



NEWSLETTER



June, 2012

**Pierce County
Farm Service Agency**

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Office Hours

Mon. – Fri. 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Lucy Cerqui, Chair
Joy Garitone, Vice-Chair
Harry Petersen, Member
Paddy Lewis Irwin, member

Office Staff

George R. Jaquish, CED
Kathy Modin, PT

Farm Loan Staff

Mark Tuner, FLM
(360 354-5658
Jeff Peterson, SFLO
(360) 748-0084

Next COC Meeting

July 25, 2012

Dates to Remember

COC Nomination Period - 6/15 – 8/1
Acreage Reporting Deadline - 6/30
Offices closed - 7/4

More Information may be found at:

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

County Committee Nominations Open June 15

You are encouraged to nominate yourself or someone else to represent your interests on the Farm Service Agency County Committee. FSA county committees are a unique arrangement that allow local guidance for Federal farm programs. These committees are a direct link between the farm community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Committee members are a critical component of ensuring FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers. Committee members are compensated for their time and travel related to county committee duties.

This year, nominations are for a committee member to represent producers in Local Administrative Area (LAA) #3 (all of Thurston County) and LAA #4 (King County south of I-90 to Lake Holms Rd. then east to the County line, also that portion of Pierce County north of SR 512, east of I-5 at Lakewood and north of HWY 16 and then east of HWY 161 (South Hill) to 224th St E., and west of HWY 162 south to Orting). Please feel free to call the Puyallup FSA Office for a more detailed description or a copy of the LAA map.

To be eligible, producers must participate or cooperate in at least one FSA program and be of legal voting age. Nomination forms (FSA-669A) can be obtained from the Puyallup FSA office or refer to the website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>. The deadline to return nomination forms to the Puyallup FSA Office is August 1, 2012.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a voluntary program for agricultural landowners to install riparian buffers or hedgerows on salmon bearing streams. Grass filter strips and wetland enhancement practices are also available for waterways that drain into these streams. Through a unique state and federal partnership, producers can receive annual rental payments equal to 150%-200% of normal CRP rates. Participants can also earn one-time \$100/acre signing incentives and cost-share assistance that usually covers 100% of installation costs. Maintenance payments are also available for the first few years of the contract.

CREP is intended to assist agricultural landowners in dealing with the presence of salmon in the streams on their property. Contact your local FSA office if you have any questions.

Acreage Reporting

Currently local FSA offices are accepting acreage reports for planted crops. Acreage reports have historically been required to maintain eligibility for many USDA Programs. They continue to be required for CRP, NAP, DCP, and on any farm in which production will be used for a commodity loan or loan deficiency payment. Spring-planted crops must be reported by June 30, 2012 to timely certify. Beyond that date, fees will be assessed for late-filed acreage reporting.

Also, producers may lessen time spent in the FSA office during the busy summer months by providing an acreage report for fall planted crops now. Producers of perennial crops can get a big jump on the 2012 crop by filing acreages now. Producers are reminded to report any and all acreage changes or losses as they occur.

How FSA Funds Loans

Each year Congress appropriates money for FSA farm loans as part of the USDA budget. The funds are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning October 1 until September 30 of the following year. Each state is allocated a portion of the funds. When funds run low, the national office may pool money from the states and redistribute it based on need. If FSA runs out of loan funds before the end of the fiscal year, Congress may pass a supplemental appropriations bill to make additional money available. If Congress does not do so, loan applications wait until the next fiscal year to be funded.

FSA reserves loan money for two specific categories: under-represented groups and beginning farmers. By law, FSA sets aside a portion of funds for socially disadvantaged applicants. Applicants may include women, African Americans, Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asians and Pacific Islanders.

The law also requires FSA to reserve loan funds for use by beginning farmers. The funds remain targeted in the guaranteed programs until April 1 of each year and until September 1 of each year in the direct programs.

Loans are funded in date order, based on the date that applications are received. Submitting an application sets your place in the waiting line for funds, so it is advantageous to apply early in the fiscal year. FSA still accepts, processes and approves loan applications even after funds are exhausted. Approved applications are held until money becomes available or the applicant expresses a desire to withdraw the application.

Emergency loans are funded on a first-come, first-serve basis when a natural disaster is declared. Funds are kept at the national office. For more information about FSA loans, contact Jeff Peterson, SFLO, (360) 748-0084.

GovDelivery

The Farm Service Agency is moving toward a paperless operation. Producers are asked to enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail. Please contact our office for instructions and information.