



NEWSLETTER



COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

County Committee members play a crucial role in helping the county office staff implement the Farm Bill Programs. FSA County Committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, 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 Committee. Committees consist of three to five members who are elected by eligible local producers.

This year, nominations are for a committee member to represent producers in Local Administrative Area (LAA) #2 (Mason/Kitsap Counties). LAA boundary description:

All of Mason and Kitsap Counties and that small portion of Pierce County west of the narrows (known as Key Peninsula), northwest of I-5 and south of HWY 16 to the narrows.

More to come on nominations in our next Newsletter so stay tuned.

ACREAGE REPORTING

Acreage reports have historically been required to maintain eligibility for many USDA Programs. They continue to be required for CRP, NAP, DCP 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. Beyond that date, fees will be assessed for late-filed acreage reporting.

TIMELY FILING NOTICE OF LOSS

With the cool spring weather there could be potential yield losses in the future. Where and when to file a notice of loss; historically producers don't file a notice of loss until weeks or months after completion of harvest because that is when the loss of yield becomes apparent. FSA procedure now specifies that a notice of loss must be filed by the earlier of the following:

- 15 calendar days after the damaging weather or disaster occurrence or date damage to the specific crop acreage is apparent to the producer for low yield claims.
- 15 calendar days after the normal harvest date.

It is important for producers to recognize that during the growing season, if there is a weather condition that could adversely affect their crop; they need to file a notice of loss. The producer should file a notice of loss for each weather related condition as applicable throughout the growing season for that crop. If a producer waits to file a notice of loss a month after harvest, the notice of loss will be considered late filed.

If you have any questions about filling a notice of loss please contact our office.

FOREIGN INVESTORS

Foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land are required by law to report their sale of land holdings, acquisitions, or leases of 10 or more years within 90 days of these transactions. Report these changes to your 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.

Pierce County FSA

1011 E. Main #107
Puyallup, WA. 98372-6768
Office (253) 845 9272
FAX (253) 445 9934

April 2011

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Lucy Cerqui, Chair
Harry Petersen, V-Chair
Joy Garitone, Member
Paddy Lewis Irwin, Member

Office Staff

George R. Jaquish, CED
Kathy Modin, PT

Farm Loan Staff

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

Next COC Meeting

April 27, 2011
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



COMPENSATION FOR CLAIMS DISCRIMINATION

Notice to Hispanic or Women Farmers and Ranchers:

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation. You may be eligible if:

1. you sought a farm loan or farm-loan servicing from USDA during that period; and
2. the loan was denied, provided late, approved for a lesser amount than requested, approved with restrictive conditions, or USDA failed to provide an appropriate loan service; and
3. you believe these actions occurred because you are Hispanic or female.

If you want to register your name to receive a claims package, you can call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or access the following website: www.farmerclaims.gov.

In 2011, a Claims Administrator will begin mailing claims packages to those who have requested one through the Call Center or website. The claims package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process. In order to participate, you must submit a claim to the Claims Administrator by the end of the claims period.

If you are currently represented by counsel regarding allegations of discrimination against USDA or in a lawsuit claiming discrimination by USDA, you should contact your counsel regarding this claims process. **USDA cannot provide legal advice to you.** You are not required to hire an attorney to file a claim, but you may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider in your community for additional guidance.

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.