



## EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM (ECP)

Those landowners in the **Stillaguamish Watershed** that suffered farmland damage due to December 2010 flooding can contact the county office with information regarding losses. A signup period for those losses began **April 25** and will continue through close of business **June 13, 2011**.

The ECP provides up to 75 percent cost share to a limit of 50 percent of the agricultural value of the affected land, for restoration to pre-disaster conditions of farmland, permanent fencing, and conservation structures such as culverts and ditches that directly affect the productivity of the land.

Producers should gather documentation including photos and invoices to prepare for an appointment. Please call the office at **425-334-3131 ext 2** for more information or to schedule an appointment to complete FSA-848, Cost-Share Request.



## BIOMASS CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Under the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, enacted April 15, 2011, FY 2011 BCAP funding has been capped at \$112 million.

At present, matching payments for woody biomass have not been authorized, although an announcement of availability of funds is anticipated by mid-summer 2011.

The following deadlines have been established:

FY 2011 project area proposals are due to WA State FSA Office by **May 27, 2011**. State level review of project area proposals will be completed by **June 10, 2011**. National review will be completed by **June 24, 2011**.

Additional program information can be found at [www.fsa.usda.gov/bcap](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/bcap)



## DIRECT AND COUNTER CYCLICAL PROGRAM (DCP)

DCP signup is underway and will continue through **June 1, 2011**. **Regulations no longer provide for a late-filed signup** as in the past. Accordingly, enrollment is **not permitted after June 1, 2011**. All producers on the contract with more than a zero share **must** sign by this date.

**Advance** direct payments are authorized at 22 percent of the annual payment and can be issued upon completion of all applicable forms and contract approval. **Final** direct payments are authorized after September 30, 2011. **Counter-cyclical** payments are authorized when the effective price for the commodity is less than the target price of the commodity. Payments are issued at the end of the marketing year for the commodity. Direct payment rates established under the 2002 Farm Bill continue under the 2008 Farm Bill as follows:

**Wheat** \$0.52/bu    **Corn** \$0.28/bu    **Barley** \$0.24/bu    **Oats** \$0.024/bu

## ACREAGE REPORTS

Filing an acreage report is a requirement under the Direct and Counter cyclical Program (DCP) and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Annual payments will not be issued to those persons that have not filed. **Reports are due by June 30 each year**. In years' past, acreage reports were mailed to certain producers that had repetitive crops such as grazing or hay ground. Producers are now required to visit the office in person to complete the process. Please call the office at 425-334-3131 ext 2 to schedule an appointment or email [melissa.michael@wa.usda.gov](mailto:melissa.michael@wa.usda.gov), or [holly.hedblom@wa.usda.gov](mailto:holly.hedblom@wa.usda.gov). Program participants who do not file a timely crop report will be required to pay for a mandatory site visit and measurement service fee.



### April/May 2011 North Puget Sound Area

#### Office Staff

Melissa Michael, CED  
Holly Hedblom, PT  
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#### Farm Loan Staff

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#### Office Hours

Weekdays/8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

#### E-mail us at:

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#### Dates to Remember

4/25-6/13 ECP signup period  
6/1- DCP signup ends  
6/30- Acreage reporting deadline  
7/29- 2009 SURE signup deadline  
8/1- COC Nomination deadline

#### 2011 Area Committee:

Meetings scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m.

Troy Smith	Chair
Jason Roetcisoender	Vice-Chair
Dan Bartelheimer	Member
John Gunning	Member
Rick Williams	Member
Linda Neunzig	Advisor
Yeng Cha	Advisor
Jay Cha	Advisor

#### Websites:

National USDA

<http://www.usda.gov>

National FSA

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

Washington State FSA

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



#### NPSA FARM FACTS

##### Snohomish County - 2010:

# 1<sup>st</sup> in state in annual per cow milk production  
# 2<sup>nd</sup> in broiler chicken production  
# 3<sup>rd</sup> in strawberry production

##### King County - 2010:

# 1800 farms on 50,000 acres  
# 1000 miles of agriculture ditches  
# 41 farmers markets

##### Clallam County - 2009:

# Average farm size = 49 acres  
# Ave age of county farmer = 58  
# 42% of farmland is irrigated

##### Jefferson County - 2007:

# 211 farms on 12,717 acres  
# Average farm = 60 acres  
# 30% of farmland is in crops



### **SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SURE)**

Signup for **2009 SURE** disaster program is underway and continues through **July 29, 2011**. Producers are encouraged to call the office for additional information regarding this program. Eligibility requirements include but are not limited to the following criteria:

- Suffered at least a **10% production loss** on a crop of economic significance (a crop that contributed at least 5% of the value of all crops grown on the farm);
- Obtained crop insurance through FCIC or NAP coverage through FSA for all crops grown on the farm. Exceptions include socially disadvantaged, beginning, or limited resource farmers and ranchers;
- A producers' **"farm"** is considered **all crops on all farms nationwide**;
- Payments are equal to 60% of the difference between the SURE farm guarantee and total farm revenue. The farm guarantee is based on the amount of crop insurance/NAP coverage on the farm.



### **COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS**

Each year, FSA holds elections for a County Committee person from a different administrative area within the County Office service area. This year, the North Puget Sound Area will hold elections for North King County and Clallam County. To hold office as a COC member or alternate, a person must:

- Be a producer with an interest in a farming or ranching operation;
- Participate or cooperate (have interest in, even if not receiving benefits) in a Farm Service Agency program provided for by law;
- Be a US citizen;
- Be of legal voting age;
- Reside in the county in which they will be serving.



### **PAYMENT LIMITATION**

**The 2008 Farm Bill** provides changes to payment eligibility rules which limit payments to individual and legal entities by 'direct attribution'. Maximum program payments per year follow: Direct \$40,000; Counter-cyclical/ACRE \$65,000; Disaster (SURE, LFP, LIP, ELAP) \$100,000 combined; TAP \$100,000; CRP/CREP rental & incentive \$50,000; LDP and marketing loan gains unlimited; NAP \$100,000.



### **WOOL & MOHAIR**

Loans and loan deficiency payments (LDP's) for wool & mohair have been suspended for the remainder of FY 2011.



### **NOTICE TO HISPANIC OR WOMEN FARMERS AND RANCHERS: COMPENSATION FOR CLAIMS DISCRIMINATION**

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation. You may be eligible if:

1. you sought a farm loan or farm-loan servicing from USDA during that period; and
2. the loan was denied, provided late, approved for a lesser amount than requested, approved with restrictive conditions, or USDA failed to provide an appropriate loan service; and
3. you believe these actions occurred because you are Hispanic or female.

If you want to register your name to receive a claims package, you can call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or access the following website: [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov).