

May/June 2008

# So. PUGET SOUND FSA NEWS

## ACREAGE REPORTING

### Producers Report Your Crop Acreage to FSA

The 2002 Farm Bill required that all cropland on a farm be reported and certified as a condition of eligibility for producers participating in many USDA programs. With the ending of the 2002 Farm Bill it is not clear which programs will continue to require an acreage report. However, we will continue to take an acreage report for **CREP**, **NAP** and on any farm in which production will be used for a commodity loan or loan deficiency payment. **June 30** is the final date to timely certify. Please contact our office to arrange an appointment to file your acreage report.

Producers are reminded that information reported to FSA on the acreage report should be accurate and the same information reported to other Federal Agencies, such as crop insurance.

## 2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

### Plant a Seed for Your Future with the Census of Ag

With planting season upon us, U.S. farmers and ranchers still have a chance to sow a seed for their future by standing up and being counted in the 2007 Census of Agriculture. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is still accepting completed 2007 Census forms.

The Census of Agriculture, conducted every five years, is the only source of consistent and comprehensive agricultural data for every state and county in the nation. That information is used by federal policy makers, agribusinesses and others to make decisions which impact producers' lives.

"By responding to the census, the nation's agricultural producers are sowing seeds that will reap benefits far into the future," David Knopf, director of the NASS Washington Field Office said. "That's why we are committed to ensuring that every farm and ranch operation in the United States is counted."

To be counted producers should return their census forms immediately. For more information, or for assistance with completing the 2007 Census of Agriculture, call toll-free (888) 424-7828 or visit [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov).

Article by: National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

## 2008 COC Nomination and Election

### Agency Seeks Local Producers to Guide Federal Farm Programs

Agricultural producers in LAA #2 who would like to guide federal farm programs at the local level have a chance to do so. The USDA Farm Service Agency is seeking candidates for the grower-elected County Committee election, November 3 to December 1, 2008. Nominations are due to the FSA county office by August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

The Farm Service Agency County Committee is the most direct link between USDA Farm Programs and local producers. The County Committee (COC) system helps shape nationwide programs into programs that work at the local level by making decisions related to FSA programs.

Agricultural producers in Local Administrative Area (LAA) # 2 are eligible to be nominated. FSA wants to include people representing a variety of crops or different types of operations. FSA also encourage women and producers with different ethnic backgrounds to seek nomination.

LAA #2 boundaries are as follows: *All of Mason and Kitsap Counties and that portion of Pierce County west of the narrows (known as Key Peninsula), northwest of I-5 and south of HWY 16 to the narrows.*

### Pierce County FSA

1011 E. Main #107  
Puyallup, WA. 98372-6738  
(253) 845 9272  
Fax (253) 445 9934

### Office Hours

Monday – Friday  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

### County Committee

Lucy Cerqui, Chair  
Harry Petersen, V-Chair  
John Kingsbury, Member  
Cindy Stolz, Member  
Faith Sasaki, Advisor

### Office Staff

George Jaquish, CED  
Kathy Modin, PT

### Farm Loan Staff

Mark Turner, FLM  
(360) 354-5658  
Jeff Peterson, FLO  
(360) 748-0084

### COC Meeting Schedule

May 22, 2008  
June 19, 2008  
July 17, 2008

### Holiday Closures:

May 26, 2008 (Memorial Day)  
July 4, 2008

### Web Sites

[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) – FSA National

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa/> - WA State FSA

<http://www.usda.gov> - USDA

South Sound Farm Forestry Association (360) 705-1888

### Handicapped

**Accommodations:** Special accommodations will be arranged for those persons with a physical, vision, or hearing impaired disability. If special accommodations are needed, please contact our office



## Congratulations Kathy !!!

### 2008 FSA Administrator's Awards for Service to Agriculture

It is with great pride and pleasure to announce that Kathy Modin, Program Technician, South Puget Sound FSA Office, Puyallup has been selected to receive this year's "Excellence in Program Support Award". Kathy will be traveling to the other Washington (DC) in June to receive her award from our Administrator, Teresa C. Lasseter.

Within FSA the Administrator's Awards for Service to Agriculture is the highest honorary awards management can bestow on their employees. The Excellence in Program Support award is presented annually to employees whose knowledge of the procedures and techniques involved in carrying out program technician duties far exceeds expectations and has contributed to meeting the office's or FSA goals and objectives.

Kathy will be honored for providing exceptional program support to NRCS during the Environmental Quality Incentive Program and Wildlife Habit Incentive Program signup and planning periods...and going above and beyond the call of duty. In assisting NRCS with their EQIP and WHIP programs Kathy showed her dedication by spending many hours trouble-shooting problems to complete eligibility determinations in a timely manner thereby allowing NRCS Conservationists to complete their planning by the specified deadline.

## Employment Opportunities with FSA

### Interested in a Career with the Farm Service Agency?

Employment opportunities for the USDA Farm Service Agency and located within Washington State are listed on the FSA website <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>. Vacancies are posted on the home page and from the "Search for Job Openings Link" on the same page. Anyone interested is encouraged to frequently monitor these websites. FSA is dedicated to serving farmers and ranchers.

## Signature Authority for Spouses

### Who can sign for you?

Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office. A spouse may not, however, sign a Power of Attorney on behalf of the spouse, nor may they sign on behalf of the other as an authorized signatory for entities. Spouses must also have a Power of Attorney on file to sign for claim settlements such as promissory notes.



County Executive Director