



# NEWSLETTER



**June 13, 2012**

**Skagit – Island - San Juan  
County Farm Service Agency**

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**Office Hours**

Mon. – Fri. 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

**County Committee**

Len Engle, Chairperson  
Mark Wesen, Vice-Chairperson  
Todd Gordon, Member  
MR Buffum, Member  
Ernesto Rogue, Member

**Office Staff**

Brent Reitmeier, CED  
Susan King, PT  
Holly Hedblom, PT (located in Lake Stevens)

**Loan Staff** (located in Lynden)

Mark Turner, FLM  
Lynn Anderson, FLO  
Marlene Garber, FLP Tech.

**Next COC Meeting**

Tuesday, July 17<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30 am

**Dates to Remember**

- **June 30, 2012** – Final date to report acreage without a charge.
- **July 4, 2012** – Office closed in observance of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

**More Information may be found**

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

## Common Acreage Reporting Dates

Implementation of common acreage reporting dates is a major step by the Risk Management Agency (RMA) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) to reduce duplication of acreage reporting. Common acreage reporting dates will allow producers to report acreage to crop insurance agents or FSA, without having to report the same information twice. Also, the common reporting dates between the two agencies will help reduce USDA operating costs by allowing the sharing of similar data across participating agencies within USDA.

This change does not reduce or modify the programs or services that RMA or FSA provides, but will enable most crop insurance agents and FSA office staff to collect information in a more uniform and efficient manner.

Washington producers will notice changes beginning with the 2013 crop year. Producers of insured crops are encouraged to work closely with their agents to ensure they comply with the requirements of their insurance policies with respect to timely reporting acreages. **No changes will occur to the FSA June 30 final reporting date in 2012.**

Changes will begin with the reporting of 2013 fall planted crops. Crops like winter wheat, winter barley, and fall canola will need to be reported on or before December 15, 2013. Growers of perennial crops like apples, blueberries, cherries, cranberries, apricots, peaches, nectarines, grapes, pears and plums will be required to report by January 15, 2013. All other crops must be reported by July 15, 2013. Crops which will be harvested or grazed before the established reporting date must be reported before harvest or grazing begins. The adoption of common reporting dates will allow producers to file a complete farm acreage report with either their local FSA office or their crop insurance agent. This adoption process may take time to fully develop.

Currently, local FSA offices are accepting acreage reports for planted crops. Spring-planted crops must be reported by June 30, 2012. 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.

## New AGI Forms Required for 2012 Participants

FSA and NRCS program participants, including all members of participating entities, must meet certain Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) requirements to qualify for benefits. Starting for the 2012 crop year, a new AGI form has been developed that both reports whether an applicant or member meets the AGI requirements and authorizes the IRS to confirm that information for FSA.

The new form also reflects an additional AGI limitation applicable only to 2012 direct payments. In addition to the \$500,000 average nonfarm AGI and the \$750,000 average farm AGI limitation, a \$1 million average AGI limitation will be applicable for 2012 direct payments.

New this year, most power-of-attorney authorizations will not work for this form. So the form will have to be signed by the participant or entity member themselves. IRS will not accept FSA power-of-attorney forms. These new AGI forms are available today from your county office or on the FSA internet site.

## FSA Seeks Candidates for County Committee

Local farmers and ranchers have an opportunity to influence federal farm programs. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting nominations for the Skagit – Island – San Juan County Committee between June 15 and August 1, 2012.

The FSA county committee system provides a unique federal government experience. Farmers and ranchers are elected by their peers to help the agency administer farm programs and provide an important information link between producers and the agency.

The five person committee is the place producers can appeal most agency determinations. The committee also makes decisions which can impact program payments. It meets approximately once a month.

To be eligible for involvement, producers must participate or cooperate in at least one FSA program and be of legal voting age. Nomination forms must be submitted to the local FSA office.

The committee draws its members from local administrative areas (LAAs). Counties are broken up into administrative areas for the purposes of representation and voting. This year's election is for LAA 1 and LAA 4.

- [LAA 1 encompasses Northwest Skagit County west of I-5 and north of Highway 20.](#)
- [LAA 4 encompasses all of San Juan County.](#)

Candidates must live in the local administrative area they will represent and must be eligible to vote in the county election. Members serve on staggered three year terms so that one-third of the seats is up for re-election each year. Committee members are compensated for official duty hours.

We encourage all producers to consider being a candidate. Producers benefit from a diverse committee representing all of agriculture in our area.

More information about the elections and nomination forms may be obtained from the local FSA office or the Farm Service Agency website - <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>.