



September 2008

## S. PUGET SOUND FSA NEWS

### Pierce County FSA

1011 E. Main #107  
Puyallup, WA. 98372-6768  
(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

### Next COC Meeting

September 18, 2008  
10:00 AM

### 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 (260) 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



### County Committee Election

Producers in Local Administrative Area #2 (which includes all of Mason and Kitsap Counties and that portion of Pierce County known as Key Peninsula) will elect a representative to the Area Farm Service Agency County Committee in November. We are pleased to announce that Joy Garitone expressed a willingness to serve, if elected, in LAA#2 for the upcoming three year term.

*Joy Garitone resides in Kitsap County. She and her family have been raising sheep, beef, chickens, and hogs at their Port Orchard farm since 1981. Their emphasis has been on Romeldale sheep and all the products that sheep produce. Joy has been active in the agricultural community by serving on various boards and committees. She has also worked for the last 18 years for the Kitsap Conservation District. She is currently the District Coordinator. Joy has been involved in Farm Service Agency programs from an administrative level as well as from the consumer level (EQIP) on her own farm.*

Ballots will be sent out November 3 to eligible voters and must be either submitted to the County Office or postmarked by December 1, 2008. To have your vote count all instructions on the ballot must be followed exactly as prescribed. Do not send two or more ballots back in the same envelope. And, don't forget to sign your ballot.

Who is eligible to vote? A person who meets the following requirements:

1. Be of legal voting age and has an interest in a farm or ranch as either of the following,
  - a. An owner, operator, tenant, or sharecropper, or
  - b. A partner in a general partnership or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant, or sharecropper.
2. Not be of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm.
3. Be eligible to participate in any FSA program that is provided for by law, regardless of the status of funding.
4. Lives, farms or is an owner of a farm within the LAA boundaries.

If you do not receive a ballot and you think you should have, please contact the office and we will check the eligible voters list for you.

### USDA Funds Emergency Conservation Program

The Farm Service Agency in Western Washington recently received \$1.76 million in federal funding for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). This means farmers and ranchers who suffered damages from the December floods last winter may be reimbursed for conservation expenses related to the disaster.

The program makes available cost-share dollars for removing debris, repairing fences and restoring conservation structures. Farmers and ranchers in Thurston and Mason Counties may sign-up for the program at their local Farm Service Agency office. A sign-up for the program occurred last year but FSA will take late-filed applications. Farmers and ranchers will need to provide documentation for the costs of any conservation work done.

Eligibility for ECP assistance is determined by county Farm Service Agency committees, based on individual on-site inspections. The committees take into account the type and extent of the damage. Cost-share assistance of up to 75 percent of the cost is available.

For a producer's land to be eligible, the disaster must have created new conservation problems that, if untreated, would impair or endanger the land and affect its productive capacity. Conservation problems existing prior to the applicable disaster are ineligible for ECP assistance.

For additional information about the Emergency Conservation Program contact the Farm Service Agency at (253) 845-9272 or check online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

## 2008 Farm Bill Side-by-Side

USDA Economic Research Service – The Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, which governs Federal farm programs for 2008 – 12, was enacted into law in July 2008. ERS’ side-by-side comparison of this new Farm Act with previous legislation is now available at [www.ers.usda.gov/FarmBill/2008](http://www.ers.usda.gov/FarmBill/2008). Summarized but substantive, this comparison is a time-saving reference on farm bill provisions.

## Federal Crop Insurance

USDA’s Spokane Risk Management Agency (RMA) Office reminds producers of the important link between Federal crop insurance and FSA’s Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance programs including the new SURE program.

While a “buy-in” waiver was allowed for 2008, producers **must** purchase insurance in the 2009 and future crop years in order to qualify for disaster assistance.

Beginning with the 2009 crop year, to maintain eligibility for the Supplemental Disaster Programs, producers must obtain a policy or plan of insurance of at least catastrophic (ACAT) level coverage for 2009. Note: the more crop insurance coverage a producer has, the more the SURE guarantee will be. For those crops that are non-insurable, coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster assistance Program (NAP) must also be timely obtained.

Therefore, producers with fall planted commodities need to be making important crop insurance decisions for the upcoming crop year. Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office and visit with a crop insurance agent (a list of agents is available at all USDA Service Centers) to fully understand what crop insurance programs are available in the county and to ensure they are obtaining adequate coverage for eligibility. The next round of sales closing dates for Federal crop insurance is September 30 for fall planted crops like wheat, forage production, (fall) barley and mint (with winter coverage).

Note: If there is no crop insurance coverage in a county for a specific crop, and that crop is insurable in another county under the traditional Federal crop insurance program, a producer may seek coverage by asking an agent whether they would be eligible for crop insurance coverage under a written agreement.



County Executive Director