



NEWSLETTER



December 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, Member
John Dyk, Chairperson
Rick Haberman, Vice Chairperson
Cristi Eaton, Advisor

Office Staff

Nathan D. Boguslawski, 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

February 7, 2013 – 9:00 a.m.

Dates to Remember

- **October 22** – 2011 SURE sign up begins
- **December 15**- deadline to report fall seeded crops
- **January 15** – deadline to report most fruit crops
- **March 25** – deadline to file discrimination claims

Local Administrative Area (LAA) # 2 Election Results

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committee meeting is the place that producers can appeal most agency decisions. Committees make decisions which impact program payments. The county committee draws its members from Local Administrative Areas (LAA). Nominated by local farmers and ranchers, candidates must live in the county or local administrative area that 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.

To be eligible to vote, producers must participate or cooperate in any Farm Service Agency programs and be of legal voting age. Newly elected committee members begin their term January 1, 2013.

In this year's election of LAA # 2, the following is the result of the election:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Electron Results</u>
Brent Dekoning	49	Regular Member
Matt Eslinger	39	1 st Alternate

Brent Dekoning was elected to serve on the County Committee for a 3-year term in LAA # 2. Mark will serve with current members *John Dyk* and *Rick Haberman* on the Committee along with *Cristi Eaton* as the advisor. *Matt Eslinger* was elected as first alternate to the County Committee. We would like to thank the candidates in this year's election for their willingness to run, and also everyone who took time to vote.

SURE PROGRAM SIGN UP FOR 2011 LOSSES

The sign-up period for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) for crop losses in 2011 is October 22, 2012, thru June 7, 2013.

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster that incurred starting in the crop year 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops of economic significance in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to obtain Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for crops excluding grazed acreage.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

The following are the conditions that trigger SURE payments:

- At least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition
- The farm experiencing the loss must be in a county declared a disaster county by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties. In the absence of a Secretarial Disaster Designation, those who show proof of an individual loss of at least 50% are eligible to receive SURE payments for production losses or crop quality losses.

Losses are measured with consideration to the whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.

Producers who feel that they have a qualifying 2011 crop loss, and who have not already reported their loss to FSA, should contact our office.

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 visit the website or contact us via the 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.

2013 REPORTING OF FALL SEEDED CROPS

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 fall seed crops is December 15, 2012, and 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 now.

IRS 1099 CHANGES

Calendar year 2012 has brought changes to the way FSA reports farm program payments to the producer and to the IRS.

In past years, IRS Forms 1099-G would be issued to show all program payments received from the Farm Service Agency, regardless of the amount.

Starting with calendar year 2012, producers whose total reportable payments from FSA are less than \$600 will not receive IRS Form 1099-G. Also, producers who receive payments from more than one county will only receive one Form 1099-G if the total of all payments from all counties is \$600 or more.

The same changes will apply to producers and vendors who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA.

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 \$1,302,000. 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. 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.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN PROGRAM

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the U.S. Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities.

For more information about FSFL visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov

NEW COUNTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR KITTITAS COUNTY

Hello, my name is Nathan Boguslawski, and I would like to introduce myself as the new County Executer Director (CED) in Kittitas County. As a kid, I grew up on a North Dakota dairy farm. We grew barley, corn, and alfalfa to feed our Holsteins. At the time, I earned money buying day-old calves from the local sales yard to sell as feeders in the spring. The income I earned from my own cattle operation helped to get me to college. Once in college, I spent two summers harvesting green peas and dry peas in the Lewiston-Clarkston Valley on the Washington/Idaho border. In five years, I obtained a bachelor degree in geology with minors in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Information Systems. I enjoyed school very much, so I proceeded to go to graduate school and obtained a master degree in Geographic Information Systems from the University of Colorado at Denver. Following my graduation, I taught for a few years at Lewis-Clark State College.

I began working for the Farm Service Agency as a program technician doing producer eligibility in January 2011 in Whitman County. I later applied for the County Operation Trainee (COT) program, which in turn led me to apply for the CED position in Yakima. I look forward to meeting and serving you all as you stop by the office.

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