



September 2010

S. PUGET SOUND FSA NEWS

County Committee Candidate

Pierce County FSA

1011 E. Main #107
Puyallup, WA. 98372-6768
Office (253) 845 9272
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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

Office Staff

George R. Jaquish, CED
Kathy Modin, PT

Farm Loan Staff

Mark Tuner, FLM
(360) 354-5658
Jeff Peterson, FLO
Jon Wilson, FLO
(360) 748-0084

Next COC Meeting

Sept. 16, 2010
10:00 AM

Web Sites

www.fsa.usda.gov –FSA
National

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

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

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



Paddy Lewis Irwin was nominated for the position of County Committeeperson in Local Administrative Area (LAA) # 1 (Pierce & S. King Counties). LAA boundary description:

Pierce county, south of State route 512 and southeast of I-5 (Lakewood, Fort Lewis), west of State Route 161, south of 224th St. E., and that portion of South King County east of HWY 167, south of Holm Road extending east to county line.

Bio:

Paddy Lewis Irwin, a lifelong resident of the Enumclaw Plateau, manages a fifty acre beef and hay operation. Paddy focuses on the management of the now fifth generation family Hereford breeding and production program. In addition to raising national show quality registered Hereford breeding stock and custom-finished beef for local customers, the family operation is rounded out with hay production and forage management. An active member of Washington Cattlemen’s Association and Farm Bureau, as well as the Washington Hereford Association, she has held multiple positions on the various agricultural issue boards over the past twenty years. Committed to the support and promotion of youth involvement in agriculture, Paddy has been a 4-H leader for sixteen years, is a certificated Agricultural Education teacher and is currently serving a third term on the Washington FFA Exhibition/Fair Board of Directors. Her other achievements and activates over the years include:

King County Fair Beef 4-H and Open Class Superintendent
Director/Advisor Washington Jr. Hereford Association (WJHA)
Co-Director Washington Hereford Association (WHA)
WHA Select Sale Co-Manager
Washington Farm Bureau Women in Ag Conference Co-Chair
Washington Cattlemen's Association Board of Directors /Executive Board
King County Fair Advisory Board
Associate Supervisor for the King County Conservation District
King County Sensitive Areas Ordinance Advisory Panel

Election ballots will be sent out November 5 and need to be returned by December 6, 2010.

USDA Launches Loan Program for Land Preservation, Conservation

WASHINGTON, Sept. 2, 2010 -- Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced the launch of a Conservation Loan (CL) program that will provide farm owners and farm-related business operators access to credit to implement conservation techniques that will conserve natural resources.

“This will give farmers who want to implement conservation measures on their lands a chance to do so by providing assistance with their up-front costs,” said Vilsack. “In return, these producers will help to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality and promote sustainable and organic agricultural practices.”

CL funds can be used to implement conservation practices approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), such as the installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; implementation of manure management; and the adaptation of other emerging or existing conservation practices, techniques or technologies.

Direct CLs can be obtained through local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices with loan limits up to \$300,000. Guaranteed CLs up to \$1,112,000 are available from lenders working with FSA.

For more information on the Conservation Loan program, contact a local FSA office or visit the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov. For more information about this announcement please see the notice which will appear in the September 3 edition of the Federal Register: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/federalNotices?area=home&subject=lare&topic=frd-ii>

Sustainable Small Farming and Ranching courses

Cultivating Success” I would encourage producer who are interested in this course or other courses to look at the current calendar to see if a course is offered in your area. The calendar can be viewed at:

<http://www.cultivatingsuccess.org/coursecalendar WA.htm>

CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE

All participants in USDA Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) programs are required to be actively applying a conservation system on all highly erodible land (HEL) they operate. Several areas where problems may arise in complying with a conservation system are: renting new cropland, purchasing new land, breaking out additional cropland, planting different crops and changing or removing existing conservation practices. It is important that you contact the FSA office BEFORE taking any of these actions. Also, it is very important that you contact the county office before modifying, tilling, draining, dredging, filling or leveling any wetland or drainage ditch. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations may result in loss of all USDA payments and eligibility.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR OWNERSHIP

Please notify your local FSA office of all deaths, land ownership and address changes as soon as possible so your farm records can be updated timely. A copy of the applicable recorded deed should be provided to complete the land ownership changes.

REPORTING WEATHER DAMAGE

USDA uses damage reports to determine a need for disaster declarations. Disaster declarations trigger availability of emergency loans and in some instances, additional disaster assistance programs. Damage reports are not limited to crops. They also include farmsteads, farmland and livestock.

Helpful documentation includes the specific location of the farm damage, date and time of disaster event, type of damage (i.e. hail, wind, etc.), what was affected by the disaster and its estimated percent of loss. You are encouraged to take pictures of significant damage as both insurance agents and the FSA offices use these in support of future program applications and/or their cumulative damage reports. Contact the county office for information about disaster assistance programs.