



NEWSLETTER



Twin Harbors - Lewis County Farm Service Agency

January 2012

1554 Bishop Rd.
Chehalis, WA 98532
Phone- 360-748-0083
Fax- 360-740-9745

Office Hours

Mon. thru Fri., 8:00 am – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Vic Boekelman - Chair
Anne Aho – Vice Chair
Allen Devlin – Member
Christy Kriegsman – Member
Don Taylor - Member

Office Staff

Martha Dorsey - CED
Julie Moldenhauer – PT

Farm Loan Staff

Jeff Peterson - SLO
Ruth Wynn - FLPT

Next COC Meeting

Tuesday, February 21, 2012

Dates to Remember

Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program

Sign up:

January 23, 2012 to June 1, 2012

Acreage Reporting:

Deadline – June 30, 2012

NAP signup for Spring Planted

Crops:

March 15, 2012

SURE Signup Ends:

June 1, 2012

FSA County Committee Election

Congratulations to Vic Boekelman and Don Taylor, who were voted in as County Committee members representing Local Administrative Areas (LAA's) 3 and 5, respectively. LAA 3 covers most of Pacific County, and LAA 5 includes the western two-thirds portion of Lewis County. Vic raises timber and serves on the WA Type 2 Incident Management Team, and Don raises registered Angus replacement bulls and is the Assistant Fire Chief for Lewis County District 8.

Many thanks go out to all that took the time and care to vote. Your involvement in the annual election process is very much appreciated.

Budget Cuts at FSA

Due to Federal budget cuts, staffing for FSA in the state of Washington will be reduced by over 14 percent by the end of fiscal year September 30, 2012. Funding for supplies, postage, travel and training have also been reduced. In order to save further on travel and salary, the frequency of County Committee meetings has been substantially reduced as well.

Newsletters

You may have noticed that we have not sent a newsletter in several months. Funding for newsletters was greatly reduced during fiscal year 2011. Because of the reduction in the postage budget for fiscal year 2012, the national FSA office has determined that all future newsletters will be sent by email or posted on the internet. All producers are asked to furnish email addresses to our office as soon as possible so that notifications of new programs and signup deadlines can continue. Those without email capability or internet access are asked to contact the office so alternate arrangements can be made to provide program information.

Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP)

Signup for the DCP program begins January 23, 2012 and ends June 1, 2012. Contracts must be prepared annually for this program that provides payments based on historical grain plantings. The program remains the same as last year, except that advance payments will not be offered, and payments will be earned on 85 percent of your grain base, instead of the 83.3 percent figure used in previous years. All payments will be made in October 2012. Producers that apply for this program must file acreage reports by June 30, 2012. You must sign your contract and report your acreage in order to earn payment.

Signature Authority for Spouses

A husband and wife can sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and

Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse authority has been provided to the county office. There are limited exceptions to the spousal signature provisions for specific programs and for farm loans.

New Adjusted Gross Income Forms

FSA and NRCS program participants, including all members of participating entities, must meet certain Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) requirements to qualify for benefits. Starting with the 2012 crop year, a new AGI form has been developed that both outlines average AGI and includes the "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information". The advantage to you is that you will no longer be responsible for mailing the "Consent . . ." form to the IRS. Forms will be completed and signed by producers and sent to the IRS by the county office.

1099 Tax Reporting

The Kansas City FSA office is issuing CCC-1099G forms with the 2011 payment data that will be reported to the IRS. If there are inaccuracies, or producers have any questions about the data, please contact this office. FSA will assist in confirmation of the data or obtaining a corrected CCC-1099G. Also keep in mind that this form does not include any refunds that may have been made to FSA in 2011. That data must be obtained directly from this office.

2012 Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

FSA's NAP coverage insures producers against catastrophic crop losses of more than 50 percent due to adverse weather events. Earned payments are paid at 55 percent of the average market price for each crop, and are based on a comparison between your actual yield and your approved yield. A nonrefundable administrative fee for NAP is \$250.00 per crop, up to a maximum of \$750 for all crops in the county. For multi-county producers, coverage is a maximum of \$1,875 for all crops grown in all counties. Coverage begins 30 days after the application is filed or after the crop is planted, whichever is later. NAP is available only for crops not covered by Federal Crop insurance policies provided by private insurance agents. Please note: March 15 is the 2012 sales closing date for spring planted crops.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

SURE sign up for 2010 losses has started and will run through June 1, 2012. The SURE program provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that occurred in the crop year 2010. SURE is available to eligible producers with qualifying losses on farms with at least a 10 percent revenue loss on one crop in counties affected by a Secretarial disaster declaration. Grays Harbor, Pacific, and Lewis Counties are all eligible. SURE is also available to any farm which had a 50 percent or more production loss due to disaster-related conditions, for the 2010 crop year.

Use of FSA Loan Funds

If the cost-share requirement on a conservation practice is preventing you from adopting the practice or a new tractor is needed on the farm, FSA may be able to help with the financing. FSA provides low interest, long-term loans to producers who have difficulty obtaining commercial credit. Direct Farm Ownership Loans may be used to purchase land, construct buildings or other improvements and apply soil and water conservation practices. FSA also has a Beginning Farmer Down Payment program to help purchase a farm or ranch.

Producers may use Direct Operating Loans to purchase livestock, poultry, equipment, feed, seed, farm chemicals, and supplies; to apply soils and water conservation practices and to refinance indebtedness with certain limitations. When a county or contiguous county receives a disaster designation, FSA makes Direct Emergency Loans available. These loans may be used to restore or replace essential property, pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year, pay essential family living expenses, reorganize the farming operation or refinance indebtedness with certain limitations.

FSA also makes available Guaranteed Loans through commercial lenders. Guaranteed Farm Ownership and Guaranteed Operating loans can be used for the same purposes as the corresponding Direct Loans but they may also be used to refinance debt. For more information about FSA loan programs, contact Jeff Peterson, Senior Loan Officer, 360-748-0083.