



November/December 2009

So. PUGET SOUND FSA NEWS

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
Joy Garitone, Member
Cindy Stolz, Member
Faith Sasaki, Advisor

Office Staff

George Jaquish, CED
Kathy Modin, PT

Farm Loan Staff

Mark Turner, FLM
(360) 354-5658
Jon Wilson, FLO
(360) 748-0084

COC Meeting Schedule

Dec. 10, 2009

Web Sites

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

FSA County Committee Elections

VOTE for the candidate of your choice! FSA will mail ballots to producers in LAA# 3 (*Thurston County*) and LAA# 4 (*King County south of I-90 to Lake Holm Rd. then east to county line; also, that portion of Pierce County north of SR 512, east of I-5 at Lakewood and north of HWY 16; and then east of HWY 161 (South Hill) to 224th St E., and west of HWY 162 south of Orting*) beginning Nov. 6, 2009. The completed ballots are due back at the Pierce County FSA office by Dec. 7, 2009 either via mail or in person.

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 one envelope. And, don't forget to **sign** your ballot.

FSA County Committee members make decisions on disaster, conservation, emergency, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms. Nationwide, there are more than 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees. Committees consist of three to five members who are elected by eligible local producers.

New State Executive Director

Greetings from the New State Executive Director (SED)

Hello from the Farm Service Agency's State Office. Since starting as Washington's State Executive Director in August, I have traveled to county offices throughout the state to meet employees and your representatives on the FSA county committees. Like you, I have experienced FSA from the producer perspective for many years. My husband and I have farmed in Whitman County, where I grew up on a farm.

Knowing the challenges and hard work involved in farming, I have great respect for Washington's agricultural producers and I'm proud of the diverse and productive agriculture in the state. The Farm Service agency has helped many a farmer get started in the business or survive difficult financial times. I'm pleased to be part of an organization that supports agriculture.

The 2008 Farm Bill introduced new financial risk management tools and some of these new programs we are still bringing online. The complexity and number of the programs have created challenges for the agency and our employees. I am grateful for your patience as we implement the new programs. I realize the current economy and tight credit for sectors of agriculture are also challenging for you. The situation makes these programs all that much more important. Our commitment to Washington state producers is to provide you the best service possible.

Judy Olson
State Executive Director

Foreign Investors 90 Day Reporting Rule

Foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land are required by law to report your land holdings, acquisitions, leases of 10 years or more, and land use changes within 90 days of these transactions. Report these changes to the local FSA office. Failure to report these changes can result in a civil penalty of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of your interest in agricultural land.



Annual Reminders

Direct Deposit: Every year we issue several payments to bank accounts that have been terminated or changed. This often occurs when backs restructure, causing account numbers or routing numbers to change. Please keep us posted on these changes so your payment goes to your account.

2009 Producer Earnings Statements: Form CCC-1099G; Reports of Producer Payments will be mailed in January to all producers earning a program payment from FSA. This information is also mailed to the Internal Revenue Service. Should you find a discrepancy, or if you do not receive a form, please contact your local FSA office.

Farm Divisions and Reconstitutions: Any land divisions or additions on your farm impacts your acreage bases. For program purposes, FSA adheres to a landowner designation of dividing bases in the manner agreed to by the parent farm owner and purchaser or transferee. This method of dividing the bases may be used when any part of a farm or tract is sold or ownership is transferred, an entire tract or farm is sold to two or more persons, or farm or tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. The land sold or transferred must have been owned for at least three years unless the County Committee approves a waiver of this requirement.

Signature Authority for Spouses: Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has a 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 any 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.

Payment Tribulations

Producers are encouraged to closely monitor your farm program payments for fiscal year 2009. FSA has been transitioning from an old IBM system/36 computer system to online software systems to make payments. The transition to the new systems has created temporary problems for issuing payments, as some of you may have experienced.

Please know that we are trying to issue your payments as quickly as possible. Transaction statements are mailed directly from our Financial Services Center in Kansas City and may reach you after your payment is deposited into your back account. If you feel that you have not received your full farm payment please contact us.



County Executive Director

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotapes, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-5964 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.