



# NEWSLETTER



**July 2012**

**Lincoln County  
Farm Service Agency**

1310 W Morgan St.  
PO Box 47  
Davenport, WA 99122  
Phone – 509-725-4501  
Fax – 509-725-4515

**Office Hours**

Mon. – Fri. 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**County Committee**

Pete Carstensen, Chair  
Joseph Schultz, Vice-Chair  
Kathy Scrupps, Member

**Office Staff**

Melissa Michael, CED  
Debbie Sweet, PT  
Paula Reed, PT  
Aaron Landreth, PT  
Stephanie Fisher, PT  
Kile Patrick, PT

**Next COC Meeting**

July 12th

**Dates to Remember**

- **July 16** ACRE Production Reporting deadline
- **August 1** COC Nomination forms must be turned in.
- **August 31** Deadline to purchase NAP coverage on onions and carrots
- **September 30** Deadline to purchase NAP coverage on perennial forage and seed crops
- **November 20** Deadline to purchase NAP coverage on honey and tree fruit.

• Please remember to TIMELY inform our office of any Farm Record changes!

**More Information may be found at**

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

## Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) Production Reporting

The deadline to report your 2011 commodity crop production for farms participating in the ACRE program is **July 16**. This is a requirement for all ACRE farms. If you have not yet reported your production please contact the office, or stop by to pick up form FSA-658 to ensure all information is timely filed.

## Farm Changes and Reconstitutions

Any changes in your farm's physical makeup, such as adding or removing land, can impact your acreage base. Farm reconstitutions must be requested by **August 1** to be effective for the 2012 program year. Your farm must currently comply with program requirements as it is structured, including required signatures and acreage reporting.

## 2013 NAP Sign Up Deadlines

Producers are reminded that the deadlines to purchase 2013 NAP (Non-insured Crop Assistance Program) coverage are as follows:

**August 31, 2012** This deadline applies to onions and carrots

**September 30, 2012** This deadline applies to forage seed crops, perennial grazing crops (pasture) perennial forage crops (hay).

**November 20, 2012** This deadline applies to honey and tree fruit.

The application fee for NAP coverage is \$250 per crop up to \$750 per county. The maximum for multiple crops in more than one county is \$1875 per crop year. In return for purchasing the coverage, the crop is covered from catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting due to natural disaster conditions. Please contact our office if you have questions.

## 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 Lincoln 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 to five 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 number 1, which includes the general areas of Almira, Creston, and Wilbur.**

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 are 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. During the upcoming County Committee meeting on July 12 at 8am, the CED will hold an informational meeting about the County Committee process, representative duties, and be available to answer any questions you may have.

More information about the elections and nomination forms may be obtained from the local FSA office or the Farm Service Agency website at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>.

## FSA Adopts New Check Processing Method

Producers who make payments by check to the Farm Service Agency can expect to see a change soon in how those checks are processed. FSA is adopting an electronic method for processing check payments from customers.

Using the electronic method, if you submit a paper check payment, either in person or through the mail, the check will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) using Over the Counter Channel (OTCnet), a web-based application.

The transfer of funds will be reflected on your bank account statement. The transaction may be recorded in a different place on your statement than where your checks normally appear, such as under "other withdrawals" or "other transactions." You have protections under Federal law for an unauthorized electronic fund transfer from your account. You should contact your financial institution immediately if you believe that the transaction reported on your account statement was not properly authorized or is otherwise incorrect.

It is important for you to have sufficient funds in your bank account because the electronic transfer of funds could occur within 24 hours. FSA will hold the paper check for up to 14 calendar days to ensure that the transaction was successfully processed and then the check will be shredded. You will not receive the paper check back from FSA.

The agency is implementing the new system to reduce the possibility of losing or misplacing checks, speed up the check clearing process and to reduce the potential for human error.

For more information regarding electronic check processing, contact the county FSA office or see the U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site at: <http://fms.treas.gov/otcnet/legal.html>.