



NEWSLETTER



July 2012

**Kittitas County
Farm Service Agency**
607 E. Mountain View Ave.
Ellensburg, WA 98926
Phone – 509-925-8585
Fax – 509-925-8591

Kittitas Co. Office Hours:
Wed. & Thurs. 9:00a.m.-3:30p.m.

**Yakima County Farm Service
Agency**
1606 Perry Street, Suite A
Yakima, WA 98902
Phone – 509-454-5746 x 2
Fax – 509-454-5682

Yakima Co. Office Hours:
Mon. – Fri. 8:00a.m. – 4:30p.m.

County Committee
Brent DeKoning, Chairperson
John Dyk, Vice Chairperson
Rick Haberman, Member
Cristi Eaton, Advisor

Office Staff
Lisa Ruff, Acting CED
Maria De La Mora, PT
Jennifer DeWeese, PT
Kimberly Miller, PT

Farm Loan Staff
Lisa Ruff, FLM
Scott Smith, FLO
Crispin Garza, SCL
Sandy Christensen, FLPT

Next COC Meeting
August 14 or September 11, 2012

- Dates to Remember**
- August 1 – Deadline to nominate for County Committee
 - August 1 – Deadline for farm reconstitutions

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

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

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 Kittitas 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. 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 2. This area is known as the Denmark Area and encompasses the area east of Canyon Road (Alt. Route 821) to Grant County boundary line and south of Whisky Dick Mountains to Military or Yakima County boundary line.

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>.

FARM CHANGES AND RECONSTITUTIONS

Any changes in your farm's physical makeup, such as adding or removing land, can impact your acreage bases. Farm reconstitutions must be requested by **August 1** to be effective for the 2012 program year. Your farm must comply with program requirements as it is currently structured, including required signatures and acreage reporting. Requesting a farm reconstitution after signup could delay your payment, require refunds, or require the process to be completed again.

NAP APPLICATION DEADLINES

Producers may now purchase catastrophic crop loss coverage under *Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)*. Upcoming application deadlines are as follows:

- August 31- Canola and rapeseed; radishes, carrots, and cabbage; value loss crops; artichokes and any fall planted crops not listed below
- September 30- Perennial grazing crops; perennial forage crops; forage seed crops; and garlic
- November 20- All perennial crops not listed in the September 30 category, (including berries, tree fruits, grapes & asparagus), honey and hops

The cost of the coverage is \$250 per crop, not to exceed \$750 per producer, per County. Producers interested in this program should call our office.

Remember, all current and future disaster assistance eligibility, except for LIP, is subject to producers obtaining at least a CAT level of crop insurance, or NAP coverage for uninsurable crops, for all crops on all farms.

LOANS AVAILABLE

FSA has direct and guaranteed loan programs available for family-sized farm businesses. FSA's loan programs are designed to help farmers who are temporarily unable to obtain private, commercial credit.

The loan limits for direct operating and farm ownership loans are \$300,000 each. The loan limit for guaranteed operating and farm ownership loans is a combined total of \$1,214,000. Funding is allocated for these programs after October 1 of each year.

Depending on the type of loan, funds can be used to purchase farms, livestock, and equipment, operate the farm, build or repair farm buildings, pay for water development for conservation practices and in some cases refinance debts. For additional information contact our office.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR OWNERSHIP

Please notify your local FSA office of all deaths, land ownership and address changes as soon as possible so your farm records can be updated timely. Updating records in a timely manner can help ensure all required participants appear on documents requiring signatures and prevent payment delays. A copy of the applicable recorded deed should be provided to complete the land ownership changes.

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

ASSIGNING PROGRAM PAYMENTS TO THIRD PARTIES

When requested by producers, FSA will issue all or a portion of their program payment to a third-party (assignee), such as a lender. This can save time and effort for a producer and any assignee with which the producer has an agreement. However, it is important that the producer and third-party communicate concerning any changes in operation that may affect the payment amount each receives. Privacy laws prevent FSA from reporting any changes to the assignee.

FSA will make every attempt to pay the full amount designated by the producer on an assignment form. However, FSA will only pay the assignee to the extent the producer earns the payment. In situations where the assignee or the producer receives a portion of a payment intended to go to the other, they are responsible for working together to resolve any differences.

If you would like to sign up for Assignment of Payment or would like more information on assigning program payments, contact our office.

ACCESSIBILITY

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in any meeting, event or function should contact the county office. FSA is committed to making programs accessible to all customers.

REPORTING WEATHER DAMAGE

Prompt weather related disaster reporting is crucial for FSA to determine the need for disaster declarations. Disaster declarations trigger availability of emergency loans and in some instances, additional disaster assistance programs.

Damage reports aren't just limited to crops. They can include damage to structures, eroded farmland or livestock mortality. Helpful documentation includes the specific location of farm damage, date and time of the disaster event, the type of damage (hail, wind, etc), what was affected and the estimated percent of loss. Photographic evidence of significant damage will also be helpful as both FSA and insurance agents use them in support of future program applications and cumulative damage reports.

Disaster designation triggers availability of low interest loans for farmers and ranchers in the county. Emergency loans may be used to replace essential property or pay production costs associated with the disaster year. They may also be used to pay essential living expenses, reorganize a farming operation or refinance certain debts.