by letter and provided an opportunity to submit a third party verification from a certified public accountant or attorney that demonstrates AGI limits have not been exceeded. Producers will be given 30 days to submit this verification to the Washington State FSA Office. Non-compliant participants will be required to refund applicable program payments. **Failure to submit the application consent form to IRS automatically results in a determination of non-compliance.**

If you have questions about the new AGI compliance review process, please contact your local FSA or NRCS office for more details.

## Payments

Producers are encouraged to closely monitor your farm program payments for fiscal year 20010. FSA has been transitioning to online software systems to make payments. Please know that we are trying to issue your payments as quickly as possible. Transaction statements are mailed directly from our Financial Services Center in Kansas City and may reach you after your payment is deposited into your back account. If you feel that you have not received your full farm payment please contact us.



County Executive Director