



# NEWSLETTER



**June 12, 2012**

**Whatcom County  
Farm Service Agency**

6975 Hannegan Road  
Lynden, WA 98264-9019  
Phone – (360) 354-5658  
Fax – (360) 354-4678

**Office Hours**

Mon. – Fri. 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

**County Committee**

Theresa Sygitowicz, Chair  
Dan Noteboom, Vice-Chair  
Larry Tjoelker, Member  
Satpaul Neger, Advisor

**Office Staff**

**Farm Programs**

Ellen Medeiros, CED  
Betty Snell, PT  
Darcy Maldonado, PT

**Farm Loans**

Mark Turner, FLM  
Lynn Alderson, FLO  
Marlene Garber, PT

**Next COC Meeting**

Undetermined at this time.

**Dates to Remember**

- **June 30, 2012** – CROP REPORT DEADLINE
- **June 30, 2012** – CROP PRODUCTION REPORT DEADLINE
- **July 4, 2012** – Office closed for Observance of Independence Day
- **August 1, 2012** – Final date to submit nomination petitions for 2012 Elections

**More Information may be found at:**

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

## 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 Whatcom 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 three person committee is the place producers can appeal most agency determinations. The committee also makes decisions which can impact program payments. The committee meets approximately every other 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 #2, which is bounded to the north by the Canadian border; to the west by Guide Meridian Road and that section of I-5 between Guide Meridian Road and Mount Baker Highway (WA-542); to the south by Mount Baker Highway (WA-542); and to the east by Trapline/Mission Road. Please call the county office for a more detailed description or a copy of the LAA map.

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 and mileage.

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 by clicking on the link [here](#)

<b>COC Election Calendar</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Complete and return nominating petitions (669-A)	August 1, 2012
Ballots mailed out to producers	November 5, 2012
Ballots received in County Office or postmarked	December 3, 2012
Ballots counted by COC and county office staff	December 6, 2012

## **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 15 days 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.**

## **Reporting Crop Production Annually – Deadline for 2011 Production is June 30, 2012**

For crops covered by NAP, producers must annually provide the following production information:

- The quantity of all harvested production of the crop in which the producer held an interest during the crop year;
- The disposition of the harvested crop, such as whether it is marketable, unmarketable, salvaged or used differently than intended and;
- Verifiable or reliable crop production records (when required by FSA).

When those records are required by FSA, producers must provide them in a manner that can be easily understood by the FSA county committee. Producers should contact the FSA office where their farm records are maintained for questions regarding acceptable production records.

Failure to report acreage and production information may result in reduced or zero NAP assistance. Be aware that acreage reporting and final planting dates vary by crop and by region. Producers should contact the FSA office where their farm records are maintained for questions regarding local acreage reporting and final planting dates.

For aquaculture, floriculture and ornamental nursery operations, producers must maintain records according to industry standards, including daily crop inventories. Unique reporting requirements apply to beekeepers and producers of Christmas trees, turfgrass sod, maple sap, mushrooms, ginseng and commercial seed or forage crops. Producers should contact the FSA office where their farm records are maintained regarding these requirements.

## **Deadlines for Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program**

The application closing dates to purchase coverage for the 2013 crop year for planted crops under the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) are listed below:

<b>Crops</b>	<b>Application Closing Date</b>
Value loss crop (ornamental nursery)	May 1, 2012
Canola and rapeseed; onions, radish, carrots, and cabbage (for seed or fresh); value loss crops (aquaculture, Christmas Trees, turf grass sod, floriculture, mushrooms); artichokes and any fall planted crops not mentioned below.	August 31, 2012
Perennial grazing crops; perennial forage crops; forage seed crops; mint; wheat; garlic.	September 30, 2012
All perennial crops not listed in the 9/30 category (berries, fruit trees, grapes, asparagus); honey; hops.	November 20, 2012
Spring planted crops; small grain forages (wheat, barley, oats including annual pea forage); mustard; summer planted buckwheat; camelina.	March 15, 2013

To apply for NAP coverage, the application must be filed on or before the application closing date for the crop and NAP fees must be paid. The NAP application for coverage fee is \$250 per crop, up to a \$750 cap per county. The maximum for multiple crops in more than one county is \$1,875 per crop year. In return, the crop is covered from catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting due to natural disaster conditions.

To be eligible for NAP benefits, production loss must be attributed to adverse weather conditions. Losses must be reported to FSA within 15 days after the adverse weather event or when the loss becomes evident. You may receive a payment if all eligibility requirements have been met and the crop suffers greater than a 50% production loss for weather related damages.

Some of the basic eligibility requirements include annual reporting of crop acreages, providing actual production evidence on a yearly basis, obtaining a loss adjustor appraisal if the damaged crop will be destroyed or left unharvested.

Contact the county office if you would like more information or are interested in applying for NAP coverage.