



November 2011

Washington State FSA Office

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Executive Director**

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Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

State Staff

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County office contact
information can be found at:
http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/sto_dir.pdf
OR
<http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=wa&agency=fsa>

NOTICE: Due to funding cuts, no paper newsletters will be printed until FSA has a budget and funding to print and mail newsletters. Until then, an electronic newsletter will be posted on the FSA WA web site (around the 15th of each month).

Move with FSA to Instant Electronic Information

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation.

Producers can now enroll in the new GovDelivery system for notices, newsletters and electronic reminders and discontinue their slow and costly paper copies received through the mail.

FSA, like many other organizations, is working smarter and more efficiently. Conversion to electronic notifications via email helps conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars.

County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers.

Subscribe now to receive free e-mail updates by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe> or use the box "Sign up for updates" on the FSA homepage. Select "email updates" in the lower right navigation box and then select updates by state and county, then select the "+" next to Washington and the interested counties.

County Committee Voting - Ballots Due by Dec. 5

Voters must complete their FSA county committee ballots and return them to Farm Service Agency county offices by the close of business on Dec. 5, 2011. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight Dec. 5, 2011.

Producers who have not received a ballot may contact the FSA county office to request a ballot or check if they are in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) up for election.

Voter requirements - persons meeting either of the first two criteria plus the third criteria are eligible to vote:

1. legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as any of the following: an individual, an authorized representative of an entity, spouses when property is owned jointly or in community property states.

2. not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm.

3. participates or cooperates in any FSA program that is provided by law.

No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

The sign-up for 2010 crop losses begins Nov. 14, 2011 and will end June 1, 2012.

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that occurred in the 2010 crop year. SURE is available to eligible producers on:

- Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties that have incurred at least a 10% crop production or quality loss on one crop of economic significance. All economically significant crops grown by a producer are eligible, except grazed crops.
- Any farm in which disaster-related conditions reduced the actual crop year production on the farm to 50 percent or less of normal production for the farm.

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Program Signup Deadlines

Jan. 30, 2012 - LIP
Jan. 30, 2012 - LFP
Jan. 30, 2012 - ELAP

NAP Deadlines

2012 Crop Year

Nov. 21, 2011 - All Perennial crops not listed under the 9/30 category (berries, fruit trees, grapes, asparagus); honey

March 15, 2012 - Spring planted crops, small grain forages (including wheat, barley, and oats including annual pea forage), mustard, radish (for seed or fresh), and summer planted buckwheat

Other Important Dates

Nov. 11, 2011 - Offices closed for Veteran's Day

Nov. 14, 2011 - SURE signup begins

Nov. 21, 2011 - Perennial crop sales closing date and NAP deadline

Nov. 24, 2011 - Offices closed for Thanksgiving

Dec. 5, 2011 - COC election ballots due

Perennial Crop Sales Closing Date

The Risk Management Agency (RMA) reminds growers of the upcoming sales closing date for 2012 crop year Multi-Peril Crop Insurance (MPCI) perennial fruit crops.

• **November 21, 2011** (November 20 falls on a Sunday) - Apple, Blueberry, ARH Cherry Pilot, Cranberry, Grape, Pear and Stonefruit crop insurance.

RMA also reminds producers, if there is no coverage in a county for a specific crop under the traditional MPCI program; producers may ask a crop insurance agent whether they would be eligible for coverage under a written agreement.

Producers are encouraged to visit with their crop insurance agent soon to learn specific details for the 2012 crop year. Federal crop insurance program policies are sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance companies and agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers throughout the United States or on the RMA Web site at <http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents>.

Tree Assistance Program

Producers who suffered an eligible tree, bush, or vine loss because of a disaster event occurring on or before September 30, 2011, may file an application for the Tree Assistance Program. Plant mortality does not need to occur by September 30 but the loss does need to be reported within 90 days of becoming apparent. Payments are made under TAP to replant or rehabilitate trees, vines and bushes damaged by natural disasters.

To qualify for TAP, orchardists and nursery tree growers must:

- suffer a qualifying tree, bush, or vine loss in excess of 15 percent mortality (after adjustment for normal mortality).
- have owned the eligible trees, bushes, and vines when the natural disaster occurred; land ownership is not required.
- replace eligible trees, bushes, and vines within 12 months from the date the application is approved.

New AGI Forms Required for 2012 Participants

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. New this year, most power-of-attorney authorizations will not work for this form. So the form will have to be signed by 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.

AGI - 2009 and 2010

Producers who receive another letter concerning Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) for 2009 and 2010 will need to complete the enclosed CCC-931 form. The completed form should be returned to the Farm Service Agency national office, as indicated in the letter.

DCP/ACRE Signup Postponed

2012 DCP and ACRE signups will not start until January 23, 2012. The Farm Bill does not authorize advance payments for 2012.