



NEWSLETTER



October 2012

Stevens County Farm Service Agency

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Colville, WA 99114
Phone – 509 685-0858
Fax – 509 684-1982

Office Hours

Mon. – Fri. 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Doug Falstad, Chairperson
Ryan Esvelt, Vice-Chair
Bruce Stumpf, Regular Member
Gayla McCanna, Advisor

Office Staff

Martin Cunningham, CED
Lisa VanQuekelberg, PT

Farm Loan Manager

Houston Bruck, Spokane

Dates to Remember

- December 15th Fall seeded crops acreage report deadline
- December 3rd Final date to return election ballots

More Information may be found at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>.

County Committee Elections

Watch your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters on Nov. 5, 2012. If for some reason you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office.

Completed and signed ballots must be returned to the county office by close of business on Dec. 3, 2012.

2013 Reporting of Fall Seeded Crops (Winter Wheat)

All producers are reminded that the acreage reporting date for fall seeded crops has changed, beginning with the crop planted for 2013 harvest. The new acreage reporting date for fall seed crops is December 15, 2012 and for most fruit crops is January 15, 2013. This change applies to all fall seeded crops including winter wheat and perennial fruit crops. Please call for an appointment to certify your crops.

2008 Farm Bill Expiration – What Does It Mean to You?

Many programs and policies of the Farm Service Agency were authorized under the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) through Sep. 30, 2012. As of Oct. 1, 2012, the authority or funding provided under the 2008 Farm Bill for USDA to operate a number of these programs expired, and the authority and funding for additional programs will expire in the coming months. The latest information about FSA programs common in Washington is listed below. If Congress extends all, or a portion of, the current farm bill or passes a new farm bill, the information may change.

CRP – FSA will continue to pay all Conservation Reserve Program annual rental and cost-share payments for contracts approved before October 1, 2012. FSA will not hold a general CRP sign up until, and unless the program is re-authorized and funded. Along with the 2008 Farm Bill, authorization and funding lapsed for Continuous CRP, CREP and SAFE. Farms with CRP contracts that required a reduction in base acres when CRP was approved may restore the base acres if CRP expired, was voluntarily terminated, or early released **after** September 30, 2008, and **before** October 1, 2012.

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DCP/ACRE - FSA is making Direct Payments and Average Crop Revenue Election program payments for 2012 crops. Legislation has not been enacted to re-authorize or extend DCP or ACRE. FSA may still be required to maintain the number of base acres and yields on each farm and tract, based on legislation enacted at a later date.

LIP/LFP/ELAP – Authorization for the Livestock Indemnity Program, Livestock Feed Program and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program ended as of Sept. 30, 2011.

Loans - FSA is still accepting and processing direct operating, farm ownership, youth and emergency loans. FSA is also accepting Farm Storage Facility Loan applications.

MILC – The Milk Income Loss Contract Program ended with the 2008 Farm Bill on Sept. 30, 2012. FSA will make MILC payments for September 2012 production, in November, if milk prices adjusted for feed prices trigger a MILC payment. To obtain MILC benefits for all previous months for which a MILC payment rate was in effect, you must provide final production evidence and any supporting documentation, if not already submitted, for eligible months by **November 1, 2012**.

NAP – The Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program is still in effect. As of October 1, 2012, and until further notice, 2013 NAP benefits are not subject to compliance with average Adjusted Gross Income limitations.

SURE – Sign up for the SURE Program for 2011 crop losses will begin October 22, 2012, and will end June 7, 2013. SURE was not authorized for 2012 crop losses.

You are encouraged to still report acres and production to FSA. Maintaining current and accurate farm records benefit you for current program participation and possible future program participation.

USDA Announces Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period Now Open

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced that Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims between September 24, 2012 and March 25, 2013. The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied their applications for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000.

As announced in February 2011, 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 Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

The Department will continue reaching out to potential Hispanic and female claimants around the country, to get the word out to individuals who may be eligible for this program so they have the opportunity to participate.

Call center representatives can be reached at 1-888-508-4429. Claimants must register for a claims package (by calling the number or visiting the website) and the claims package will be mailed to claimants. All those interested in learning more or receiving information about the claims process and claims packages are encouraged to attend meetings in your communities about the claims process and contact the website or claims telephone number.

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov

Phone: 1-888-508-4429

Claims Period: September 24, 2012 - March 25, 2013.

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 provider.

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http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navtype=FT&navid=NON_DISCRIMINATION